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# Barkham Newsletter

Issue 125 Autumn 2018

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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

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**Could you be the new Editor of this newsletter?  
Please help – see page 5 for details**

**Quiz Night**  
Saturday 24 November 7.00 for 7.30pm  
Fish & Chip Supper Licensed Bar  
Tickets £10.00 per person  
More details on page 12

**The current BVRA Membership Secretary is retiring from  
the role – can you help please – see page 4**

**Over 4000 local people have signed the Barkham Square petition  
– see page 6 for a report and next steps**

### 31<sup>st</sup> BVRA AGM – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018

In accordance with the constitution, the BVRA Annual General Meeting will take place at 8pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November at Barkham Village Hall. All residents of Barkham are welcome to attend. Nominations for any post should reach the Chairman by 18<sup>th</sup> October.

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### Chairman's Report

As the sun sets on what has been an impressive, if not, unusual British summer, I would like to welcome you to the autumn edition of the Barkham Newsletter.

It is with regret I have received the resignation of Stewart Richardson, from the role of (BVRA) Barkham Newsletter editor, I am sure you all agree has been doing

a fantastic job for the last twelve years. On behalf of all Barkham residents I would like to thank him. It is good to know he will continue to produce the familiar quiz, for us to chew the end of our pencils, while working on the answers.

Also leaving us after many years in the role is Jim Butler, our membership secretary. Thank you Jim for all you have done for us, good luck in your new venture. Jim will remain on the Social Committee and continue to be part of the distribution process.

Please take time to read the advertisements for the role of newsletter editor and membership secretary, we would be delighted to welcome you to our team.

The BVRA Neighbourhood Watch was active during the last few months; as a result of the

"Barkham Square" appeal we have considerably increased our mailing list.

Please look out for and join us at the Barn Dance and the ever popular BVRA Quiz Night, details of which are within the Newsletter.

Do we think it may be possible to integrate the Arborfield Green element of Barkham Parish, into our BVRA activities? Early days yet, but an initial delivery of the previous Barkham Newsletter raised no interest at all. Perhaps Barkham Bridge may be a "Bridge Too Far".

Richard Roberts  
BVRA Chairman

### BVRA 2017/18 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Chairman: Richard Roberts  
chairman@barkham.org.uk  
978 9059
- Vice Chairman: Alan Dixon  
vicechairman@barkham.org.uk  
977 1813
- Secretary: Pam Edwards  
secretary@barkham.org.uk  
977 6623
- 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

### Advertising and Newsletter Contributions

Newsletter articles / contributions for the Winter edition should be in by 9 November 2018. 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 late November/early December.



### Editorial

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Barkham Newsletter.

Firstly, as mentioned in Richard Roberts's piece opposite, I have decided to step down as editor at the end of 2018. I have been doing the role for 12 years and whilst I have enjoyed it greatly, feel it is time to "retire" and let someone else take on the reins. The "job description" is shown on page 5 but if you are interested in becoming the new editor I would be happy to provide more information - please call or email me (contact details on this page). No previous experience is necessary (I didn't have any!) so don't be put off if you haven't previously considered such a role.

**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 our Chairman, Richard Roberts to discuss further.

Back to this edition of the newsletter! The threat of more development looms large over Barkham and there are 3 articles on this subject in this edition. On page 6 Laurence Heath gives an update on the very well supported petition to resist the proposed 1000 houses Barkham Square development and feedback on

the comments raised by residents on the Arborfield and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan. John Kaiser (our Wokingham Borough councillor) explains why the 5 year rolling land supply is not working and raises some more radical suggestions on which he seeks residents' comments. A local resident comments on the potential threat to the Coombes (again!) and asks that we all remain vigilant.

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

The Quiz topic this time is "Capital Cities" and hopefully there are a few questions that will test out your brain cells!

Finally, as result of offering an option on the online petition to subscribe to the BVRA Development Watch alert emails, we now have over 900 local residents on that list. If for some reason you missed subscribing and still want to do so you can do so via the BVRA website barkham.org.uk.

Stewart Richardson  
Editor

### The Quiz

The theme this time is a simple one - "Capital Cities" of independent nations. Each question or answer will feature the name of a capital city, although links may be more or less obtuse!

1. What is the southernmost capital city in the world?
2. ....and the northernmost?
3. What is this a definition of: "A psychological response wherein a captive begins to identify closely with his or her captors, as well as with their agenda and demands"?
4. Where would you be if you crossed the Chain Bridge over the Danube?
5. Which legendary figure eloped with Helen, queen of Sparta, which was one of the immediate causes of the Trojan War?
6. In which city is the football club Benfica based?
7. In Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition", in which city is the Great Gate?
8. Who won the men's 1500 metres at the 1980 Moscow Olympics?
9. Yerevan is the capital of which former Soviet state?
10. And finally, one for the film buffs! At the end of the Scottish film "Gregory's Girl", 2 of Gregory's friends set off to (unsuccessfully) hitchhike to a city where they have heard that the women greatly outnumber the men. Where? Clue - it's a long way from Scotland!

## The BVRA needs a new Membership Secretary!

Duties are to:

- Maintain a membership register, recording payments and changes.
- Print rounds for distributors - 4 times per annum
- Cover for distributors on holiday.

Over the whole year, it takes less than 30 hours to the entire job.

Please contact our Chairman, Richard Roberts, if you are interested in helping the BVRA by taking on this role.

For more details contact the current Membership Secretary, Jim Butler, who is stepping down at the end of 2018.

Contact details for Richard and Jim are given on page 3.



### News from Your Parish Council

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

The Parish Council has been busy fighting planning applications for further development in Barkham. You can keep you up to date via the BVRA Development Watch.

One of our major concerns is possible development at Barkham Square, this site joins on to the development at Arborfield Green, stretching from Commonfield Lane to Langley Common Road. If this is permitted a further 1000 houses could be built. The Council ran a petition regarding this site, supported by the BVRA, which ended mid-August to be

able to obtain a debate with WBC on this matter. See elsewhere in this newsletter for an update on the petition and the next steps.

We have two vacancies for a parish councillor to join the team as we meet the challenges of a rapidly changing local environment.

Barkham covers an area from its boundaries in Barkham Road, Barkham Ride, and Bearwood Road to its Southern boundaries in Arborfield Green (the majority of which is in Barkham), Park Lane, and towards the end of Langley Common Road and School Road.

From established communities in Elizabeth Park, rural and semi-rural areas and the new community developing at Arborfield Green, the Parish faces many opportunities and challenges. The Council has been heavily involved in commenting and consulting on new development as well as challenging new proposals like the potential 1000 houses at Barkham Square.

Parish Councils are beginning to benefit from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which will provide funds to help enhance facilities for residents. There is also a Neighbourhood Plan in prospect (see elsewhere in the issue). This means we need as broad a spread of councillors as possible as we work with residents on the future of the area.

Existing councillors live across the Parish. To find out more, contact our Parish Clerk and arrange to come along to one of the monthly meetings.

#### The Parish Office

The Parish office is located in the Arborfield Green Community Centre and is staffed by Ellen Tims the Parish Clerk. The office hours are Monday – Thursday 9.30am – 2pm, with public open hours on Monday and Wednesday 10am – 12pm. There is a 24 hour answer phone on 0118 976 2089.

## New Barkham Newsletter Editor required – can you help please?

The Barkham Newsletter was started in 1987 and has been produced regularly ever since. I have been editor since 2006 and before that Paul Steel edited for 10 years. I am stepping down as editor at the end of 2018 (after the winter edition) so **this is an appeal to Barkham residents for someone to come forward to take on the role**. For information, previous newsletters (number 100 onwards) can be viewed on the BVRA website [barkham.org.uk](http://barkham.org.uk).

It is published 4 times per year - Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter. The main tasks for the editor for each edition are as follows:

- About 3 weeks before the cut-off copy date, send a calling notice email to the (existing) potential contributors list. A core group contributes articles regularly and others occasionally.
- Receive articles via email, edit as necessary, which can simply be checking the spelling and grammar or more extensive editing if space is tight or if part of the text is not relevant (or perhaps will be out of date at the distribution date).
- Write the Editorial (doesn't have to be very long!) and design the front cover (I mainly use Powerpoint but it could be any suitable software). If necessary, the BVRA could arrange a software licence.
- When I have all the articles I decide how many pages to allocate, which has to be a multiple of 4. We have had 20 or 24 pages as the norm in recent times but is dependent on the quantity of submissions.
- Finally, I do the newsletter layout with our "publisher" who has the publishing software, which he drives whilst I tell him where I want each article. We take about 2.5 hours in an evening to do the layout.
- When finalised, I email a PDF to the printer who prints and delivers them to Barkham and on to the distributors (the editor is not involved in this)

Finally: sometimes people think of volunteer roles like this as something they may do when they retire. This role should not be seen as only suitable for a retired person with more time to spare! I did it for 10 years before I retired (from a very busy job) and the previous editor also had a full-time career. **So, please come forward – don't wait for someone else to do so!** Full training will be provided (not that much is necessary!)

Stewart Richardson



## Barkham Square petition exceeds 4,000 signatures

The response to the recent petition was overwhelming. Certainly, the number of responses received far exceeded my own expectations. Full marks to my fellow councillor Chris Heyliger for his enthusiasm and effort in pursuing the cause with such gusto! [and to the BVRA webmaster, Dave Clements for his sterling work in enabling and managing the online part of the petition – over 2400 people “signed” via the website - Ed.]

The petition was supported by the Parish Council and the BVRA. When it closed in mid August there were over 4,000 signatures from residents in Barkham and neighbouring areas within the Borough. This is well in excess of the 1,500 required to secure a debate with the Borough Council and sends a resounding message to those in Shute End. Subject to validation of the signatures this will be presented in September to the Borough Council requesting a full debate. This is likely to take place in the autumn at Shute End. There will be further notifications nearer the time as to when and where this will take place, so that residents can attend, if they wish.

Whilst out and about collecting signatures, a sense of betrayal was apparent: having accepted the redevelopment of the former garrison site, already the powers that be are looking to expand it by a further 1,000 homes. This means that Barkham could more than treble its size. The location of Barkham Square could hardly be worse in terms of providing transport and the claims of “sustainable development” rings hollow given that Arborfield Green still does not yet even have a small convenience store.

Barkham is supposed to be a rural village and significant development on this scale will change its character beyond recognition. Along with other developments in Shinfield, Winnersh and Arborfield, ultimately Barkham will be submerged in an ever-expanding urban area centred on Reading.

### Neighbourhood Plan consultation: residents’ opinions no surprise!

Many thanks to everyone who responded to the recent Neighbourhood Plan Consultation. The overwhelming response to the petition demonstrates the strength of feeling about excessive development. The consultation provided the opportunity for residents to put their feelings into words. Many residents took the trouble to do so and their comments provided some useful food for thought. The main themes were no great surprise: over development, the pressure on roads, protection of the countryside and the failure to provide infrastructure. Here is a small selection of the comments:

“With all the building at Arborfield Garrison, the existing communities should benefit from

some facilities. There is not even a shop yet.”

“I bought an existing house in this area so that I could enjoy the countryside which provides habitat for animals, a peaceful setting and great walks.”

“Where’s the infrastructure, where are the new GP practices, where are the schools (doubling the size of a town and then throwing in one extra school does not cut the mustard), where are the cycle lanes?”

“I would not support any further development as we are already at saturation point. Affordable housing and key worker homes should have already been included surely?”

“The local roads have not changed since we came here (40 years ago)”

“Protect the Coombes. We are so lucky to have such a special natural area which is also a habitat for wildlife. Please add a clause to the Neighbourhood Plan to preserve it and totally restrict any development there.”

Various responses were received from “statutory consultees” such as the Environment Agency. In general, these were quite neutral, but an interesting response was received from Historic England which outlined how specific local assets – such as The Coombes, to name but one, could at least be recognised in the planning process, even if this falls short of full protection (which unfortunately cannot be within the scope of the Plan).

Three responses from a planning consultant were also received, representing three different land-

owners and developers. Unsurprisingly they were opposed to any tightening of planning rules and sought more freedom for development.

I do not see the Neighbourhood Plan as being a magic solution to all our planning concerns, however it is important that we see this process through, to mount what defences we can to preserve the character of our communities and to try and preserve our green spaces. The Steering Group is now busy amending the plan to take account of the feedback received. It is intended that the Neighbourhood Plan will be submitted to the Borough Council before the end of September.

### Excessive development is politically toxic

The juggernaut of development, abetted by a national planning policy which is riddled with loopholes ready to be exploited by predatory developers, is going to be difficult to halt. John Kaiser’s article outlines the fiasco that is the so-called 5 year land supply, which seems to be a central tenet of planning policy.

Barkham Parish Council (BPC) has written recently to Brandon Lewis, Conservative Party Chairman and other politicians, to highlight the extent that excessive development is politically toxic in the Wokingham area. The same is probably also the case, I suspect, in other parts of the south east given the number of campaigning notices I have observed travelling around the region. The BPC letter referred to the petition as a clear demonstration of local feeling.

Recent changes to the National Planning Policy Framework

(NPPF) do not seem to have helped as grey areas remain which can be exploited by developers. This is a consequence of muddled policies which a Conservative government is supposed to be managing. If this is not sorted out sensibly, the Conservative Party nationally and locally will be blamed, with obvious electoral consequences.

As a start, it would help if Planning Inspectors were directed to be consistent in their interpretation of policies. Meanwhile the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government needs to have in place a more realistic policy for assessing land supply, one that does not leave so many gaping holes which lawyers can exploit - causing local planning authorities considerable expenditure defending unreasonable appeals.

Yes, there is a national housing shortage, but this will not be resolved by building on green field land in unsustainable locations in the countryside. It does nothing to improve substandard or makeshift accommodation which is being used in urban areas, where the real problems lie.

The government has committed itself to a national target of building 300,000 homes a year. The sad truth is that this target is unlikely to be achievable, not least because of a shortage of skilled workers. Ironically finding the workers seems to rely on bringing in people from abroad, which of course runs counter to another government target on immigration numbers.

Laurence Heath  
Chair of Planning Committee  
Barkham Parish Council



## Borough Councillor’s Report

### A strong and stable 5-year land supply (bit of a Joke actually)

At a recent planning appeal, the borough council lost because it has not got a 5-year housing land supply and I was very disappointed to learn the planning staff at Wokingham borough council, even though they claim they have a 6.8-year housing land supply have decided not to seek a judicial review on the recommendation of their legal representative. This would indicate to me that they have no faith in their claim that the land supply is as secure as they have led us all to believe. It is patently oblivious that this was not the case as why would one cave in if you felt secure in your assertions? This has left me thinking that a 5-year land supply is not defensible for 2 major reasons

1. It is in control of the developers and they will deliver in their time frame based on their resources and market absorption driven by demand.

2. Government Planning Inspectors seem to be a law unto themselves and come up with inconsistent judgements and have cont...

...cont assumed a hard line no doubt on instructions of central government in the rush to improve the delivery of houses. What is strange is to see developers winning appeals, not just where the council has capitulated but where we have fought all the way to the bitter end when you consider we have 227 approved planning applications for over 10000 houses in the borough which on our current build out rate is roughly 10 years supply.

The truth is it does not matter if there are 50,000 houses approved in the borough as it is all down to the ability of developers to deliver these homes, a situation which the council has no control over. We have developers who have permissions for 1000s of houses which will take them many years to deliver but the still queue up for more by submitting additional applications for 000s more encouraged by planners and landowners without any prospect of them being delivered in a foreseeable time frame due to available resources and sale rates. This takes no account of a possible slowdown in market prices and demand which if it was to occur would see developers running for the hills and mothballing existing projects, let alone not starting new ones as we saw a few years ago in a neighbouring borough, so what value a 5 year land supply then?

I would suggest we all have to fight this all the way to the top of central government and stand our ground on the number of houses we can take in the borough

I would go as far to suggest until we get a commitment from central government they will protect us from speculative and unscrupulous developers at planning

appeals that we should delay the update of the boroughs local plan which includes the submission of additional sites as nominated by developers and then only once we have assessed all the highways and infrastructure requirements and how we and if we can deliver them we agree to any more houses.

If the government will not give that commitment we go further and abandon the local plan all together and the council refuse to grant planning permissions on new sites and fight each planning submissions on its merits based on the level of congestion and destruction of green fields and countryside in the borough and make the point that such applications have no chance of being delivered in the foreseeable future and such approvals only serve to add value to developers' balance sheets.

A classic example is the suggestion that Barkham square be considered for up to 1000 houses

All this in addition to the 3500 houses already agreed on the Arborfield strategic development location which in itself will probably take another 15-20 years to be delivered. This would mean Barkham would become a permanent building sites for up to 30 years, which places a blight on all our homes and not only destroys the countryside but our very way of life due to the level of congestion and by turning Barkham and its surrounding areas into an urban sprawl. I will be fighting this along with colleagues and residents who have signed the petition to stop over-development in Barkham which is supported by not just residents, Barkham parish council, Barkham Village

Residents Association and other groups in the area, but also our MP John Redwood.

I would suggest a good place to start would be outright refusal to grant any new houses until at least 50% of all outstanding approvals granted by WBC are either built or at the least have commenced, if only to bring the government to the table to discuss housing numbers in Wokingham and the surrounding areas of Berkshire.

It would be controversial, but it would no doubt be popular with people and would grab the national headlines.

Remember in Wokingham we have seen less than 20% of the houses approved built and just look at the state of the traffic now and unless somebody acts sensibly there is little hope for the green spaces and the environment and that's before any new applications on top of the existing 9000-10000 homes already approved which are yet to be built.

My view is no more approval for 3 years and assess the situation after that, but I guess there is fat chance of that, we are caught between the greed of developers and land owners and the disastrous policies of central government.

Wokingham has done all it has been asked by producing a plan which guarantees housing delivery until 2026 but this has been undermined time and time again at appeals and I think enough is an enough.

I would be interested in your views on this matter and if you would like to write to me I would

be very happy to pass your views on to planning staff at the borough and my colleagues on the council.

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  
Barkham Ward and  
Mayor for Wokingham Borough  
Email:  
john.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk  
Telephone: 0118 9762116  
Mobile 0771 419 2352



Our meeting in June was a talk about "Thrive" which is an amazing group offering gardening projects to people in need of stimulation and friendship. These range from those with physical and mental disabilities to people with Alzheimer's.

The meeting in July was given by Tony Strafford and was entitled "Bishops sex and money" [The mind boggles – Ed]. He turned up wearing the uniform of a befeater at the Tower of London where he worked for a number of years. It was a hot evening and his uniform must have been very heavy and warm! He was very entertaining and gave explanations of the origin of many

well used phrases that go back to executions.

The August meeting was our barbeque. As you will see from the photograph below, it was a lovely evening and was enjoyed by those who came along. The speaker on September 5th was Jane Sampson who told us about "Training with Russian cosmonauts, and a zero gravity flight".

The speaker on October 3rd is Dr Barbara Hately who will talk on "The Changi Red Cross Quilt".

We meet at Barkham Village Hall on the first Wednesday evening of the month at 7.45pm. Visitors are welcome so if you are new to the area why not come along and meet us for an evening and then see if you would like to join.

Pam Edwards

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



## Sale of Land in the Coombes

The alarm went up this summer when it was noticed that a significant area of land within the Coombes was being advertised for sale, presented suspiciously like a series of building plots. It all seemed reminiscent of what went on 30 years ago.

The BVRA, which publishes this Newsletter, all came about as a result of an attempt to develop the Coombes back in 1987. Resistance to the proposals started with Pam Edwards and Christine Thomas leafletting the area and organising a meeting at the Village Hall. The plans were eventually turned down by Barkham Parish Council, and Wokingham Council was persuaded to do likewise. The case went to Appeal, which terrified Wokingham because they could not have afforded the fees if they had lost.

With the guidance of a retired planning officer within the newly formed Residents' Association, the locals conducted a series of historical, tree, plant and animal surveys for the Coombes as part of the defence. Ultimately, the would-be developer withdrew and Wokingham Council breathed a sigh of relief.

The BVRA has stayed intact and measures were put in place to protect the Coombes from further threats of development. It is now covered by a blanket Tree Preservation Order and has been designated as a Local Wildlife Site. That means that no one may work on any of the trees without permission from Wokingham Borough Council, and the Wildlife Trust would oppose things being done to the detriment of the rich variety of wildlife that lives in the Coombes.

So, with the Coombes so heavily protected, why would anyone actually want to own the land? Obviously, whoever was selling it didn't want to anymore, preferring to exchange it for as much money as they could. They tried to do this by auctioning it in sections, hinting that it was suitable for development.

The land was first noticed for sale on Rightmove, to be sold in eight parcels—seven smaller ones adjoining Coombes Lane and one larger one to the south of them. These are indicated on the map opposite with the rights of way also shown. Four of these, plots 2, 3, 4 and 8 went to auction at the end of July.

In the run-up to the auction, someone said on Facebook that they had approached the auctioneers posing as a potential purchaser and was told that two of the plots had already been sold. It is thought that these were two of the four that were not advertised for auction in July.

The auction particulars initially described all the plots as 'Freehold Land, Development Potential Subject to Planning Permission Vacant' and they had maps showing an unexplained, grey feature that could easily be mistaken for a service road, as seen on the map for the southern plot.

There is nothing at the site that resembles the grey feature and nothing seen on any planning applications either. If a road were to be built there, several mature trees would need to be felled, unlikely to be allowed given the preservation order.

Concerns that the land was being misrepresented were brought to

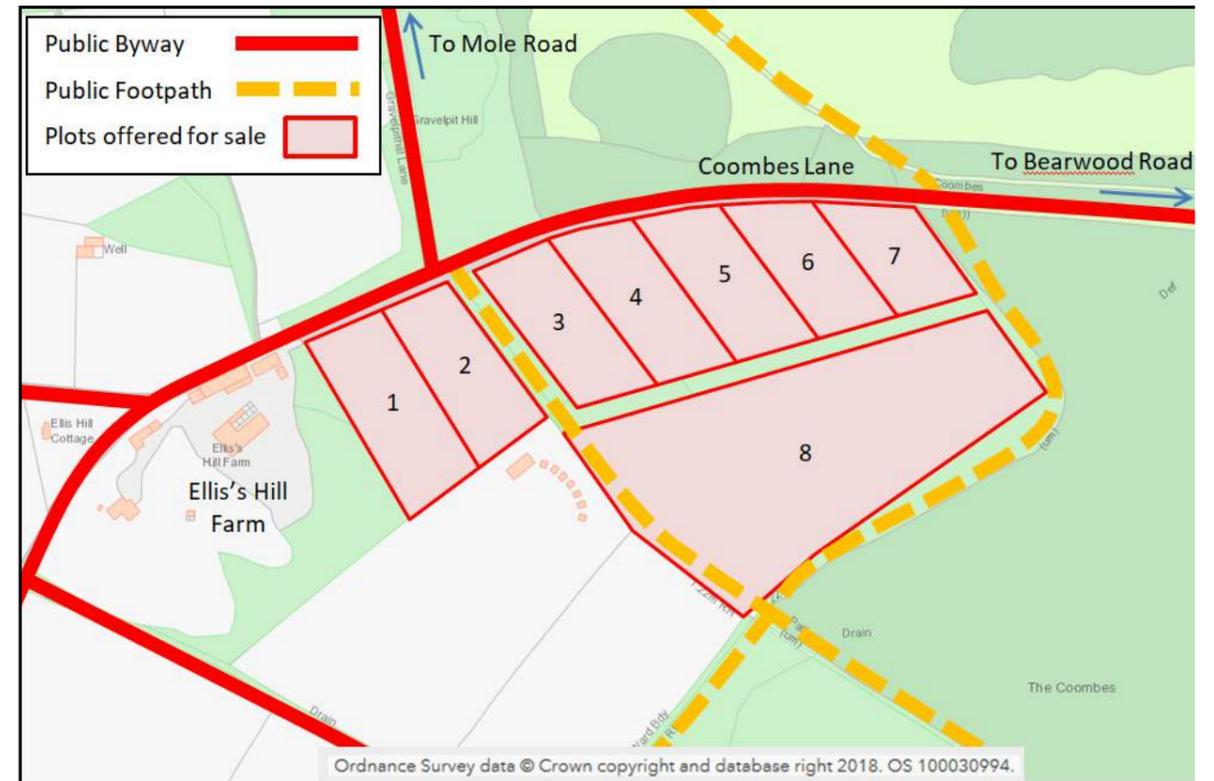
the attention of both the Auctioneer and Trading Standards. In the event, the descriptions were toned down from claiming 'Development Potential' to 'Potential For Variety Of Uses' for the smaller plots and 'Potential For Sub-divisional Uses' for the larger one. The accompanying maps were unchanged.

Trading Standards attended the auction to witness how the four lots were presented as they came under the hammer. This left them with a general concern about the marketing of such land that they wished to discuss with the auctioneers. At the time of writing, the outcome of the Trading Standards investigation is not known.

Only two of the plots were sold at the auction, plots 2 and 3, one each side of the footpath. There is little doubt that there will be further attempts to sell the others in due course.

It is always the responsibility of bidders to do their own research before buying at auction, but people can and do get caught. It is hoped that the buyers on this occasion were not misled into paying more than they would otherwise have done for their piece of the Coombes. It is also hoped that they become aware of the restrictions and their obligations before starting to do anything damaging to this woodland, which is so cherished by the local residents and wildlife alike.

If you notice anything untoward being done here, or indeed elsewhere in the Coombes, please let the BVRA and Wokingham Borough Council know as soon as you can.





### Social Matters

Approximately 50 people attended and Jim, Bernie and Peter did a wonderful job of cooking so many beef burgers, sausages and chicken drumsticks. Well done and thanks to them. We ate and chatted till the sun went down and then moved into the Hall for coffee and the raffle. A wonderful evening to say 'thank you' to all the newsletter distributors and other helpers with their partners too.

Well Summer has come and gone since the last newsletter, and what a scorcher it was!

By the time you read this, the annual Barn Dance will have taken place on Saturday September 22nd, so a report on this will appear in the next newsletter.



I do hope you were able to enjoy most of it and find plenty of shade to sit in. The gardens have suffered somewhat from the drought and heat, especially the lawns, but I am assured by gardener friends that they will recover. I will see if mine does!

The next planned event is the Quiz on Saturday November 24th in the Village Hall at 7.00 for 7.30 start. There will be a fish and chip supper and a licensed bar with great reasonably priced drinks, so you won't need to bring your own.

Tickets are £10 and can be obtained by contacting Gill Powell, preferably by email on [social@barkham.org.uk](mailto:social@barkham.org.uk) or by telephone on 0118 978 3373.

There is one event to report on and this is the Distributors' BBQ held in the evening of August 4th at the Village Hall. It was such lovely weather with guaranteed no rain, so the tables were spread out across the grassed area with the cooking taking place on the terrace.



Tables will be for a maximum of 6 people, so arrange your teams now, or just turn up on the night and join a team when you arrive. This is always great fun and an exciting and competitive evening so do come along.

We hope to hold the annual family 'Carols in the Park' a week or so before Christmas when we are joined by a brass band and meet at the junction of the Woodlands and the Junipers and sing carols before enjoying mince pies and mulled wine (or non-alcoholic squash) in the park at the end of the Junipers. This is a lovely way to enjoy the festive spirit for both children and adults, so watch out for the confirmation date and timing which will be in the next (Winter) newsletter.



Dates for 2019 have already been arranged for 23rd March, 28th September and the usual children's Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday 21st April. Details for all these will be announced in future newsletters, so make a note of the dates in your diaries and also look out for the various posters in the Village and around the area.

Social events are continuing in the Community and I hope to see as



many of you as possible at some or all of them. Enjoy the Autumn and hopefully an Indian Summer before we get dark nights and chilly mornings!

Shirley Warner  
Social Committee Member





**'Out of this World!'**

**A View from St James  
Holiday Bible Club 2018**

And so, another Holiday Bible Club is over... How many is that now? 56? 57? It all started so far back in the mists of time, no-one quite knows!

But what a time we had. Sunshine (loads of it), the lovely setting of the Coombes School field, some 250 excited youngsters aged 0-14 (young ones with parents and carers too), more than 100 helpers (many of whom had taken time off work to be there), a great theme (Space!), games, songs, sports, crafts, inflatables, wonderful up-front entertainment from our very own Rocky Planet and Lunar Crater - the list goes on...

And - to top it all - the opportunity to find out more about Jesus, as together we dipped into the pages of Matthew's account of Jesus' life, and heard about a God who's love for people like us is really is 'out of this world.'

We're so thankful to Mrs Atkins and others at the Coombes School who so kindly allowed HBC to go ahead there again this year, and so generously allowed us to borrow so many of the School's resources.



Our aim at HBC is always give the children who come the very best week of their summer holidays. It's hard to compete with some of the things some of them were going on to do, but it was lovely to see so many so clearly having such a wonderful time.

We also want HBC to be somewhere where children feel they really belong, and where everyone who comes is encouraged to look out for and take care of one another. Again, we don't always hit the mark, but it's always a joy to see leaders who would much rather be playing football in the afternoons throwing themselves into building Lego, or others who would rather be enjoying a cup of tea cheerfully becoming targets for water balloons, just because that's what the children they're with would rather do.

But it's also a delight to give youngsters and their families unpressured opportunities to hear, think through, and ask their questions about the message of Jesus. They certainly don't hold back with their objections! What a privilege to be able to talk about such significant things in such open, gracious, and respectful ways.

As the sun set on another end of week barbeque, and so many smiling faces in our final slideshow, we were very thankful to God for another very happy year.

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 Concerts will be held on a quarterly basis on the first Thursday of the month.

<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 pianists at St Eligius August concert, Jessica Gale and Mark Zarb-Adami. They gave a thrilling performance of music by Glinka / Balakirev, Brahms and Schubert as solo pieces and a duet. Greatly appreciated by the audience!

## St. Eligius Community Church



*This Autumn sees the launch of our Alpha Course.*

*We are starting the course with a Ploughman's Supper 7.30pm on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at Arborfield Community Centre.*

*Then over the following 6 weeks (excluding half term) we will share a meal together and watch a short video about different aspects of the Christian faith. After the video the most important part of the course takes place, when we discuss what we have heard and think about belief and why we believe what we do.*

*It really is a wonderful way of making new friends as well as taking time out to think a little more about your own understanding of faith.*

*For more info and to sign up see our website [www.steligius.church](http://www.steligius.church)*



*For more info contact:  
[tonia@steligius.church](mailto:tonia@steligius.church)*

*S.E.C.C is part of the parish of Finchampstead and California*

*[parish.finchampstead.co.uk](http://parish.finchampstead.co.uk)*



**Wokingham**

You may have noticed, if you use Facebook or keep up with our website, that we have been recruiting lately. Firstly an Advice Service Manager, then a Training Manager and then an Office Manager. This was caused by one of them moving away, one retiring and one having been 'head hunted' (always a risk because of the relatively small salaries we are able to offer...). We are pleased to say that this recruitment was very successful and we have filled all three posts with superb people. We have one more retirement this year, at Christmas) and we are now looking for a new Chief Executive. By the time you are reading this we hope to have found the right person.

We have just been awarded a 2 year contract by Wokingham Borough Council to provide an information, advice and support service to people that live and work in Wokingham Borough. This, combined with a lull in volunteer recruitment caused by the retirement of our Training Manager, means that we are now looking for more volunteers to help with assessments and advising. For more info on this see: [citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk/join-us/](http://citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk/join-us/)

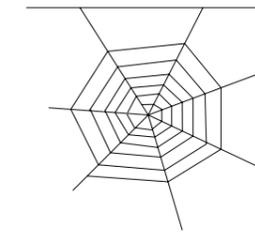
Our AGM this year is on 28th September 2018 at Wokingham Town Hall. It starts at 12 noon and if you would like to attend (light lunch afterwards) please let us know by emailing us on: [admin@citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk](mailto:admin@citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk)

If you have something you would like to talk to us about you can either phone us on 0300 330 1189 (calls cost the same as a local call would from whatever you use to call us) or you can also email us with problem issues from our website [www.citizensadvice-wokingham.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice-wokingham.org.uk) or on [public@citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk](mailto: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](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



### **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  
[webmaster@barkham.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@barkham.org.uk)

## **Farley Hill Bowls Club news**

It is getting a very late in the season now, and our green closed on 10th September.

By the time you read this, the 45 friendly mixed matches as well, as the 15 Ladies matches, we play every year will be over. We will also have played all our Club Competition matches.

But, if you are interested in trying your hand at lawn bowls next year, our season starts at the end of April. You will find our club at the Victory Hall, Church Road, Farley Hill RG7 1TR.

Please come along one day or evening next year 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)

For further information, or to arrange to pay us a visit at any other time, please contact Bill Dowling, Club Secretary on 01344 772130 or E-mail: [secretary@farleyhill-bowlsclub.org.uk](mailto:secretary@farleyhill-bowlsclub.org.uk)

# CROWTHORNE Symphony ORCHESTRA

If you have taken a look at our website since our Summer Concert at the end of June, you may have seen the comments about the memorable evening experienced by the audience and orchestra members alike. "Super concert - we were riveted", "The orchestra is so impressive, what a showcase", and simply "Wow!" Having been a member of the orchestra for well over 20 years I can say that this was definitely the most ambitious programme we have ever attempted and thanks to our Musical Director, Robert Roscoe, it proved to be a challenge we were able to meet and the exciting programme was warmly received by a hugely appreciative audience at The Old Gym. Our soloist Marco Fatichenti dazzled everyone with his performance of Rachmaninov's beautiful 3rd Piano Concerto. After the interval, the complex music Stravinsky wrote for his ballet Petrushka created a different mood, with a score that makes extreme demands from many instruments, superbly played by orchestra principals. How fortunate we are to have so many talented musicians in our midst.

Our new season of music is looking very exciting with our first concert in November. During the next 12 months we will be playing works by Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Elgar and Vaughan Williams amongst others, under the baton of our Musical Director, Robert Roscoe, so there is a lot to look forward to.

Preparations are underway for our Autumn Concert which is at 7.30pm on 24th November at The Old Gym, Wellington College, Crowthorne. The programme will include the very popular orchestral suite, 'Scheherazade' written by Rimsky Korsakov in 1888 and based on the stories of the "One Thousand and One Nights" (or "The Arabian Nights"). It was written to produce a sensation of fantasy narratives from the Orient. The music includes wonderful orchestral writing with memorable melodies and interesting rhythms.

Also on the programme is Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto and we are delighted to welcome back as our soloist Elizaveta Tyun, the talented young Russian violinist who has already played Britten and Brahms concerti with us, wowing the audience on both occasions.



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

Another date for your diary is our Afternoon Family Christmas Concert which will take place as usual at St John's Parish Church in Crowthorne on Saturday 15th December 2018 at 4.30pm. A lovely afternoon of seasonal music and carols for audience participation, suitable for all – young and not-so-young!

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 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



## Concert - Lest We Forget

Where: All Saints Church, Wokingham

When: 10th November 2018 3pm

Box Office Phone: 0118 4492099

Contact Email:

[trinityconcertband@gmail.com](mailto:trinityconcertband@gmail.com)

Further Details:

[twww.trinityband.co.uk](http://twww.trinityband.co.uk)

Providing Wokingham with a fitting finale to 3 weeks of events reflecting on the end of the First World War 100 years ago, Trinity Concert Band will be joined by the Arborfield Military Wives Choir in a concert at All Saints Church in Wokingham. The programme

will contain music, readings, poems and songs related to the period. As well as giving an opportunity to reflect, the music will offer hope and a positive vision of the future for us all.

Concert starts at 3:00pm. Tickets will be available in due course from Wokingham Town Council.

## Trinity Concert Band Concert - Jingle All the Way

Where: Trinity Church, Lower Earley

When: 8th December 2018 3pm & 7pm

Box Office Phone: 0118 4492099

Contact Email:

[trinityconcertband@gmail.com](mailto:trinityconcertband@gmail.com)

Further Details:

[www.trinityband.co.uk](http://www.trinityband.co.uk)

Get the Christmas season off to a flying start with Trinity Concert Band's double helping of Christmas concerts! Bring the little ones to our 3pm matinée where they'll be able to sing along to their favourite Christmas tunes, or join us at 7pm for a sparkling evening of festive music and carols.

Tickets are priced at £10 in advance or £12 on the door. Children under 16 get free entry. Advance tickets are available via the band website [www.trinityband.co.uk](http://www.trinityband.co.uk) and the box office on 0118 4492099. For further information, please visit the website.

## Wokingham Choral Society – new beginnings

WCS is one of the oldest amateur choirs in the area, performing since 1951. We are very excited to be starting our 68th season with our new Musical Director - James Morley Potter to inspire us for our autumn performance of the dramatic Mozart's Requiem. This will be at the Great Hall, University of Reading on 10th November at 7.30pm. Our ever-popular Christmas Carol Concert will be at a slightly earlier time at 6pm this year on December 15th at All Saints' Church in Wokingham. Our website - <https://www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk/> is full of information about both concerts and our choir.

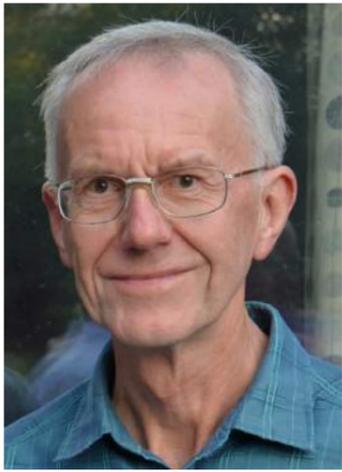
We welcome new members from the age of 16 years. During our Thursday evening rehearsals,

we work hard and at quite a fast pace to put on the best concerts possible, so some degree of ability to read music is important. However, we have fantastic professional support to achieve this from our M.D. and Accompanist.

Being involved and taking part in WCS concerts can be thrilling. To try out the WCS experience why not join us for a taster rehearsal. We are delighted to welcome prospective members on any Thursday, please email our membership secretary via the website links if you would like to join us for an evening.

We are a very social group of about 100 singers and we meet up for other non-musical activities through the year just for fun.

We now also run two special annual, musical events: a choral workshop open to all (usually in spring) which focuses on the sheer enjoyment of singing with tips for improving singing technique and a summer tour (members only) - essentially the perfect combination of a holiday with friends and music!



**Alan's Patch**

After a crazy truncated spring we have had the most amazing and glorious summer that we will remember forever and one that, those of us old enough, will compare with 1976. The rain for two days in late July was all I can remember from late May to early August. Fortunately, when it came it was nice and steady so it soaked into the ground without damaging the fruit and vegetables. So what impact has this amazing summer had on my patch?

The fruit on the trees ripened early but there is a lighter crop on the smaller bush trees because with being on dwarf root stock they have a less vigorous root system and probably needed watering. The larger apple was unaffected. I watered the young cordon fruit because they are young so that their root system is not well developed yet and they are also grafted onto dwarf root stock. The birds are a real pest and peck into the apples on the bush fruit trees. I wouldn't mind if they ate a few whole apples but they take a bite out of lots of them! This then lets in the wasps. I can prevent bird damage on the cordons by netting them. Codling moth is still a problem that remains to be conquered, the pheromone traps

don't seem all that effective. They tunnel into the young apples and give you a nasty surprise when you cut them open. Nevertheless there is still a pretty good crop that we will see me through most of the winter.

Despite being sown a month later than normal the main crop potatoes have matured quickly and were ready to be dug up in late August, a few weeks early, but again the crop is lighter than normal.

Everything else has thrived this year. Once again, the sweet corn has been excellent but last night's was just past its best, a bit like shop bought ones, so the 2-3 remaining cobs might go straight to the compost heap! My badger protection has worked well, I've seen no signs of them. This seems to be my most successful year for butternut squash. The conditions



have been perfect for them. This evening I tried one and it's delicious.

In the greenhouse, tomatoes have done well, aubergine, for some

reason not so. At the moment one of the cucumber plants is gradually taking over the greenhouse! I have had rather more than we can eat so I've been feeding the neighbours with these and French beans.

For herbs we currently have parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme plus basil, oregano, coriander, chives and of course mint. A new one is purslane, this has a lemony taste and is a nice new variation. Pam is freezing them dry for use in the winter.

She is also in charge of the crab apple jelly department - five pots so far. Apparently, there was an invasion of earwigs inside the dud ones.

In August we had a bit more rain and the lawn started to green up in places. The wisteria has behaved unusually this year: there has been a lot of fresh growth and flowering shoots all summer. This plant is some 30 years old and grows against a south wall with very little soil and this year, with little rain, it has been dry. It's amazing that it not only survives but even thrives.

In early June I hired a mower to cut the field and would normally be planning to book it for a second cut, but it looks like it might not be necessary this year.

I read that, with the drought, the vegetable harvest is going to be lighter than normal. They are concerned about shortages and price rises. Much produce gets discarded because it doesn't meet the cosmetic specifications required and there is talk that there may be a need to educate supermarket shoppers to tolerate smaller and misshapen produce

this winter. We do that all the time!

My first photo is of barlotti beans ripening on the canes. The beans inside are dried and stored for use over the winter. The other photograph (below) was taken in the village, but do you know where? Go to the quiz answers on page 23 to find out.



**Wokingham Job Support Centre**

The centre offers free job search support every week day from 10am to 2pm at The Cornerstone, Norreys Avenue, Wokingham RG40 1UE. Confidential support and advice is available as well as interview training and other workshops. Tel. 0118 977 0517 or email [jobsearch@wjsc.org.uk](mailto:jobsearch@wjsc.org.uk) or check the website at [www.wjsc.org.uk](http://www.wjsc.org.uk). The Centre has provided support to a number of Barkham residents over the years and Barkham Parish Council has awarded a grant to the Centre for several years to allow this valuable service to continue.

**Finchampstead Flower Club**

The club meets on the fourth Monday of the month at California Ratepayers Hall. The meeting begins at 7.45pm with an update on club business and any NAFAS events planned locally. This is followed by a demonstration of at least five arrangements, these are raffled at the end of the evening.

We welcome any visitors and new members, for more information please contact Elisabeth Barret on 979 1618.



Sept 24th. Bang on Trend. Sue Tausig. Club competition. Good enough to eat.

Oct 22nd. Out of Africa. Vijay Bhatia. Club competition. White mischief.

Nov 16th (Friday). Open evening at Finchampstead Memorial Hall

"A Sparkling Christmas" Katherine Austin. Tickets will be available from any club member.

Dec 10th Seasonal Workshop

All club competitions are open staged. I have included a few photos taken recently of petite arrangements in baskets.

Ann Tuffee



## Arborfield Gardening Association



Hello Everyone !

The National Garden Scheme has, since 1927, been inviting garden owners to open their exceptional gardens to the public for good causes. People can thus have 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, the NGS has donated £50 million to charities across the UK. Copies of the "2018 Berks and Bucks Gardens to Visit Guide" showing the NGS beautiful gardens in our area and, if you are interested, how you can open your own garden, are available at various locations, eg Henry Street Garden Centre.

In July we visited another NGS garden, "The Priory" in Beech Hill. "The Priory" has extensive gardens in the grounds of a former C12 French Priory (not open), rebuilt in 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 an Italian-style water garden to enjoy.

New research conducted by the National Garden Scheme reveals that visiting a private garden is good for the soul. Over 85% of their supporters report that being in a National Garden Scheme garden has a positive impact on their mental wellbeing and 8 out of 10 (80%) feel happier after visiting than before. So, the National

Garden Scheme isn't just about opening beautiful gardens for charity – they are committed to raising awareness of the physical and mental health benefits of gardens and gardening.

### Future Events

AGA's next meeting in the Village Hall is on **Thursday 27th September** and will be a talk by Paul Patton on "Autumn Aspirations". Paul describes himself as a Plant Pathologist, Writer and Broadcaster. He can also be heard on 'Dig It' and he gives talks on a wide variety of gardening topics.

**Between 2nd – 3rd October** the RHS Harvest Festival of fruit, veg and ornamental plants will be held in the Lindley Hall, Westminster. Open between 10-5pm, the event is FREE.

**On 24th October** at 7.30pm, Nick Bailey of Gardeners' World and recently of Chelsea Flower Show fame, will be giving a talk at Wokingham Town Hall on '365 Days of Colour in your Garden'. The price of the ticket is £10, to include cheese and a non-alcoholic drink (wine at £2 per glass). Wokingham Horticultural Association (WHA) will be having a small exclusive raffle. Tickets will be on sale at the Trading Store and at WHA events.

The RHS London Urban Garden Show – big ideas for small spaces – will be held **between 26th and 28th October** in the RHS Lawrence and Lindley Halls, Westminster.....Friday 5-10pm, Saturday 11am-8pm, Sunday 11am-6pm, the prices from £5 - £9.

### NB

- Don't forget when planting up your front garden and win-

dow boxes, etc, that the Royal British Legion (RBL) have asked us to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice 100 years to the minute, at the Centenary of Armistice on Remembrance Sunday, by planting red, white and blue flowers as a tribute to all those who have given their lives so that we can be free.

- Road network for bees: A network of "wildflower superhighways" for bees and other pollinating insects could criss-cross Britain if MPs pass legislation making its way through Parliament. The Protection of Pollinators Bill would encourage councils, landowners and the public to boost wildflower populations with meadow planting and less-frequent mowing of roadside verges. Insects could then travel uninterrupted to link areas of nectar-rich flowers.
- The RHS advises waiting until Autumn before making repairs to lawns and to delay lawn weed killer treatment on brown lawns until the following spring.

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



Best wishes  
Catherine Breen, Chair



*Alan's Patch answer: near the corner in Sandy Lane, grid ref SU788678*

10. Caracas	1. Wellington
9. Armenia	2. Reykjavik
8. Sebastian Coe	3. Stockholm syndrome
7. Kiev	4. Budapest
6. Lisbon	5. Paris
5. Paris	6. Lisbon
4. Budapest	7. Kiev
3. Stockholm syndrome	8. Sebastian Coe
2. Reykjavik	9. Armenia
1. Wellington	10. Caracas

**The Quiz - answers**

### 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)

# Barkham Diary

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
23/10/18	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
07/11/18	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
08/11/18	BVRA AGM	BVH	8.00pm
09/11/18	Copy deadline for Winter Barkham Newsletter		
13/11/18	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
13/11/18	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
14/11/18	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
24/11/18	BVRA Quiz Night	BVH	7.30pm
26/11/18	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
27/11/18	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
05/12/18	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
11/12/18	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
11/12/18	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
12/12/18	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



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