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Barkham Newsletter

Issue 128 Summer 2019

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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

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

**Family
Day Out**



**Everyone
Welcome**

PICNIC IN THE PARK FREE!

Just turn up and bring your own picnic!

At The JunipersB

Saturday 29th June 2019B

From 12 NoonB

Organised Children's Games from 1pmB

Social Committee Contact: Gill Powell B

Email: social@barkham.org.uk Tel 9783373

2019 Subscriptions

2019 BVRA Membership Fees are now due and remain at £2 per household

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

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Chairman's Chat

Welcome to the summer edition of the Newsletter. In the spring edition I had a moan about the fact that we had failed to find a volunteer for the role of Newsletter Editor and in this edition I am pleased to announce that we have a new Editor! Please welcome Suzanne Trigg who has taken on the role and produced this, her first newsletter. Suzanne has the brief to look at new and different content for the publication whilst still maintaining the objective of keeping you informed about local issues and events. Please let her have your ideas or suggestions for the Newsletter. We are how-

ever still looking for a person to manage the distribution of the Newsletter – please have a look at the details on page 5.

The social section provides details of the events that we have been running and I am pleased to see that these continue to be well supported. The Skittles Evening and the Easter Egg Hunt were both great successes and reflect the continued work that the Social Committee puts in. My thanks to their ongoing commitment. On that note we are always looking for additions to the Social Committee. This spreads the workload and brings in new ideas. If you would like to volunteer just let us know via social@barkham.org.uk

Our next event in June is Picnic in the Park. This is a new event and is designed to appeal to all residents, young and older. There will be games for the children and a relaxed atmosphere, hopefully, with some sunshine thrown in. Please come along and encourage your neighbours to join you.

I would like to make this a key event in the BVRA calendar.

Thanks to all of you who have paid the 2019 membership fees. The fee has again been maintained at £2 and some people (strangely) have suggested that it may be time to increase this in 2020! I would like to get your views on this before we make any decision at the end of the year. On a wider note, your views on what we should be doing (or not doing) as a Residents Association is welcome. We also want you to comment on any issues and concerns you may have about the community. I called this "Have Your Say" in the last edition. Disappointingly, we have not had a single response to this! I would like to get this dialogue going so please email me chairman@barkham.org.uk I will reply to every mail and will not publish these without your prior permission. Don't forget to join your neighbours for Picnic in the Park on the 29th June. Have a great summer.

Alan Dixon
Chairman BVRA

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Advertising and Newsletter Contributions

Newsletter articles / contributions for the Summer edition should be in by 30 August 2019. It helps if these can be submitted in electronic form by email to newsletter@barkham.org.uk.

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 mid September.



Here Comes Summer

Greetings,

I would like to start by introducing myself as I have taken up the mantle of editor from Stewart Richardson. I have lived in Barkham for 13 years and share my life with my husband, teenage daughter, two elderly dogs and two mad cats. My passions are; theatre, dance, music, nature and all things horticultural.

I like to think of myself as eco-aware and I try to recycle, reuse whenever possible, yet still, I cringe when I see so much plastic being discarded. There is still so much which could be done by the food manufacturers to reduce this waste which is a blight on our planet, but also there could be more clarity as to what can and what can't be included in our weekly recycling and I will be providing more information on this in future newsletters.

As a mother to a teenager I am keen to widen the readership and so will be looking for articles which increase the appeal to children and young adults. If you have any suggestions for content to the newsletter, then please email me: newsletter@barkham.org.uk

I am also introducing a Spotlight feature to highlight great ideas,

promote charitable work, or just to congratulate members who give their time to the community, so if you have anyone you wish to nominate then please, let me know.

I would like to remind everyone of the website and Facebook pages as a great resource for interaction and dissemination of information, where you can easily check up on what's going on in the community or review the latest news and Development Watch.

Please also ensure you have a look at the upcoming social events and let's try to ensure that these are well attended. The social diary can be found on the website: www.barkham.org.uk.

I would also like to highlight the request and encourage someone to volunteer to take on the responsibilities of Membership Secretary. It really is not too onerous a position and would be suitable for anyone who can spare a little time each quarter and it will help the committee enormously. More information can be found in this newsletter.

I would like to thank Stewart Richardson for all the great work he has done over the last 13 years and for his valued guidance in getting this newsletter published.

Suzanne Trigg
BVRA Editor

The Quiz

The theme this time is "Relatively Speaking" – hopefully you'll soon spot the links!

1. What is the family link between the head coach of the England national netball team and the head coach of the England women's football team?
2. Which Dire Straits album was the 8th best-selling of all time in the UK?
3. Which American playwright wrote "All My Sons", which recently was performed at the Old Vic?
4. "My Perfect Cousin" was the most successful UK single for which punk band?
5. Who played Michael Corleone in the Godfather films?
6. Who wrote the Father Brown novels?
7. ...and who played Dougal in Father Ted and has been seen more recently as a detective in sunnier climes?
8. Which of Donald Trump's wives was the only one to have been an American citizen at the time of their marriage?
9. What is the family relationship between Queen Mary Tudor and Queen Elizabeth 1?
10.and finally, what links a mint first produced in Wigan in 1898 with one of the 20th century's most infamous tyrants?

Answers on page 23



End of an Era

With a rather heavy heart I have decided to stand down from Barkham Parish Council. It was 11 years ago that I first joined the Council and before that I had worked on the Village Design Statement, so the Council has been a large part of my life. I will miss working with colleagues on the Council who have proved to be an excellent team looking after the interests of Barkham. However I feel that I now need to make time to pursue other activities which I have to some extent neglected these last few years. I will not completely disappear from parish activities as I will remain as Chair of the Arborfield and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Barkham still has plenty of challenges ahead. I was heavily involved in seeing off the threat of Barkham Square ten years ago, and I hope that success can be repeated. I know that the Council will be very proactive in fighting proposals and the recent petition, which accumulated more than 4,000 signatures, illustrates the strength of local feeling.

The creation of the SDL (Strategic Development Location) on and around the Arborfield Garrison site was just a plan when I started and now it is actually under

construction. In many ways it is turning out better than one might first have feared. Nevertheless, there are elements which could be done better and there could be a number of missed opportunities, not least with the village centre and associated road layout. With the build probably lasting well beyond 2030, I am not offering to see that particular project through to the end!

Council Vacancies

I am conscious that this is not the best of times to be leaving the Council, as there are already a number of vacancies, BPC has only six out of ten potential councillors. I do hope that residents will consider joining. It is important that a wide range of people are involved as this gives the Council greater credibility when dealing with the Borough Council, developers and other stakeholders. Even if new Councillors only attend the regular monthly meetings, they will be making a useful input. If they have the enthusiasm to participate in other activities, there are plenty of challenges ahead. Beside the constant stream of planning issues, there are exciting projects on the horizon; planning a new community centre at Arborfield Green is in the early stages, another project will include improvements to greenways and other rights of way.

If anyone is interested in joining the Council, I suggest getting in contact with Pam Stubbs, the Chairman or with Ellen Tims, the Parish Clerk.

Neighbourhood Plan – the next steps

The Arborfield and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan is now

coming to its final stages, hopefully culminating in a referendum before the end of the year. I will continue my role with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, to complete the task. This is a joint project involving the two parishes. When we started, the Steering Group mainly comprised councillors of Barkham and Arborfield along with a number of other residents.

The Steering Group has now completed discussions with the planning teams at Wokingham Borough Council. The purpose of these discussions were to ensure compliance with national and local planning policies. The plan will now be going forward to the Borough’s Executive Committee on 27 June. This should lead to a consultation in July and August and an Examiner will be appointed. Subject then to a successful examination it is anticipated that the Neighbourhood Plan will go to referendum in early December.

The full Neighbourhood Plan document can be viewed on the website www.arbarplan.com. Along with the main text there are a number of supporting documents and maps.

The Neighbourhood Plan covers a wide range of topics. A primary concern is to retain the separation areas between the various settlements and retaining important landscape views, preserving key natural and heritage assets such as The Coombes. The Plan aims to ensure that existing community facilities are retained and that new facilities are provided – a medical centre at Arborfield Green is top of this list. New housing should be created to satisfy local needs, especially suitable homes for young families and life time homes for an ageing population.

The plan makes clear that most of the local roads are unsuited to absorb yet more large-scale development. Development of Greenways for non-motorised users is advocated.

The Neighbourhood Plan, when finally adopted, will not have the authority to force all these issues, but it is certainly the case that planners will have to recognise the Neighbourhood Plan as a material consideration in any planning decisions made.

Laurence Heath



Having gained some new members at our Open Days on 4th and 5th May, our new season is now well under way. But, If you fancy having a go at lawn bowls, or maybe taking the game up more seriously, please come along to one of our home matches and introduce yourself to any of our members. Better still, just give me call or send me an e-mail, and I will arrange a taster session for

you and any friends you might like to bring along with you.

You will find our club at the Victory Hall, Church Road, Farley Hill RG7 1TR.

More information is on our website: www.farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk or by contacting Bill Dowling, Club Secretary, on 01344772130 or E-mail: secretary@farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk

Where in Barkham?

This photograph was taken in the village, but do you know where? Go to page 23 to find out.



The BVRA needs a new Membership Secretary!

Duties are to:

- Maintain a membership register (handling of subscription money will be dealt with separately).
- 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, Alan Dixon (see page 3), if you are interested in helping the BVRA by taking on this role or would like more details.



Enough is Enough

Over the last few months feedback from residents on future development has been deafening through petitions, motions and responses to the “Local Plan Update” sessions around the Borough. Residents are saying “enough is enough” a view that councillors totally agree with and we have been putting it forward to Government for many years, but they are not listening. So, let’s put some facts on the table.

Wokingham has approved applications for 8,187 houses with another 2,013 in the pipeline for the South Wokingham Strategic Development Location. Without the 2,013 that is equivalent to 11.2 years of land supply based on the governments required rate of build of 854 houses per year. That is over twice the required rate of 5 years Land supply.

The council have clearly demonstrated time and time again that this council is not going to be obstructive, that it is going to “do its bit” to provide the housing, especially affordable housing but the government insist we need to have more as such continues to pile on additional numbers to us, numbers which are higher than our neighbours. It is almost like being rewarded for not doing

the right thing and penalised for doing the right thing.

So, what have we been doing over the last few years to discuss and negotiate with government and its agencies to address this prospect of over development? The previous three leaders of the council have had face to face meetings with the Prime Minister. Other Executive members including myself have met with the relevant constantly changing ministers. We have even met with the Chief Planning Inspector. All to no avail, no change in the numbers – you have to take them.

We have reached that crossroads where “enough is enough” and we have to find a different way to convince the government to be more reasonable and to try and achieve this, this is what we plan to do and the council is looking for support from residents and councillors, regardless of their party allegiance for our proposals. Officers and councillors have looked at many options over recent weeks including a referendum on this topic. Unfortunately, legal advice has said that such a referendum would be illegal which is unfortunate. So instead we are having to fall back on a special consultation. This is very different to any consultation we have held in the past. We will pose a question in that consultation asking if you support the government inflicted housing numbers in a simple yes or no manner. We want as many residents to respond so we can go back to government to say to them – “look, all these residents cannot be wrong” – you must do something about these excessively high housing numbers. The more responses we get the stronger the argument.

Unfortunately, due to the proximity of the local elections this consultation has had to wait until after they have taken place, but we are planning for it to be held at the earliest opportunity. I can assure you every mechanism will be engaged to get the maximum return on that consultation. Imagine a consultation that had 25,000 responses or even 50,000 responses agreeing with us that the housing numbers are too large. The power of that strength of local feeling must help us in our ambition to get the numbers reduced by the government.

I hope everyone will agree that this is a bold and strong move to put you our residents centre stage of this battle to get the government to be more reasonable in their demands on the council to allow more and more houses to be built. If we can come together, residents and all councillors with a single aim to get the government to listen we just might get some movement. If we do not work together it is highly unlikely, we will get anywhere. There is no guarantee we will be successful, but we will try with all our strength to get the government to listen and revise the numbers down.

One last point I would like to thank all the residents who supported me during the local election and rest assured I will do all in my power to ensure Barkham remains the place we all want to live and will fight any additional development in the ward over and above that which has already been approved.

Regards

John Kaiser
Ward councillor for Barkham,
Wokingham Borough Council



Citizens Advice Wokingham launches Help to Claim and Council Tax Protocol campaigns

Help to Claim

As of April, Citizens Advice have introduced a new, national service entitled ‘Help to Claim’. We have implemented it in our offices at Waterford House and in Woodley have a day dedicated to the project every Tuesday between 9.30am and 2.30pm.

This service can help the residents of Wokingham Borough to make a Universal Credit claim and replaces the old Universal Support offer. Through Help to Claim, we can provide clients with advice on how to apply for Universal Credit and support them through the application process. Naturally, the support provided will vary depending on individual need.

Citizens Advice Wokingham can guide you through a step-by-step process to help you with your Universal Credit claim. First, we can explain exactly what Universal Credit is and which benefits it replaces. Following that, we can help you to prepare for an interview in a Jobcentre appointment regarding a Universal Credit application, set up an online email account, and verify your identity online if you are comfortable doing so. Then, we can help clients to set up their Universal Credit account and to manage their claim online.

Other assistance provided might include things such as helping

someone gather evidence of their housing or childcare costs and ensuring that people know that Alternative Payment Arrangements are available.

If the service could be of assistance to you, please visit our website to discover more.

Council Tax Protocol

Citizens Advice have launched a national campaign this year to call on the government to commit to fair and effective debt collection. Due to budget restraints, councils face significant pressure to collect all the tax they’re owed, and Citizens Advice is calling for a closer relationship between local authorities and debt advice agencies to improve collection processes. This can help to support people struggling with debts by intervening earlier and prevent an escalation in charges and collection costs.

The protocol also offers practical steps to help people avoid falling into debt in the first place and outlines how enforcement agents can act within the law in collecting debt.

Citizens Advice Wokingham helped 89 people with their council tax debts in 2018 and have been working this year to meet with

council officials to discuss the implementation of the protocol here in Wokingham. One option involved the council advising those with arrears to contact Citizens Advice Wokingham in their first warning letter and advising that the bailiffs not be called following a second warning letter should the resident contact Citizens Advice Wokingham.

Citizens Advice Wokingham will be holding another session with residents, to give advice and information on debt payments on 4 June between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. A Debt Specialist will lead the June session, and will discuss such topics as clarifying Council Tax documents and flexible payment arrangements. An officer from the Council will also be available and the Council are contacting customers that they think may benefit from this offer.

Did you know that Citizens Advice Wokingham is a charity?

Help us to ensure everyone in Wokingham has access to good quality, effective advice and information when they need it. Contact us or visit our website for more information: www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk

Emmott Leigh
Communications Volunteer



Spring in Barkham Photo Competition

Thank you to all who entered our *Spring in Barkham* website photo competition. Keen photographers were ready with their camera/ phone to capture a moment while they were making their way in and around Barkham. Well done.



The winner: Village Store and Post Office – Teresa Winship

Runners up:
Winding path through the Coombes - Molly Payton

Bluebells in the Coombes – Dave Clements

The Summer Photo Competition

will be the best 3 with the theme of 'Picnic'. We would love to see your cute and quirky snaps taken while you are enjoying eating *al fresco*. Please send them to newsletter@barkham.org.uk and they will be put on the website and judged by the committee and announced in the Autumn newsletter. Good luck to all.



Coombes Fest



TAKING PLACE ON

SATURDAY

6TH

JULY

IS BACK

GATES OPEN AT

3 PM

2019

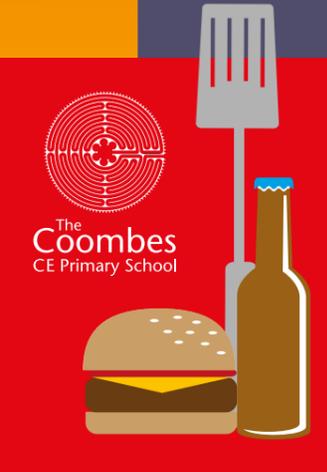
AN AFTERNOON OF AWESOME MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

AN INCREDIBLE SELECTION OF FOOD & DRINKS

CRAFT BEER

BBQ

PIMMS & PROSECCO



CUP OF ROSIE
THE GREEN EGG
VEGIVORES
DOUGHSMITHS
ELUSIVE BREWING
PLUS MANY MORE!

LIVE BANDS TILL 8.30^{PM}

WISE MONKEYS
ATOMIC RAPTURE
LÂTE
EVOLUTION



INFLATABLES
STALLS & GAMES
CIRCUS SKILLS
RAFFLE



For tickets or more information visit www.coombesfest.com



News from Your Parish Council

WE NEED NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS

It does not take up too much time and you will make a difference. We have four vacancies for a parish councillor to join the team as we meet the challenges of a rapidly changing local environment.

There are some 1500 residences in Barkham, with the numbers increasing all the time. How many of our residents are completely happy with the way WBC are running the Borough AND our Parish? Judging from the number who signed the petition last Summer, there are many of you who feel that more could be done. If you are one of those residents please come along to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is doing all that it can to try and guide WBC

in the right direction, the direction that we believe our residents want, BUT we need your help. The Parish Council is sadly short of Councillors. Without more people who care about where they live and who would be willing to come and join the Parish Council and make a real difference to the way the Borough affects our Parish; we will not be able to repeat exercises like the petition organised last year or develop initiatives to support the community.

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.

Parish Clean Up

The annual Barkham Parish litter pick took place on Sunday 24th March.

The litter pick was a great success. Over 40 volunteers turned out to help, and with so many volunteers, nearly all of the roads in the parish were cleaned of litter. Although there appeared to be less litter this year than last, there was still plenty collected with 44 bags of general rubbish and 37 bags of recycling collected

from the parish, alongside fly tipped items such as; a radiator, a single mattress, tyres, a multiple plug socket that measured approximately 2 meters in length, and the most unusual of all, a foam head that was decorated in a Halloween theme.

After the litter pick, there was chatter between the volunteers who were refreshed with tea, coffee, bacon butties and cakes and biscuits.

Thanks go to the Barkham Village Hall for allowing the parish council to use the hall grounds as a meeting place & for use of the facilities to provide refreshments, and to all the volunteers who turned up to help on the day.

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.



Holiday Bible Club 'Landlubbers'

Ahoy there, me hearties...

Are you looking for something for your children to do in the long summer holiday ahead?

Why not book them in for Holiday Bible Club? It's a five-day club for local children aged 0-14, run by Arborfield and Barkham Churches, including Christchurch Wokingham and Church at the Green. HBC has been running for nearly 60 years now and has become a much-valued part of local community life. Every year, children leave telling 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!

This year's HBC will run from Monday 29 July-Friday 2 August, once again in the grounds of the Coombes School. The theme will be Pirates (could you tell?). Why not sign your children up to join more than 200 others enjoying so many good things: crafts, sports, music, games, inflatables, water sports, face-painting, the chance to make new friends, and, of course, the opportunity to find out more about Captain Jesus?

The under 5s programme runs only in the mornings, and draws in children and their parents or carers for singing, a talk, crafts, and plenty of tea and cake.

Our churches' new Children's and Youth Worker, Mellissa Tuthill, will be running the week and is also planning to introduce lots of new ideas, including an afternoon of fun for the whole family on Friday 2 August, including a hog roast. It promises to be one of the best HBCs in years, so do join us if you can.

Bookings this year opened at half-term. 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 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 or call the Church Office on 0118 976 0285. We'd love to see you and your children there!

David Horrocks

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





at the end, with last man standing, Keegan eventually taking the prize winnings! As players were knocked out in this game they were treated to choc ices, so not too disappointed I hope. Many thanks to Cathy for doing a wonderful job as MC, and also to Steve for doing all the scoring on the computer and on the screen.

Social Matters

It's early May as I write this, and after a mixed bag of weather for Spring this year with many very warm spells followed by cold winds and rain, and then more warm spells it's a wonder that all the trees, shrubs and flowers look as green, fresh and colourful as they do.

The bluebells were early this year but spectacular, frosts now seem a distant memory and the days are certainly getting longer, so Summer is just around the corner we hope.

We have had two social events so far this year, the first was the Family Skittles on March 23rd which was so well attended with 70 people taking part, including some teenagers! Great fun was had by all and the winning team was the 'Oak Trees' comprising Gill, Graham, Wynn, Helen, Manny and Petro. Wynn, and his team had the overall highest individual score of 22 for one turn - quite a bowling feat!! The Ploughman's Supper, halfway through the evening, was as colourful and tasty as ever with many lovely compliments received. The 'Killer' game took place after the supper - things got very competitive at this stage and a few players battled it out

The Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt took place at the Junipers on Easter Sunday, 21st April on what was an exceptionally hot sunny day with a record temperature of 23C! Photographs can be found on p14. It was quite a challenge to keep all the chocolate eggs and raffle egg and bunnies cool without a chocolate meltdown! The BVR chairman, Alan Dixon, started off all 60 children (some very young ones) on the hunt for tokens. They were very quickly found and exchanged for little chocolate eggs, and the winner of the large Lindt egg was a delighted Pat Dance. Since the weather was so wonderful so many family members had been there and after the hunt had finished many stayed on to enjoy time in the park.

An additional Summer Social Event is planned for this year - a 'Family Picnic in the Park' on Saturday 29th June at the Junipers. This starts at 12.00 noon, so just turn up and bring a picnic. Children's games will be organised from 1.00pm, so it promises to be a lot of fun and a Family day out. Let's hope we have wonderful weather. Look out for details on the posters put up around the Village, put the date in your diaries and join in this free event for all the family.

The Annual Barn Dance is on Saturday 28th September at the Village Hall, 7.00-10.00pm. There

will be a 'live band and caller', and a Supper with a licensed bar. Tickets will be available nearer the time from Gill Powell, preferably by email - social@barkham.org.uk or by telephone on 0118 9783373. Again, look out for posters displayed around the village for details.

Also by popular request a Quiz Night will again take place on Saturday November 23rd in the Village Hall. This includes a fish and chip supper with a licensed bar. Further details will be in the next Newsletter but please make a note of the date.

I hope to see many of you at our future events - they are always fun and a great way to get to know people in Barkham Village and the new adjoining area at Arborfield Green. Until then and the next Newsletter I hope you all have a wonderful Summer!

Shirley Warner
Social Committee Member

Check the website for a full list of social events. If you would like to receive email alerts with details of forthcoming social events, please register at <https://bit.ly/2T4kRXs>



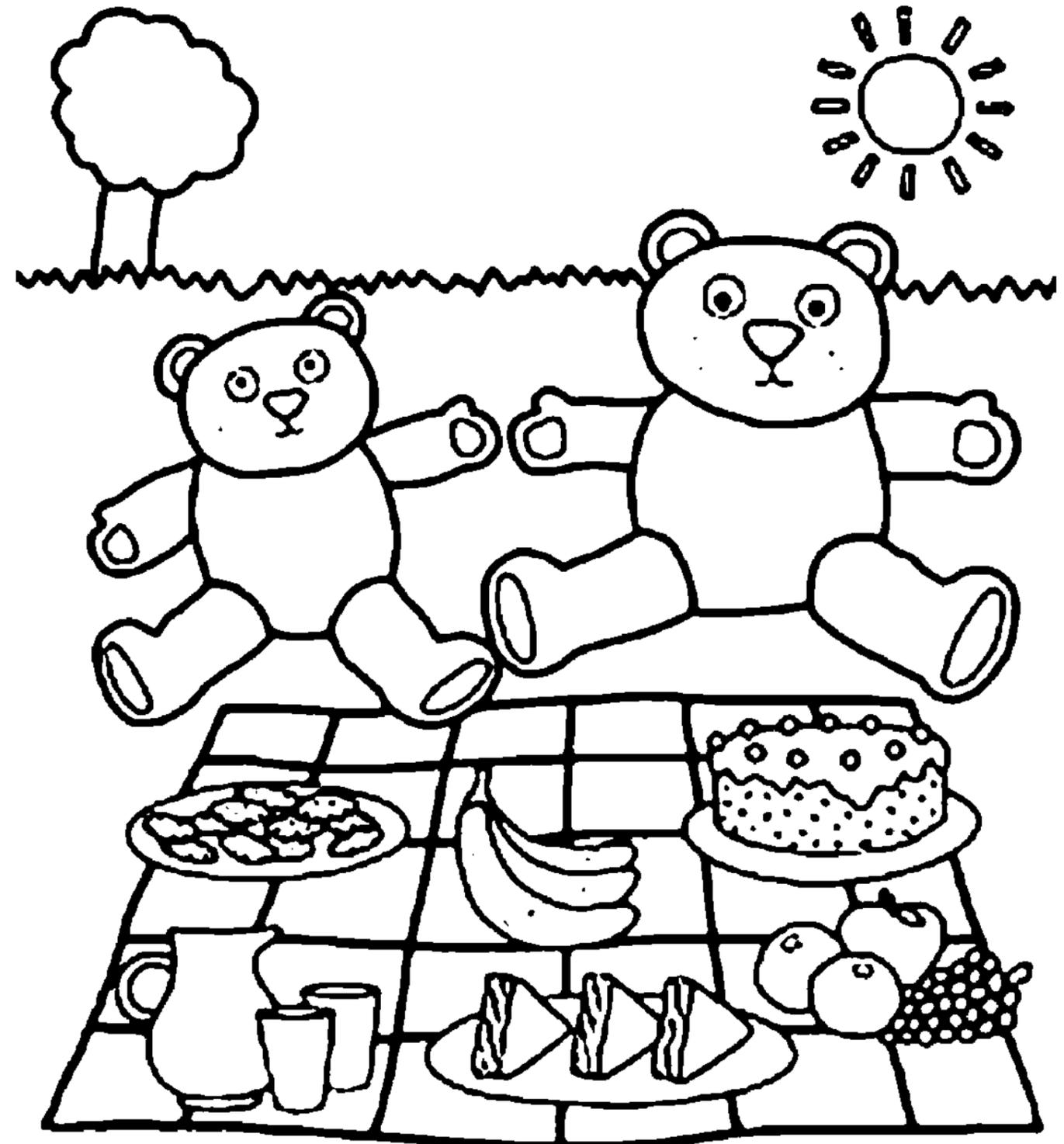


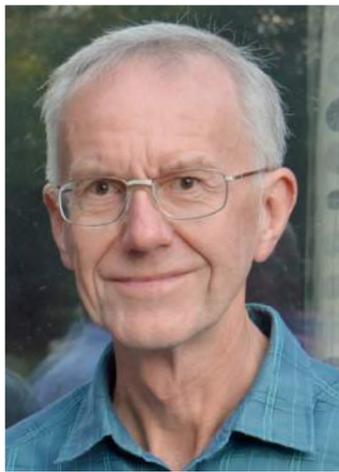
Children's colouring competition

The competition is open to children up to and including the age of 7. Please make sure your name, age and a contact telephone number are on your picture when you hand it in to one of the organisers at the Picnic in the Park on Saturday 29th June.

There will be a prize for the winner. You can colour in the picture in the newsletter and tear it out or photocopy it onto a separate sheet before colouring, or download it from the website, whichever you prefer.

Name: _____ Age: _____ Contact number: _____





Alan's Patch

be attacked by blackfly, another perennial problem. They land on the freshest youngest growth so I snap off the top shoots when they have grown sufficiently, sometimes sacrificing some of the crop.

Still on the subject of pests I have set up traps to catch codling moths which caused a lot of damage to my apples last year. With no serious frosts this year the fruit trees have set well and there is a potential for high crops again.

The last remaining crop in the soil from last year is the spinach. This is now bolting to produce seed heads and the leaves will soon start to get tough, so I need to make the most of it this week or next before I dig it out and replace with squashes which are waiting their turn. Meanwhile in a couple of beds along this year's spinach has germinated and is emerging.



It's mid-May and everything is growing like crazy! I have just booked to hire a tractor and mower to cut the field behind next month.

The potatoes are growing well so I have hoed and earthed them up to form ridges and added some compost. It deters the weeds and helps them crop better, soon the foliage will prevent the weeds growing by blocking out the light. There is still a chill in the air and a risk of frost in May. I had a bad experience two years ago so I've put some insect netting over them to trap the air should we have a cold night.

In late April I had the first attack of sawfly on the gooseberries, this is unusually early and caught me out when I was away for a few days. They can completely strip a bush of its leaves in less than a week. I shake the plants to remove the caterpillars and collect them from underneath or just tread on them! According to my fount of knowledge, Bob Flowerdew, growing broad beans nearby deters them so I'm going to try that trick. This is a persistent problem so it's worth trying.

The broad beans are growing well too but they have just started to

In the greenhouse I planted out cucumber, aubergine, chilli and bell peppers into the soil. Tomatoes will be next in a few days.

Of the run of the mill stuff, the parsnips have germinated well so a good crop is likely. The same with the carrots which are now covered with insect netting to prevent the carrot root fly causing damage. I have sown three batches of peas so far, one a few days ago so those are not showing yet.

Rhubarb is rampant at the moment with huge seed heads heading skywards. I've cropped plenty and frozen it for use during the winter.

We have had a glorious display of wisteria this year, my main picture. It does so well on the south-facing wall but with very little soil or rain, remarkable.



Spotlight

If you go down to the woods today, you might get a big surprise...

Many people who walk in our lovely local woods and parks, may have caught a glimpse of a piece of treasure - a beautiful painted pebble left there by a member of Wokingham Rocks.

Wokingham Rocks Facebook Group was setup by two years ago by Barkham local, Nicki Payton



and has been a way of spreading miniature works of art around the community.

She took the idea from a friend in the States and thought it would be a bit of fun and it coincided with a foray into rock painting for her own amusement. The first rocks she painted were hidden around California Country Park, the hiding places photographed and posted on the Wokingham Rocks Facebook group. Interest soon grew with more and more people painting, hiding & hunting for rocks and today the group boasts nearly 6000 members.

Rock painting is a relatively cheap hobby and is one which particularly appeals to young children as they love to see their creations discovered. Whilst some people buy bags of pebbles from garden centres, many just pick them up off the ground while out & about. Acrylic paints are best as they are water resistant, but diy tester pots can be used and there are lots of pens available. A coat of varnish or clear nail polish ensures longevity. The only thing frowned upon is embellishments such as foam stickers or googly eyes as they can become detached and are harmful to wildlife.

The ethos of the group is to enjoy the creation and sharing of the art pieces by posting a photo of it on the Facebook group with the side effect of encouraging people to get out and explore the beautiful countryside. It is entirely up to the finder if they wish to re-hide the rock for others to enjoy, or to take it home. If they wish to decorate and hide one in exchange, then this is always a bonus.

Of course, the rocks don't always stay in Wokingham, they have turned up all over the UK and in many places around the world, which adds to the excitement. Some of the highlights over the

last 2 years include an Australian honeymoon couple who found a Wokingham Rock in London and then took it with them on their tour of Europe, photographing



it at each location, including a German Beer festival, The Louvre in Paris and the Austrian Alps. Also, the charitable efforts of Margaret Davis who painted rocks with names & personalised designs in return for a donation to the Ollie Young Foundation; to date, Margaret's JustGiving page shows donations of over £1100.

It is personally rewarding to receive feedback from members who have discovered a new hobby, or a way of getting the children out walking in the countryside without complaint, or who found a piece of art to lift their spirits just when they needed it.

Nicki Payton
Wokingham Rocks



CROWTHORNE Symphony ORCHESTRA

For our Summer Concert on June 29th the orchestra is delighted to welcome back soloist Tom Hicks for Brahms' Piano Concerto No 2. Tom performed Brahms Concerto No 1 with us in the autumn of 2015, and we're looking forward to working with him again. Hailed as an artist of 'magnificent pianism' with an 'engaging personality', Tom has won many prestigious prizes having studied at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester, later at the Royal Northern School of Music and since 2015 he has been based in America at Yale University. Tom has an extensive repertoire and has appeared as recitalist in venues such as The Wigmore Hall, St John's Smith Square and St Martin-in-the-Fields in London, The Pump Rooms in Bath, The Bridgewater Hall in Manchester and in many other

venues throughout Europe and the United States.

Brahms' two piano concertos - written at different stages of his life and separated by a gap of 22 years - were described by Stephen Hough as "two of the greatest pillars of the Romantic repertoire". The programme is completed with Tchaikovsky's emotional and expressive 4th Symphony.

The concert starts at 7.30pm in our usual venue - The Old Gym, Wellington College, Crowthorne. Tickets are available from Décor Interiors in Crowthorne High Street and the Information Centre at Wokingham Town Hall as well as online via the link on our website. Tickets include an interval drink and cost £13 in advance or £15 at the door subject to availability and as always children

are free. A small booking fee is charged for online purchases. Our previous two concerts were sold out so get your tickets in good time to avoid disappointment.

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
Chris Gadsby



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If you want to come along to one of our rehearsals, we meet at **7.45pm Monday evenings, The Bradbury Centre, Rose St, Wokingham RG40 1XS**



Why is Friendship So Important?

The Link Visiting Scheme really values friendship but why is it so important to us all? One of the most overlooked benefits of friendship is that it helps keep our minds and bodies strong. In fact, it's as important to our physical health as eating well and keeping fit. A recent Harvard study concluded that having solid friendships in our life even helps promote brain health. Having friends helps us deal with stress, make better lifestyle choices that keep us strong, and allow us to rebound from health issues and disease more quickly.

In spending time with friends, we fill up our lives with great conversation, heartfelt caring

and support, and laugh out loud fun. When we fall on hard times, friends are there to put things in perspective and help us. When we have success, they're smiling at our good fortune. With down-to-earth, positive people in our life we will be more mindful of gratitude and doing nice things for others. We don't just live when we have healthy friendships, we thrive.

We support older people in Wokingham Borough who are struggling with loneliness, who spend too much time on their own and would love to see a friendly face. Could you help? If you have an hour or two once a week or once a fortnight - please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you and help you reach out and be that friend to someone who really needs it.

Marjie Walker



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Everyone enjoyed a fantastic 3 course meal, with lots of opportunities to dance to The Flashback Band and The Soundsmobile Roadshow. There was also a lot of fun around the casino tables, with croupiers Stuart and Samantha.

Huge success at Wokingham Borough Mayor's Gala Ball

On Saturday 9th March, 128 people had a brilliant night out at The Wokingham Borough Mayor's Gala Ball. Guests included the High Sheriff of Berkshire, two Borough Mayors plus lots of Me2 Club parents, staff trustees and supporters.

On arrival at Sindlesham Court, guests enjoyed a drinks reception (kindly sponsored by Willy Wonka Travel) whilst listening to the amazing voice of one of our volunteers, Wallis Ferne.

Cllr John Kaiser welcomed his guests by saying "Thank you for all your support as without guests and generous sponsors this evening would not have been possible". He then handed over to Tess Eagles, Me2 Club's Manager, who explained more about the charity and why the evening was so important.

The evening raised over £13,000 for Me2 Club and with donations still coming in this will support many local children over the next year. "It was a very enjoyable evening and the team and I were so pleased to hear that you managed to raise so much money!"

What we do

Me2 Club enables children and young people with additional needs and disabilities, aged 5-19, in the Wokingham Borough, to attend mainstream activity clubs. We do this by recruiting, training and developing volunteers to provide 1:1 (2:1 when required) support to the young people at an activity of their choice, from uniformed groups such as Cubs and Brownies, to gymnastics, youth groups or swimming. Me2 Club trained volunteers support young people by encouraging them to be independent, participating in the activities alongside them and adapting activities to ensure

they can take part. Currently our volunteers are only able to support on weekdays except for in exceptional circumstances which needs Trustee board approval.

If your child would like the support of a Me2 Club Volunteer, then simply fill out the application form on our website www.me2club.org.uk/volunteers/. We support young people with a wide range of additional needs and disabilities including Autism, ADHD, Cerebral Palsy, Down's syndrome, Pathological Demand Avoidance to name a few. We also support young people with mental health, behavioural and emotional difficulties including anxiety. No formal diagnosis is necessary our only requirement is that you are a Wokingham Borough Council resident.

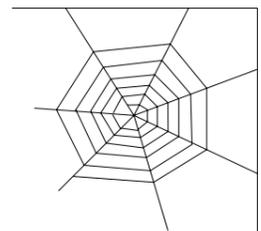
Volunteering

Do you want to give something back to your local community in 2019? Do you want to make a difference to a child's life, help them develop their confidence and social skills? If the answer is yes, then now is the perfect time to think about joining us as a volunteer.

For more information, please call us on 0118 969 6369 or email us where our staff will be happy to help you. We also run Weekends Away for our matched children/young people and their volunteers and provide Inclusion Training for local activity leaders.

10. "Uncle Joe's Mint Balls" and Anne Boleyn)
9. Half-sisters (mothers were Maria Maples
8. Ardal O'Hanlon (also in Death in Paradise)
7. G.K Chesterton
6. Al Pacino
5. The Undertones
4. Arthur Miller
3. Brothers in Arms
2. Twins (Tracey and Phil Neville)
1. Quiz answers

Where in Barkham Answer:
Langley Common Road North.
Grid ref: 51.394389, -0.890505



Barkham web site

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

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

More photos please!

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

Dave Clements
webmaster@barkham.org.uk

Barkham Diary

24/06/19	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
25/06/19	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
29/06/19	BVRA Summer Picnic	Junipers	12 noon
03/07/19	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
09/07/19	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
09/07/19	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
10/07/19	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
22/07/19	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
23/07/19	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
13/08/19	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
14/08/19	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
26/08/19	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
30/08/19	Newsletter copy deadline		
04/09/19	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
10/09/19	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
10/09/19	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
11/09/19	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
23/09/19	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
24/09/19	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
28/09/19	BVRA Barn Dance	BVH	7.30pm
07/11/19	BVRA AGM	BVH	8.00pm
23/11/19	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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 Woodford Park Leisure Centre, R65 4LY : Fridays 6:30-8:00pm
 Arborfield Green Leisure Centre, R62 9NN : Saturdays 11:30-12:30noon



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