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Barkham Newsletter

Issue 140 Summer 2022

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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

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

The BVRA is 35 years old this year - established to build a community spirit amongst residents of Barkham – by the residents for the residents.

To learn more about how the BVRA was formed and its achievements see page 8.

For the report on our latest social event - the ever popular Barn Dance - and upcoming social events see page 12.

Ever wondered who runs the BVRA – see page 2 for Chair Chat and an overview of the current committee. We are looking for new people to join us – could this be you?

For details of recent and future social events see page 12



Annual Easter Egg Hunt in April



Ever popular Barn Dance in May

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Chair chat

It is exactly a year ago when I offered my services to the BVRA as Membership Secretary. I now write this short piece in an additional capacity of Acting Chair whilst we seek a permanent Chair.

The BVRA is run by residents for all Barkham residents. It exists to: -

- provide news and updates of what is going on in Barkham and the surrounding area through the website, the production of a quarterly newsletter and email communications
- develop a stronger local community through the organisation of fun social events and activities
- liaise with relevant local bodies/groups e.g. Barkham Parish Council on issues and actions that impact the parish
- provide regular monitoring and updates and on land and property development plans in the neighbourhood

We are a friendly and active local community team. We have fun and a strong team spirit amongst the committee members. I have met new people who have become friends – something that would not have happened if I had not joined the committee. I am using my brain and life skills to a rewarding purpose.

We also have a great team of distributors who deliver the quarterly newsletter to residents. They enjoy the contact with their neighbours whilst getting some fresh air and exercise – again providing a way of meeting people that they might not otherwise. We always welcome new distributors.

The image below shows you who we are and what we do. We are all Barkham residents – just like you!

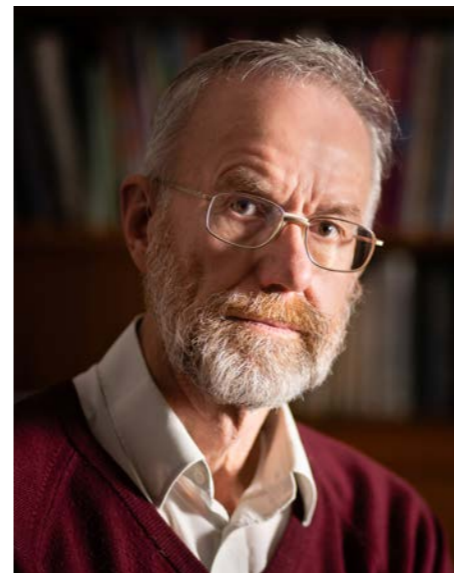
★ BVRA Committee 2022 Come and join us! ★

 Bev Dipper Acting Chair Lead and support the BVRA committee Ensure that the BVRA meets the needs of the local residents Could you be our new Chair?	 Dave Clements Webmaster Maintain and develop the BVRA website and Facebook page Administer the BVRA mailing system	 Alison Goudge Treasurer To manage the BVRA Bank account To ensure financial commitments are met.	 Alan Edwards Newsletter Editor To produce the quarterly newsletter and website content
 Gill Powell Social Committee Manage and organise a calendar of social events Chair social committee Join our Social committee for a very social time!	 Shirley Warner Social Committee Organise social events for Barkham residents, friends and families	 Bev Dipper Membership Secretary To manage the BVRA membership database To manage the quarterly distribution of the newsletter to residents	 Stewart Richardson Development Watch BVRA focal point for all planning and development activities in Barkham Parish


 Join the team and meet your neighbours!

Following the removal of Covid restrictions I hope that many of you are now looking to get out, meet new people, make new friends and contribute to your local area. Why not join us? We are looking for a new Chair and enthusiastic people to join the Social Committee. These are not onerous roles at all and only require a few hours per month. Rather than detail formal job descriptions I would ask:

- If you are interested in the current Chair role, please email me Bev Dipper at chairman@barkham.org.uk or call me on 989 3290 for further information and an exploratory chat
- If you are interested in joining the fun-loving Social Committee team then please email Gill Powell at Social@barkham.org.uk or call her on 978 3373
- If you are interested in becoming a distributor then it's me again Bev Dipper at membership@barkham.org.uk or call me on 989 3290 for further information
- For further information on the history of the development of the BVRA and what the Association has achieved for the neighbourhood please see "BVRA – 35 years and still counting" on page 8.



Editorial

Hello, I'm Alan Edwards and I am the new editor of this newsletter. Sadly, Suzanne Trigg has just moved out of the area, so I've taken over from her. Suzanne has done a great job over the past three years or so and I'm sure you'll join me in thanking her for her hard work during this time.

My wife, Pam, and I arrived in Barkham back in 1979. Pam was well known in the village being in the Ladies Social Group and was involved in the formation of the BVRA back in 1987. She was very active in the BVRA until her death in 2019. I am perhaps best known for writing the infamous Alan's Patch! This year marks the 35th anniversary of the BVRA and, with four editions of the newsletter each year, this one is number 140! There is an interesting article about the formation of the BVRA and its achievements on page 8.

This newsletter will likely land on your doormat either just before or just after the Platinum Jubilee weekend in which we celebrate the 70-year reign of our Queen. In this ever more rapidly changing and turbulent world, she has been a steadying influence – a symbol of stability. I hope you enjoy(ed) the celebrations!

In the past couple of months, we have held a couple of social events: the annual Easter Egg Hunt and the Barn Dance. You can find out more about them and upcoming events on Page 12. Also, there is an article by John Kaiser, our local Councillor on Litter – one of the bees in my bonnet!

In the coming months I'd like to expand the variety of articles we include, so please contact me at newsletter@barkham.org.uk if you would like to make a contribution on a one-off basis or more regularly, or simply have an idea or a suggestion. I am very much in listening mode!

Advertising

The newsletter is produced quarterly. The first two quarters of the year (Spring and Summer) are sent free of charge to 850 households in Barkham parish, and the other two to the households who are paid-up BVRA members, which is currently just over 660.

We offer three sizes of adverts all of which include membership of the BVRA. All sizes are in mm and the format is landscape apart from full page which is portrait. The prices are shown below and cover a whole year's advertising in our four editions.

Credit Card	64 x 54	£20.00
Quarter Page	124 x 105	£50.00
Half Page	190 x 130	£100.00
Full Page	270 x 190	£200.00

Please contact the Newsletter Editor to discuss your needs and supply your copy to newsletter@barkham.org.uk by the deadline, which for the next edition is 12th August for distribution in early September.

BVRA 2021/22 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Acting Chairman: Bev Dipper	989 3290	chairman@barkham.org.uk
Secretary: vacant		secretary@barkham.org.uk
Treasurer: Alison Goudge	989 2287	treasurer@barkham.org.uk
Social: (contact) Gill Powell	978 3373	social@barkham.org.uk
Membership: Bev Dipper	989 3290	membership@barkham.org.uk
Newsletter: Alan Edwards		newsletter@barkham.org.uk
Web Site: Dave Clements	989 2198	webmaster@barkham.org.uk
Development Watch: Stewart Richardson	979 1914	development@barkham.org.uk

Planning

Hopefully many of you had the opportunity to visit the consultation exhibition hosted by Crest Nicholson on Fri 29 and Sat 30 Apr 2022 for the planned Arborfield Green District and Community Centres. As much of Arborfield Green lies within the parish of Barkham, it seems appropriate to use the planning article in this edition to capture the main points for those who were unable to attend.

Many significant infrastructure projects have been completed in this Strategic Development Location – Bohunt Secondary School, the new Farley Hill Primary School and the full length of the Nine Mile Ride Extension is about to open. The heritage of the area has also been celebrated by the incredible restoration of the horse infirmary stables under the strict guidance of Historic England. The equine theme continues with the three magnificent horse sculptures crafted by Amy Goodman.

There is, however, considerable frustration amongst residents that the promised leisure and retail facilities have not been given equal priority. At least we can now see an embryonic timetable emerging against which we can monitor progress.

The timing of these projects was always linked to the rate of build across the development. This in turn is linked to footfall reaching a required critical mass which would give third-party operators of the various outlets justification to invest. Crest Nicholson consider that 'the level of occupations is now appropriate too progress' these projects. Undoubtedly, time has been lost due to the pandemic - not just because of the difficulties of working under such conditions

but because retailers did not have the confidence to explore investment opportunities.

The District Centre will be designed to create an open area where it will be possible to walk from the supermarket, via the Community Centre past the Village Square towards the Pub and the Village Green.

The Supermarket: The selection of the operator is at an advanced stage and we understand that it is one of the big four supermarket names. The imminent opening of the Nine Mile Ride Extension is a significant step as it will ensure easy access to the supermarket anchor project.

The Pub: This will overlook the Village Green looking towards the Infirmary Stables. An operator is being sought.

The Village Square: This will include circa ten retail units.

The Community Centre: It is intended to repurpose the original army library building which was last used as schoolrooms whilst Bohunt was being built. The range of activities to be included is being prepared.

Key milestones are: i) The application for reserved matters to cover the District Centre roads, services, Village Square and Community Centre upgrades will be brought forward Autumn/Winter 2022. Separate applications will be made by the selected supermarket and pub operators. ii) Planning permissions are expected by Spring 2023 with iii) Construction commencing Autumn/Winter 2023. Crest are being very careful about when we can expect these facilities to be available for use as so much is out of their control but suggest towards the end of 2024 – that could change. No doubt,

Crest and all the other stakeholders will be working hard to bring this forward. Let's see.

There are three other projects that complete the retail and leisure package which will be briefly mentioned here.

The Neighbourhood Centre: This is a collection of three small retail units which has been built close to the Farley Hill primary school – one is currently being used by Crest as a marketing suite. They are ready to go and operators are being sought. We understand that some convenience store operators are hesitant because of the proximity to the future District Centre and the new Co-operative food store. The location – overlooking a large open grassed area, the three sculpture horses and a small pond – would surely be an attractive spot for a coffee shop or small bistro. What about a post office?

The Infirmary Stables: Although it is not envisaged that these will be operated on a profit basis, they do need to generate an income to cover maintenance costs and other charges. Suggestions so far include artisan workshops, small scale meeting facilities for home workers who occasionally need a bit more space and a museum displaying the history of the area. Any others?

The Sports Pavilion: This is to be refurbished and will become an important part of the sporting infrastructure of Arborfield Green.

There is much to look forward to – when it happens.

If you have comments about anything written here then please e-mail to clerk@barkham-parish-council.org.uk or community@arborfieldgreen.co.uk



St James' Barkham
www.abch.org.uk

70 years of faithful service

In her first Christmas speech broadcast in 1952, ahead of her coronation the following June, the queen asked for prayer. "Pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making and that I may faithfully serve him and you, all the days of my life."

As we celebrate her Platinum Jubilee, we can have no doubt that God has answered that prayer. Despite the significant changes in society and the challenges she has faced, the queen has shown an astonishing commitment to public service.

What is also clear is that she attributes much of this to her own

Christian faith. For someone who always has to choose her words with great care, she is very open about this, as here, at Christmas 2014, "For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life."

Over the years, it has been evident words like these do not represent a mere Christian 'vener', but core values which have shaped her character and actions. At no time was this more obvious than in 2012. In her recent Christmas broadcast she had declared, "Forgiveness lies at the heart of the Christian faith. It can heal broken families, it can restore friendships and it can reconcile divided communities." A few months later, she put this into practice as she visited Northern Ireland and shook hands with Martin McGuinness, former commander of the IRA, who had been responsible for the death of her second cousin, Lord Louis Mountbatten.

For those familiar with the gospel accounts of Jesus, this will come as no surprise. In the Lord's

Prayer, he calls us to ask God to 'Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.' And he too practised what he preached when, even as he was crucified, he prayed, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And as for a life given to service, Jesus again gives us the blueprint. As he says, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Barkham church is a community of people whose lives are shaped and inspired by the king of heaven who came down to serve us. We meet in his name each Sunday and we will be giving thanks and praying for our Queen on 5th June at our 10 O'clock family service and in the evening at 6pm. Everyone, as ever, is very welcome to join us.

Julian Bidgood
Minister of Barkham

Where in Barkham?



Answer on page 23.

Do you enjoy getting out and about in your local neighbourhood and meeting new neighbours?

Enjoy walking in the fresh air – with or without a dog?

Enjoy being part of your local community?

Become a BVRA distributor

The BVRA newsletter is a key source of information, activities and news about our community and is distributed to residents quarterly by "distributors" who live in the local area. We now have an opportunity for a new distributor for a round in Langley Common Road commencing in the Summer. It should take no more than an hour each quarter.

If you are interested in this role or would like further information, please contact Bev Dipper via membership@barkham.org.uk



Litter and its effects

Litter is any kind of rubbish thrown in small amounts, especially in places where it doesn't belong. With time, it heaps up. The practice is unlawful, and it costs councils millions of pounds annually in clean-up costs. It also portrays a bad picture of an area. The most frequent littered stuff includes fast food packaging, cigarette butts, used drink bottles, sweets and crisps wrappers, broken electrical equipment parts, toys, broken glass, food scraps or green wastes.

Even practices such as leaving items overflowing beside a dust bin, deliberate throwing of items from vehicles, and abandoning items or rubbish by the roadside qualifies as littering. Littering is not just unsightly but a dangerous activity and should not be taken lightly because it impacts the environment in multiple ways.

Research has proven a correlation between the presence of litter in a given area and the intentional throwing of litter at that particular spot.

The research points out that when someone sees litter already accumulated somewhere, it gives him the impression it is the right place

to discard items. In most cases, it is either accidental or intentional.

Some percentage of litter also comes from DIY and construction projects.

Pieces of wood, metals, plastics, concrete debris, cardboard, and paper are some of the common waste materials generated.

The truth is laziness and carelessness and a lack of pride in communities have bred a culture of habitual littering. Typically, people have become too lazy and unwilling to throw away their rubbish appropriately.

Carelessness and thoughtlessness has also made people just throw rubbish anywhere without even thinking about it. Since people perceive there is no consequence for their action when they throw items anyhow and anywhere, it can create the *Idon'tcare* attitude in the wider community. The act of pedestrians getting rid of food and sweet wrappers and other wastes on the pavements and streets or motorist throwing it from their cars clearly reveals this kind of attitude. The majority of people who do this believe it's up to others who will pick or clean it up.

Many people have blamed littering on local councils and the lack of public bins. Some places have them, but they are not enough, while some of the existing ones are sometimes poorly managed, which leads to overloading of the containers. Besides, animal scavengers and blowing wind can dislodge the items and scatter them around.

Although it is something I am aware of, and the council are doing the best they can to ensure

there are adequate bins and they are correctly managed, we can all do our bit by either using the bins available but, if not, by taking our litter home. Many people do not know that their littering not only looks unsightly but has a negative impact the environment. As a result, people continue to throw litter anywhere without thinking of their environmental consequences.

Smokers, for example, are unaware of how the aimless throwing of cigarette butt affects the environment. The case is similar for passengers, pedestrians and people who aimlessly throw wrappers or other used items in remote or public areas. For example, it is quite common that people just throw their cigarette butts and do not care about this behaviour as they are never or rarely getting fined at all even though it is against the law. Litter can contain objects that can harm or cause physical injury to people or animals, namely needles, blades, or broken glass. Throwing cigarette butts near woodland or forests can also spark fires and destroy wildlife and fauna. Littering can encourage the spread of pest species and diseases. The rubbish can provide the breeding ground for diseases, rats and mice and all manner of undesirable vermin. Litter also effects our rivers and water supply, toxic materials or chemicals in the litter can be blown or washed into rivers, forest lands, oceans, lakes, ponds and eventually pollutes the waterways and poisons the birds and wildlife. Cigarette butts, for instance, contain toxic substances like arsenic, which can contaminate both soil and water.

Litter can also reduce air quality due to the smell and toxic/chemical vapor emanating from the trash.

Millions of pounds are spent by councils to clean up litter. This makes littering a huge problem because the money that would otherwise be used in delivering much needed services remembering that money is yours paid in your taxes and fees.

Litter can also block drainage systems and cause urban flooding, which requires money for intervention and restoration.

Plastic litter has often been mistaken for food by both land and marine wildlife, such as birds, badgers, deer and fish in addition to the danger it poses to domestic pets we love such as dogs and cats. When consumed by the animals, they reduce stomach capacity since they can't be digested. In the long-term, it affects the animals' eating habits, eventually killing the animal.

Not least it also causes visual pollution and affects people's quality of life and can reduce property values after all who wants to live in a dump.

Litter can serve as a breeding ground for insects or pests. If it is organic litter, it can be quite harmful as insects and other pests prefer to breed on organic substances. Littering can also lead to an increase in the population of undesirable insects in addition to killing insects which are beneficial such as bees.

Community and school programs can help as can properly managed bins in the right location and I will be pushing the council to embark

on these actions using our links with schools via the councils' children services department.

Any campaigns can also be incorporated in town and village notice boards, social media platforms, and newsletters to spread the message widely.

Putting up signs is a highly effective way of putting a stop to littering. The signs should be placed in high littered areas and those that are prone to littering, such as the streets near public transport stations.

Routes used on a daily basis by pedestrians and commuters also deserve "stop littering signs" to constantly remind people that littering is a bad thing and should thus be avoided.

The relevant local authorities both town and Parish councils as well as the Borough council all have a part in solving this problem to ensure more rubbish bins are installed in various areas for effective disposal.

Putting up enough bins in town centres, walking routes, green ways, public areas, and near bus stops as well as fast-food outlets is important. Moreover, to avoid additional problems due to overfilling, the bins must be emptied regularly, or it will lead to additional littering around the area of the relevant bin.

Education is crucial to mitigate the littering issue. People need to know how their actions in their daily life affect the environment. We all have to make people understand that it is quite easy to avoid littering and thus contribute to protecting the environment.

This education should start in schools as children and youth play a crucial role in shaping communities and making it clean and beautiful. Children are good learners, and they adjust their behaviour more easily than most adults.

Moreover, children may convince their parents to avoid littering. Additionally, when the children grow up being aware of the littering problem, they may be motivated to take measures to mitigate it.

Small things like keep a litter bag in your car and also along with you whenever you are out and throw your rubbish in your bag until you find a bin or take it home. This action will not only keep your car clean and organized but also keep the streets clean.

It's our communities in the same way that it's our litter which scars our environment, with just a little bit of thought we can drive litter from our streets and countryside, without us all playing our part no matter how many bins the council install. It will not solve the problem as it's a community problem and we all have a part to play.

Councillor John Kaiser
Ward Member for Barkham
Wokingham Borough Council
07714192352
john.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk

BVRA – 35 years and still counting...

...because Barkham residents' count

In 1987 there was the threat of a major development in the Coombes that inspired Pam Edwards and Christine Thomas to call a public meeting at the Village Hall. Many local residents attended and during this meeting volunteers came forward to form an action team to take matters forward. Soon a retired planning expert offered to help and, just before the Appeal was due to be heard, the landowner withdrew his Appeal and so the Coombes are still here today for us to enjoy.

After this threat passed, the team decided to capitalise on this positive energy and to continue to build a community spirit in the village, thus they decided to form the Barkham Residents Association. Luckily Pam pointed out that this would have an unfortunate abbreviation, hence the word 'Village' was inserted to make the acronym respectable! Pam was a very active member of the both the BVRA and the committee until her sad passing in July 2019. We now welcome her husband Alan as our new Newsletter Editor and are delighted to have him on board.

Today the BVRA encompasses over 700 households. It serves a diverse demography of residents on issues of local interest and importance.

- Each year the Social Committee provides a regular set of fun social events ranging from Quiz nights, Skittles, Easter Egg hunts and Carols in the Park. These are open to anyone not just Barkham residents. The most recent event

was a very successful Barn Dance (see report on page 12)

- Each quarter the team of distributors pops the BVRA newsletter through residents' letter boxes. This contains newsy articles, regular pieces by the committee and local individuals/bodies and analysis and updates on issues affecting Barkham
- On a regular basis the committee keeps residents informed about planning and development issues through the Dev Watch email. This provides relevant insight and guidance on how to respond or comment or take appropriate action.
- The committee is available to any resident via email or telephone

However a core focus for the BVRA – as it was originally formed to do 35 years ago - is to inform and engage on proposed developments that would have an adverse effect on the neighbourhood and quality of living in Barkham. We aim to keep residents informed of significant development plans and encourage them to make their views known (usually to Wokingham District Council (WBC)) as part of any formal Consultation. This also includes any appeals to the Planning Inspectorate where developers have had their applications refused by WBC. We are grateful for many residents who have been "eyes on the ground" and have let us know of planning issues before we have become aware of them.

We have maintained a "Development Watch" function throughout most of the years of the BVRA's existence, but this has been particularly active over the past 5-10 years. We operate an email list of about 1000 residents and issue Development Watch Alerts periodically to keep residents briefed on the current "hot" issues. A couple of key successes are detailed below.

The Coombes

Parcels of land in The Coombes were put up for auction in 2018, with sales descriptions misleadingly suggesting that these plots were potentially prime development sites. Indeed an "artist's impression" showed a housing estate on the land. Although the chances of getting planning permission to build houses on such a protected site was very small, that did not stop the new owners from submitting numerous applications to build fences and other structures. These were generally turned down by WBC but a number went to appeal. The BVRA worked closely with WBC and residents to resist the potential damage to the ecology of The Coombes and to encourage residents to make their views known both to WBC and, at appeal, the Planning Inspectorate. To date, no significant planning applications have been approved by WBC or the Planning Inspectorate but we expect issues relating to The Coombes to continue to be a focus for the BVRA.

Barkham Square

In 2017, Wokingham Borough Council suddenly advised that Barkham Square was being assessed as a major development site as part of the Local Plan Update. This would have meant extending Arborfield Green (the former garrison site) by at least 58 hectares on open land to the north of Arborfield Green and could have potentially led to a further 1,000 houses being built.

Barkham Parish Council lead the resistance to this proposal, supported closely by the BVRA. As we had suitable website facilities, we offered to host an online form for the collection of signatures against the Barkham Square development

- The form was developed and hosted on the BVRA website
- The URL for the form was provided to the Parish Council for including on the leaflets about the Barkham Square development
- Over 2400 signatures were collected online, with the overall number of signatures being just over 4000, a record for a petition to WBC

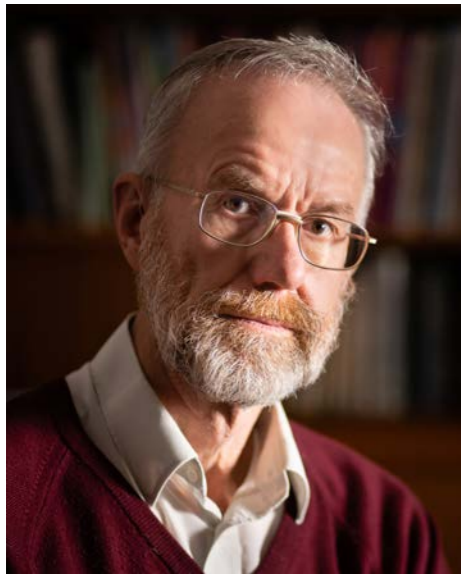
Barkham Square is not now in the current Local Plan but we remain vigilant for any future changes!

The Quiz

As it's the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, there are questions from each of the 8 decades of her reign, plus a couple of "platinum" questions to make up our usual 10!

1. Who was the US President when Elizabeth became Queen in 1952?
2. 1967 saw the "Summer of Love". San Francisco was the original epicentre and 2 songs featured the name of the city in the song titles. Who had a hit with:
 - a. "San Francisco (Be Sure to Wear Flowers in Your Hair)" – a UK no. 1?
 - b. "If you're going to San Francisco" (reached no. 4 in UK)
3. Which 2 Middle-Eastern leaders signed a famous peace treaty in Washington in 1979?
4. Live Aid took place on 13 July 1985. 2 questions about what was probably the greatest musical event of all time (in your quiz writer's opinion!):
 - a. Which song opened the event at 12 noon in London?
 - b. Which artist performed in London and then flew by Concorde to perform at the American part of the concert in Philadelphia later that day?
5. Judi Dench famously won a Best Supporting Actress Oscar in 1998 even though she was only on screen for about 8 minutes. What was the name of the film (which also won Best Picture)?
6. 11 September 2001 ("9/11") saw the horrific terrorist attacks in the US. How many planes were hijacked and crashed?
7. Which national newspaper ceased production in 2011 and which band had a hit album with the same title, albeit much earlier in 1977? Coincidentally that band also performed at Live Aid!
8. Which British married couple won multiple gold and silver medals at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics (in 2021)?
9. Can you place the first episodes of the following soaps in date order of their first episode – EastEnders, Coronation Street, Emmerdale (Farm), Hollyoaks? All started during the Queen's reign and are still running today (others may have come and gone)
10. And finally.....what is "hryvnia". It has nothing to do with the Queen but has been in use since 1996 in a country that has made headlines for unfortunately the wrong reasons recently.

Answers on page 23



Alan's Patch

Following a wet winter there was virtually no rain from early April until early May and the ground was very dry on the surface and gardeners were complaining about lack of rain! Even the paths in the Coombes that, a couple of months ago, were a quagmire have now more or less dried up, making them more pleasant to walk. Fortunately, we then had a real downpour that should keep us gardeners content for several weeks!

And, as I write, we have the beautiful annual display of bluebells. I have to confess this photo wasn't taken in the village. The Spring flowers have been wonderful. Now I'm also in charge of the flower side of my garden, I planted some more tulips and irises. The daffodils were a great show too. I have just transplanted some from my field behind the garden so I hope they will add to the show next year. My new ornamental grasses section is not really up and running yet but hopefully later in the year I'll have something to show you. The wisteria seems to have forgiven me for a vicious pruning session to try and reshape it - the flowers are beautiful as is the scent.



At the moment I have a clematis in flower.

Spring is a time of great activity in my patch – preparing the vegetable beds and sowing all the seeds. Beetroot, carrots, parsnips, shallots and leeks have germinated nicely. I have two sowings of peas emerging and just sown a third. This year, I have taken



pre-emptive action to counter the pigeon attacks, by netting them well ahead of time!

The two batches – November and March sown - of broad beans are doing well, no blackfly yet! I have also sown runner, French, Barlotto and Cannellini, mostly under glass. Sweet corn is also growing under glass. All these need to be protected from frost until early June, the latest I've experienced frost here, many years ago.

I have planted four varieties of potatoes – Foremost (new), Charlotte (I enjoy this variety cooked most ways and stores well too despite being a salad potato), Ratte, a French variety and an old traditional favourite Wilja.

Once they have become established, I very rarely water the outdoor fruit and vegetables. They must find their own water by growing deep roots! However, the greenhouse is an entirely different matter – no rain falls inside! I have set up a water collection from the roof of the greenhouse along with an automatic drip-feed watering system. Time will tell how well this works.

In the greenhouse the tomatoes and aubergines that I sowed in late January are thriving. Unfortunately, the cucumber, chilli and bell pepper seedlings got scorched during the really warm spell in April – too much of a greenhouse effect! - so I've sown reserves in case they don't revive. I'm eating fresh radishes and cabbage grown in the greenhouse.



Of last year's produce I've still a few potatoes, carrots and, in the fridge, some spinach – like Popeye, I love spinach!

Turning to the fruit, there has been fantastic blossom, especially on the apples and pears with tiny fruit showing. Rhubarb is currently going through its maximum growth spurt, plenty to stew

and freeze for later. The gooseberries have already suffered attacks for sawfly grubs. My attempts to confuse them by planting broad beans nearby seems to have limited effect. There has been plenty of blossom on the strawberries so I'm hopeful of decent crop from them.

Recently I read about an Oxford University study on great tits started in 1947 which shows that Spring is now one month earlier

now than it was 75 years ago. Well, it's official! And confirms our feelings built up over many years. You can read the report here: <https://bit.ly/3MooHIK>





Social Matters

As I write this report Spring has done its thing with the wonderful displays of daffodils, tulips, etc and we are now looking forward to the Summer months.

We have had two events to report on since the last Newsletter, the first being the Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt held on Easter Sunday, 17th April, in the Junipers Park. As always this was a popular event and attended by 45 children, some very young and the others mainly teenagers who excitedly hunted for tokens to exchange for little chocolate eggs. Many family members gathered in the park on a fine, warm afternoon, and bought raffle tickets for the Giant Egg, and Lindt Bunnies while the children frantically hunted for tokens. Then in a flash it all seemed to be over as the counting of tokens took place and the chocolate eggs were handed out!

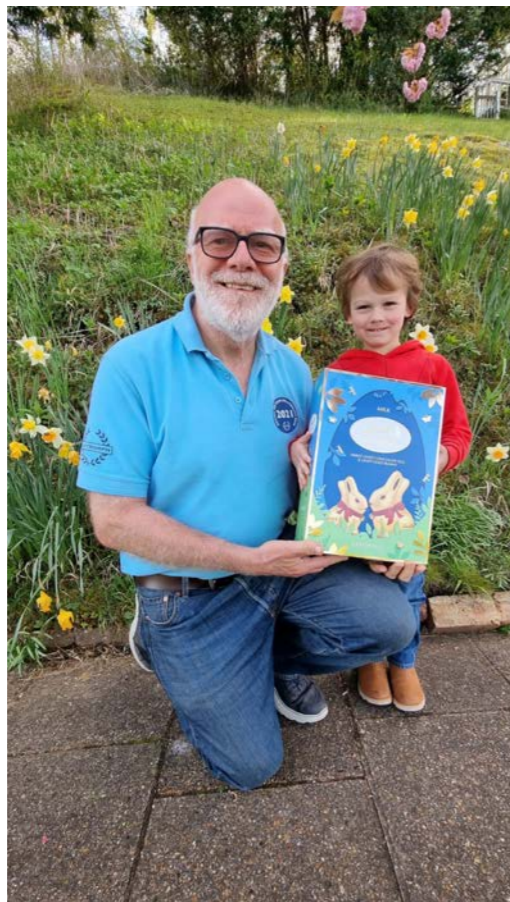
The winner of the Giant Egg was Peter Jay who was delighted to have won it for his grandson!

The second event was the Barn Dance held on Saturday 7th May at the Village Hall. 45 people attended and danced away the evening to the Alderbricklam

Band, with their leader and caller, Alan Dyer, giving the instructions to try and keep us all doing the right things at the right

time! It didn't always happen, and much fun was had when some couples went the wrong way or didn't keep up!! But, of course, it didn't matter.

It became very energetic and quite exhausting at times, but such good fun, and a great way to keep fit! The 'hot dog supper' halfway through



the evening was very welcome and went down very well as usual.

Quite a few people commented on how much they had enjoyed the event, and wanted to know if another dance could be arranged again quite soon!

Other events planned for the rest of the year are:

- Family Skittles Evening on 24th September
- Annual Quiz on 19th November
- Carols in the Park on 16th December, with the Breakaway Brass Band.

More details will be available in future Newsletters, and there will be posters put up around the village advertising the events. Please make a note of the dates in your diaries so as not to miss out on the fun.



I hope to see many of you at the events supporting the Barkham Village Residents Association over the coming months. In the meantime, enjoy the good weather forecast for May and June.

Shirley Warner
Social Committee Member



Tickets for the Skittles on 24th September at 7.00 for 7.30pm at the Village Hall include a Ploughman's Supper, and they can be obtained by emailing Gill Powell at social@barkham.org.uk or by telephone on 0118 978 3373. There will be a licensed bar so you don't need to bring your own drinks.

In addition to the usual BVRA events we will be joining forces with the Barkham Parish Council when an event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee takes place on Saturday 4th June at the Village Hall and the field. This



runs from 11am to 4pm. This family event will have displays, a brass band, hand bell ringers, children's games, stalls, refreshments and much more. So please keep a look out for posters and information around the village and come along to join in and celebrate.



Small Actions, Big Changes

We know how leverage works—as Archimedes is quoted as saying, “Give me a lever long enough and a place to stand and I shall move the world.” Or said in another way, it’s not the size of the task - it’s how I go about it. How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time, etc. etc., we know the theory.

A habit is anything we do or think automatically in response to a trigger or prompt. When we get dressed in the morning, we likely put on clothes in the same order, or whenever I hear that voice, I get a burst of excitement... or dread. These automatic ways of doing things rule much of our lives (lesson one of my mindfulness course – running on autopilot.)

It’s these automatic ways of responding that have got you to where you are today, though admittedly with the occasional tough decision, whether chosen or forced along the way.

If we want to create change in our lives, we often start by imagining where we want to be, which might look very different from where we are now. Whether it’s a promotion or new job, losing or gaining weight, a career switch, a change of partner or close relationship, moving home, and so on. Each of these and any significant change will require a myriad of actions, and each action will require a decision.

Any decision requires a process, and the outcome isn’t fixed, hence the term ‘decision.’ Yet, it is in these decisions that we often fail. Making one decision at the start might be easy. Making decisions every day, or multiple times every day, when any of those outcomes

could take you toward or away from your intended change is often the problem.

Back to habits. How hard is the decision to clean your teeth at night? Is there even a decision at all? It’s just what you do, there’s no noticeable decision at all. And that’s what we want to leverage.

For change x, what daily actions, y and z, can you make habitual? Or how can I take away the need to decide and just do y and z?

One approach that might help cultivate automatic is to make the things you want to do as easy as possible and things you don’t want to do as hard as possible.

I love crisps / chips. I also know that if I were to eat them every day, it wouldn’t support my health goals. One way to achieve ‘fewer crisps’ is not to buy them. If I really wanted some, I’d have to make a special trip to the shop – which is a barrier bigger than my desire, most of the time. But I chose to carry on buying them, deciding to only eat crisps on

weekends and to remove them from my kitchen so I wouldn’t have to make the decision every time I opened the food cupboard! At my house, you’ll find crisps in the cupboard with coats and shoes... which works for me.

On days when I do formal exercise, I get dressed in workout gear as soon as I get up. It takes away a decision and action (to get changed).

These are simple examples, though they are real, and both lead to meaningful outcomes for me that were once part of a change to focus deliberately on my health.

Is there a change you want to make?

- If so, what are the small actions you can take each day that will eventually deliver that change?
- When you know the actions, how can you make them automatic?

Mark Quirk MSc
www.MindfulnessBerkshire.co.uk



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Berkshire Vision

Supporting The Visually Impaired

Sight loss does more than take away a person’s sight, it can take away their self-confidence and independence and leave them isolated.

Berkshire Vision is a local charity which has been supporting blind and visually impaired adults and children across the county for over 110 years. It offers a wide range of services to help combat isolation, support independence and allow people to live their lives to the full.

Each area within Berkshire has a dedicated Sight Loss Support Officer who can offer help and support at home; from understanding benefit forms to accessing kitchen aids that could improve daily life. With increasing opportunities for technology to help improve day-to-day living, we have an Equipment Officer, backed up by a team of Tech Buddies, who can help with a wide range of IT; this can range from setting up a new tablet to demonstrating the best apps.

There is a monthly programme of face-to-face activities and adapted sports to bring people with sight loss together. Sports range from gentle exercise through to ice-skating, tennis, golf and even rock climbing! We don’t believe that there is anything people with sight loss cannot achieve with the right support, or cannot get back to doing something they loved. Social activities include walks, picnics and theatre trips. We have a regular group in Wokingham called Socialeyes who meet up for a chat and refreshments.

Children and Young People have activities during school holidays split into age groups. These can range from baking to

baseball. Please email Carol on children@berkshirevision.org.uk for further information. As well as fun, there are also activities to gain independence. Recently, in conjunction with Great Western Railway, our teenage group ex-

interested in getting involved. These range from helping with admin tasks in the Reading office, piloting a tandem bike around Windsor Great Park or being a telephone befriender. If you are interested, please contact Gill on



plored Reading station and went on a short journey to Blackwater to gain confidence on travelling by train.

There are a wide range of volunteering opportunities if you are

volunteering@berkshirevision.org.uk; there will certainly be something available to help with.

In summary, volunteers are at the heart of the organisation, with roles requiring just 30 minutes commitment per week to full-day activities. If you know of someone who would benefit from Berkshire Vision support, please do get in touch or help signpost them to one of the links.

If you, or someone you know would like more information please visit www.berkshirevision.org.uk or ring the office on 0118 987 2803 for a chat. Alternatively email info@berkshirevision.org.uk

Sara Gibbons, Deputy CEO and Head Of Finance - and BVRA member!



Please be aware of distraction techniques used by criminals for burglary and theft.

Common techniques used by criminals are:

- Distracting victims at ATMs or car park payment machines by engaging them in conversation, asking questions or advising they dropped something before taking their card and subsequently using this to withdraw cash.
- Distracting victims when they are loading shopping into their car by asking them to sign something, look at a map or claiming someone damaged their car. The offender will take their handbag or purse while they are distracted. These offenders often work in teams with one watching the victim keying their PIN in the supermarket and another distracting them in the car park.
- Purse dipping at supermarkets. Criminals take purses from handbags left on trolleys or by dipping into an open handbag.

Please be alert and aware of anyone near you when you are at an ATM, payment machine or in a supermarket car park. Always cover your PIN and keep an eye on your card at all times. Being aware of your surroundings and not distracted makes it harder for people to take advantage.

Cold Calling can be a cover for criminals planning serious of-

fences such as Burglary, Car Crime or 'Bogus Official' offences where entry is gained to a home by pretending to be from a utility company, the council or care agency.

If someone does call at your door, please consider the following advice:

- Ask for ID, close the door and check it with the company using the phone number advertised in the phone book or online, as the number on an identity card could be fake. If you feel at all unsure, schedule a time for the caller to come back when a friend or relative is with you.
- Don't agree to any work or sign anything on the spot.
- Don't feel pressured to buy. It is your home and your right to say 'No'.
- Don't ever go to a bank or cash point with a trader. Legitimate traders would never do this.
- If you suspect a crime is in progress or about to occur, please make a note of any

descriptions and contact the police on 999.

If you have any information regarding crime in your neighbourhood or witness any suspicious activity, please use our online reporting form at www.thamesvalley.police.uk or call 101. Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on free phone 0800 555 111.

You can contact your local neighbourhood team via:

WokinghamNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk please note this email address cannot be used to report crimes or for any urgent matters.

Facebook: TVP Bracknell & Wokingham,

Twitter: @TVP_Wokingham

Register for Thames Valley Alert at: www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk to receive free information updates from Thames Valley Police.

Neighbourhood Watch is a successful crime prevention initiative. Getting together with your neighbours to take action can cut local crime. If you would like information on setting up or joining an established local scheme visit www.ourwatch.org.uk



Good news continues for the group as we have managed to meet each month this year despite the fact that the Omicron variant of the virus is still with us. Life has practically returned to normal, and Spring has produced its usual display of bulbs and shrubs. And gardeners are busy preparing for their Summer displays.

This report begins with our March meeting which was sadly changed at the last minute as our planned speaker, Chris Rhodes, was unwell and so unable to give his talk on Plastic Pollution. We do hope we shall hear this talk at a later date, possibly later this year or early the next. However we were able to enjoy a speaker evening, with the menfolk and friends invited too, as Tony Weston very kindly stepped in to save the day with his very interesting talk and presentation on 'The Secrets of the Box'.

We were all fascinated to hear how the story unfolded to reveal the life and times of a family and its fortunes by virtue of the letters, documents and other papers collected over the years and stored in a wooden box. And this box had a secret compartment!

In April, David Bullock related the 'Highs and lows of days as an actor' by telling the story of his life, which had been very varied indeed.

In May we had a different sort of evening when a 'fish and chip supper' was followed by our ladies playing cards and games, or just chatting and catching up with each other.

One of our ladies is planning to resume our walking programme in early May with a visit to an 'open garden' in Surrey, and then later in May has a planned walk from the Business Park in Reading along the Thames Path to Sonning, with lunch and a walk back.

Future speakers include Alan Gould from Henry Street Garden Centre in June, and then in September a return visit from Marcia Watson relating her time volunteering in Nepal. The highlight in the Summer will hopefully be a fine weather BBQ in August, when we once again invite the men and friends.

So, we continue to be busy each month enjoying a very varied programme of events organised by our very special Programme Secretary, Jenny.

An additional event this Summer will be helping with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, arranged jointly by the BVRA and Barkham Parish Council, for the Family Event on Saturday 4th June at the Barkham Village Hall and field from 11.00am - 4.00pm. The Ladies will be providing coffee/teas and cakes etc, on the terrace area at the back of the Hall.

If you are new to the area, or live locally and now wish to think about joining the Ladies Group, then please contact Shirley Warner (Chairperson) for more information on 0118 9789124 or by email at shirleyannwarner@gmail.com

We meet at the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm and enjoy friendship and a varied programme of events and speakers, and we would welcome new members.

Farley Hill Bowls Club news

By the time you read this we will be well into the bowling season and starting to play our club competitions. Our club only plays friendly matches against other clubs on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and on Wednesday evenings and new members are always warmly welcome. We don't select players by ability - if you put your name down on our website you will play!

Although we had our open days at the end of May, it is not too late for anyone who would just like to have a go at this sport. Please arrange this with our Club Secretary. We are situated at the Victory Hall, Church Road, Farley Hill RG7 1TR, about two miles from Arborfield Cross and Eversley Centre.

For more information please visit our website - www.farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk or contact the Club Secretary Bill Dowling on 01344 772130 or at secretary@farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk



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Finchampstead Flower Club

FFC continue to meet in California Hall at 8pm on the fourth Monday of each month and hold other social events, such as a coffee morning in a member's garden, a workshop and a visit to gardens.

In April they were treated to a great demonstration, entitled 'Eat, drink and be married', by Kathryn Austin. Kathryn used bold containers and a spectacular array of fresh flowers, culminating in an enormous silver punch-bowl of pink blooms including lilies, orchids, carnations and roses.

Our flower arranging competition this year is based on a theme of Beatles songs. This month was 'Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds' which produced ten offerings of mostly white flowers enhanced with an interesting display of sparkles.

May's meeting is our annual supper at the Chef Peking and then, on June 27th, Lorraine Saunders will demonstrate "All kinds of everything".

Please phone the chair, Lis Barrett, 01189892092 if you would like to attend at any time, or just turn up after 7.30pm on the night; your first visit is free. You can follow our activities on Facebook <https://bit.ly/39nFKWr>

Kriss Turner



Queens Platinum Jubilee Event

Barkham Parish Council with Barkham Village Residents Association are planning a Family Fun Day

On Saturday 4th June

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

at Barkham Village Hall

11am – 4pm

Games

Crafts

Refreshments

For more information contact Ellen Tims, Clerk to Barkham Parish Council at

clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk

or 0118 976 2089 for more information



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CROWTHORNE Symphony ORCHESTRA

Our Spring Concert in March was a resounding success with a capacity audience and many regular supporters disappointed to find tickets were sold out. The orchestra continues to celebrate its **30th birthday with a Summer Concert on Saturday 2nd July** at The Old Gym, Wellington College in Crowthorne.

The programme features Tchaikovsky's last completed symphony, the emotional and stirring Pathétique - the original title translates as "passionate" or "emotional" rather than solemn or sad. The concert will start with Humperdinck's Hansel & Gretel Overture, with its beautiful horn chorale. I remember being taken

to Sadler's Wells theatre in London as a young child to see this fairy-tale opera which in the 1950s was a regular Christmas production there, and a treat for many children. Also in the programme is Gounod's Ballet Music from Faust. This may not sound particularly familiar, but it includes lots of melodies that many will probably recognise.

Tickets for the concert will only be available online and are now on sale via our website - £15 general admission, free for under 16s.

The orchestra is proud of its friendly reputation and welcomes new members, subject to vacancies - if you are a competent

player and interested in joining us, please get in touch especially if you are a string player. Our regular membership is around sixty players, and we have members of all ages and walks of life. Weekly rehearsals are on Mondays in term time from 7.45-10pm at Oaklands Junior School, Butler Road, Crowthorne. Go to our website for more information on tickets, concerts, rehearsals, workshops and more: www.crowthorneorchestra.com

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inVOLVe Community Services are there for any not-for-personal-profit organisation that needs those sorts of support. Contact us without obligation via 01344 304 404, reception@involve.community or look at <https://involve.community/>

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Volunteer

We have now resumed our core service of matching children with volunteers at mainstream leisure activities and are in the process of planning our next Volunteer Induction Training.

Do you want to help children with additional needs and disabilities in your local community? Make a difference to a child's life by volunteering with us and helping our children to be included and make friends.

Volunteer Your Time

Everyone has their own reasons for wanting to donate their time. It could be to give back to the local community, gain valuable experience, learn new skills or the desire to make a difference to a child's life. Whatever your motivation, you will be part of a friendly team, you will make a difference and have fun at the same time!

We'd love to hear from you! Here are the ways you can contact us:

Opening times: Monday -Thursday 9am-5pm and Friday 9am-4.30pm.

Telephone: 0118 969 6369

Email: info@me2club.org.uk

Address: Me2 Club, Unit 9, Indigo House, Fishponds Road, Wokingham, RG41 2GY

Go to our website to start your volunteer application form. www.me2club.org.uk

The Quiz - answers
1. Harry S Truman
2a. Scott McKenzie
2b. The Flower Pot Men
3. Egyptian president Anwar Sadat and Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin
4a. Rocking All Over the World by Status Quo (the obvious choice)
4b. Phil Collins
5. Shakespeare in Love
6. Four
7. News of the World and Queen
8. Jason and Laura Kenny (cycling)
9. Coronation Street (1960), Emmerdale (Farm) (1972) EastEnders (1985), Hollyoaks (1995)
10. Ukrainian currency

Where in Barkham?
In the scout field in the Coombes OS grid reference SU776674

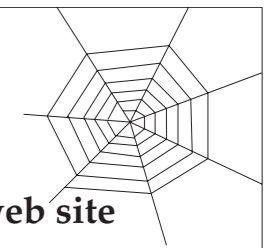
Barkham Diary

04/06/22	Queens Platinum Jubilee event	BVH	
08/06/22	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
14/06/22	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
27/06/22	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	8.00pm
06/07/22	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.30pm
12/07/22	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
13/07/22	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
25/07/22	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	8.00pm
10/08/22	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
12/08/22	Copy deadline for Autumn Newsletter		
07/09/22	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.30pm
14/09/22	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
24/09/22	BVRA Skittles	BVH	7.00pm
26/09/22	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	8.00pm
10/11/22	BVRA AGM	BVH	8.00pm
19/11/22	BVRA Quiz Night	BVH	7.30pm
16/12/22	BVRA Carols in the Park	Junipers	7.00pm
Weekly Events			
Mondays	Pilates Class	BVH	11.30am
Mondays	Dog Training	BVH	6.30pm
Tuesdays	Dinton walking group	Dinton	10.00am
Tues-Fri	Barkham Pre-School	BVH	9.00am
Thursdays	Pilates Class	BVH	6.15pm
	BVH is Barkham Village Hall		
	CRH is California Ratepayers Hall		
	AVH is Arborfield Village Hall		
	FMH is Finchampstead Memorial Hall		

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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

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Wokingham Music Club brings great music to Wokingham every month. Some dates include:

John Coghlan's Quo - The Final Tour - 10th June 2022

Kossoff...The Band plays on in concert - 22nd July 2022

Curved Air - 9th September 2022

Simply Dan play the music of Steely Dan – 10th September 2022

The Korgis featuring James Warren -16th September 2022

Tickets are now on sale for all confirmed dates, a full list can be found on our website www.wokinghammusicclub.co.uk To sign up for our newsletter just drop a line to info@wokinghammusicclub.co.uk. Tickets for shows can be booked at www.ticketsource.co.uk/wokinghammusicclub

Venues: The Whitty Theatre, Emmbrook Sports & Social, The Royal British Legion Club, Winnersh.

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The Tree Company Others Look Up To

The BVRA has recently updated its privacy policy to ensure compliance with GDPR. You can review this at the bottom of the home page on the website. As part of this for those members who have provided their email address please be advised that it will only be used for BVRA communications of interest or to receipt your annual subscription.

You can amend your mailing preferences or opt out any time by clicking on the link at the bottom of any of our emails or emailing webmaster@barkham.org.uk

The views expressed in this newsletter, unless signed by a BVRA committee member, are not necessarily those of the Barkham Village Residents Association
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