



£1, free to Members

Barkham Newsletter

Issue 143 Spring 2023

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

CORONATION CELEBRATION

Saturday 6th May - See Page 7



SKITTLES EVENING

Saturday 25th March

7:00pm for 7:30 - 10:30pm

Adults £12, Primary School Children £5

Ploughman's Supper included

Tickets from Gill Powell

Email: social@barkham.org.uk or Tel: 9783373



LICENCED BAR

EASTER EGG HUNT

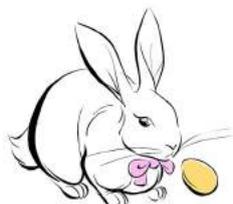
Sunday 9th April

3pm

The Junipers

Tickets £1 per child

Raffle for large egg £1



SURVEY RESULTS

See Page 5

In this issue...

BVRA Chat	2	District Councillor	8	Mindfulness	15
Editorial	3	Church	9	Police	16
DevWatch	4	Wild about the Coombes	10	35 Years Ago	17
Residents' Survey & Quiz	5	Social Matters	12	Societies	18
Parish Council	6	Alan's Patch	14	Music	20

Your distributor is:



BVRA Chat

Welcome to our Spring BVRA Newsletter. This is my first time writing in it! I am part of the Social Team and enjoy helping put on events in Barkham as part of a great team.

We have had a few changes since our December edition. Bev Dipper, who I am sure you are aware, has been incredible in all the time she gave to the organisation, firstly as

Membership Secretary, organising distribution teams, keeping records and collecting the cash from the distributors. More recently she was Chair, driving through the residents' survey. Unfortunately, Bev has stepped down and we thank her for all she has done for the BVRA.

Also, Gurprit Singh, our DevWatch co-ordinator, responsible for notifying you about planning applications in and around Barkham, has stepped down.

As a result, we have temporarily merged the main Committee with the Social Team to share the load and are currently rotating the Chair role! Of course, this can't go on forever with, for example, one of us being Webmaster, DevWatch co-ordinator, doing part of the Membership secretary role and collecting the

direct debits!

We are desperately short of volunteers on the Committee and the Social Team, see the article on Page 4. Our goal is to help make Barkham more of a community and a pleasant place to live and we need your help.

In addition to regular social events we are delighted to be staging a **Coronation Celebration Event**, with the support of the Barkham Parish Council, at the Village Hall with entertainment and events during the daytime and evening for everyone. See Page 7. We hope to see many of you there!

PS Why not join us for the *Annual Litter Pick* on Sunday 26th March? See Page 6. It's a good way of getting to know people in the village that you might not normally meet.

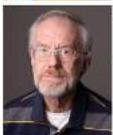
BVRA COMMITTEE



Vacant, currently Rotating Chair
chairman@barkham.org.uk



Dave Clements
Webmaster & IT systems
DevWatch Coordinator
Maintains membership database
webmaster@barkham.org.uk



Alan Edwards
Newsletter Editor
newsletter@barkham.org.uk



Gill Powell
Chair of Social Team
social@barkham.org.uk



Steve Young
Treasurer
treasurer@barkham.org.uk



Shirley Warner
Social Team
Liaises with Barkham Village Hall Committee



Jim Butler
Social Team



Louise Goldring
Social Team
Distribution team



Peter Jay
Social Team



Cathy Whittington
Social Team



Editorial

Welcome to the Spring issue of this newsletter. I imagine, like me, you are enjoying the first of the spring flowers emerging. In this issue our DevWatch article alerts you to the latest development

Membership Subscriptions

Member subscriptions remain at £2 per household. We encourage all members to pay by direct debit (DD) which is easier for everyone. Thanks to those of you who by this way – your subscriptions were collected in early February. If you do not have a DD set up (please check first) then we would be grateful if you would set it up using the link below.

<https://www.barkham.org.uk/bvra/bvra-membership>



schemes. There is also a serious article in the *Wild about the Coombes* series.

John Kaiser’s article is always a good read and this time he updates us on the solar farm to be built in the village.

On the Social side, you can read about the annual Quiz in November and *Carols in the Park* in December. Future events coming soon are the Skittles Evening in March and the Easter Egg Hunt in April. Our main event this year is going to be the Coronation Celebration on Saturday 6th May, see Page 7.

We are pleased that so many of you responded to the recent Survey, we ran in conjunction with the Parish Council. You can read a summary on Page 5.

Contributions

We welcome contributions to this newsletter either on a one-off basis, occasional or regular. We are keen to publicise any charity or events that may be of interest to Barkham residents. Please send them to the Newsletter Editor at newsletter@barkham.org.uk by the deadlines shown below.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
Summer	12 th May	early June
Autumn	11 th August	early September
Winter	10 th November	early December

Advertising

The newsletter is produced quarterly. The first two issues - Spring and Summer - are sent to 800+ households in Barkham parish, and the other two to the households who are paid-up BVRA members, which is currently 600+.

We offer four sizes of adverts all of which include membership of the BVRA. All sizes are in mm and the format is landscape apart from the 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 deadlines above.

We are keen to develop our email lists, so we can send emails between these Newsletters, enabling us to cover, for instance, the latest about our Coronation Celebration. [Please sign up here](https://tinyurl.com/448muyu4)

<https://tinyurl.com/448muyu4>

if you’d like to be kept informed.



DevWatch Update

It was pleasing to see the recent survey highlighted the benefit residents put on the DevWatch service we offer. However, once again we are seeking a volunteer to assist with DevWatch. If you have an interest in maintaining the character of Barkham and can spare a small amount of time each month, please get in touch with us at development@barkham.org.uk.

At the moment it feels like the calm before the storm. As mentioned in the Parish Council update, we are still waiting for

decisions on the planning applications for Edneys Hill and Blagrove Lane and for the result of the Instalcom appeal. As soon as we have any details we will send out DevWatch alerts and will advise residents of any action they can take.

Additionally, although no formal applications have been submitted, we are also aware of proposed developments at Barkham Square (alert sent on 7th January) and Cross Lane

Farm, Arborfield (alert sent on 7th December).

If you aren't receiving our alerts, please sign up at the BVRA website. All our historic alerts are also available to read on the website.

Given the level of activity locally, it was interesting to see that the Government launched a consultation on reforms to national planning policy. The consultation ended on March 2nd and details were sent out in a DevWatch alert on 25th January.

BVRA Volunteers Needed!

The most serious problem facing the BVRA is a lack of volunteers. We have recently lost our Chairman and DevWatch coordinator which means that the Committee has had to double up on some roles with members of the Social Team being co-opted into the main Committee. This is not sustainable. We need more volunteers to help both with main Committee roles and the Social Team. We could do so much more with your help!

The survey shows that there is a keen interest in the social events, even wanting more of some, such as the Quiz evening. The Social Team needs more volunteers to help, **without which we won't be able to increase the number of social events, in fact we may be forced to cut back on what we currently offer.** I do urge you to consider whether and how you can help. You could join the Social Team or volunteer for occasional activity on an event-by-event basis. We would be delighted to welcome you to join our small group of volunteers. It is a great way to meet more people in Barkham, have fun and make a difference to the quality of village life. Please contact anyone on the Committee shown on Page 2 to find out what's involved.

More specifically, we are deeply indebted to Bob Bishop who has laid out our newsletters ready for print for most of the 35 years the BVRA has existed. Bob left the village years ago and yet he continues to provide the service. Understandably he wants to relinquish this role and so we are looking for someone to take it over.

We are looking for someone familiar with graphic design and layout software such as MS Publisher. This role requires a few hours every three months. Please contact the Editor if you think you might be able to help.

Sunshine Gardening Services

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For all your gardening
and landscaping needs

Rely on an efficient and
friendly service

Please call 0118 979 2291
www.sunshinegardening.com
10 Mallow Grove, Warfield, Bracknell RG42 5AR

BVRA Resident Survey

In November, in conjunction with Barkham Parish Council (BPC), we conducted a survey of the residents of Barkham. Here is a summary of the findings.

The survey was distributed both in paper form and by email. The printed version was distributed along with the regular distribution of the BPC magazine *Village Info* to the 1,500 residents of Barkham Parish (which comprises “Old Barkham” and Arborfield Green). The digital version was sent to the 1,200 residents who are subscribers to the BVRA mailing lists. We received 190 responses which represents approximately a 10% response rate, in line with surveys of this type. **Thank you to all those who completed the survey.**

73% of the respondents live in Old Barkham, 11% in Arborfield Green and 16% outside Barkham, mainly *DevWatch* subscribers. Two thirds of respondents have been living in Barkham/Arborfield Green for more than 15 years and fall into the 65+ age group with no children living at home. They are also members of the BVRA.

Of the services currently provided by the BVRA and BPC the most popular is the BVRA *DevWatch* email service, followed by the printed newsletters produced by

both the BVRA and the BPC. 50% of respondents wanted social events to continue.

Almost three quarters of respondents feel they benefit from the BVRA, mainly by keeping residents informed of planning and development issues and by staging social events.

Regarding the **distribution of the BVRA Newsletter** 42% would prefer an electronic version instead of in print, with an additional 23% wanting both. This makes two thirds that would like to receive the Newsletter digitally. Over the coming months we will be reviewing how the Newsletter is distributed in future. The printed Newsletter is not currently distributed in Arborfield Green owing to a lack of volunteers so an electronic version would mean that the whole of Barkham could receive it.

Looking to the **future focus of the BVRA** it is no surprise that the primary concern of respondents is planning and development. Relating to this is the desire to have plenty of parks and green spaces. Traffic and the state of the roads is another major concern. Respondents are also keen to

improve community facilities.

BVRA social events are mostly supported by long-term residents who are members of the BVRA. There is good support for the existing activities, especially the Quiz and Skittles evenings, for which there were requests to hold them more frequently. Many new social activities have been suggested and we will review them to see which might be suitable for future BVRA events.

Although not directly relevant to the BVRA it is very interesting to note that there were many good suggestions for using the BPC CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) budget.

The BVRA would like to express its thanks to the BPC for their part in this collaboration.

[You can read the full report here](https://tinyurl.com/3tjpdwpc)

<https://tinyurl.com/3tjpdwpc>



The Quiz

This quiz is about world geography with a final twist! The answers to the first nine are countries. How many of these questions can you answer? No cheating!

1. Mount Kosciuszko is the highest mountain in which country?
2. What is the modern name of Carthage?
3. To which country do the Galapagos Islands belong?
4. Which country's northern boundary is defined by the 38th parallel?
5. Which country became independent in 1830?
6. Which country has the second largest land surface area?
7. The capital of which country is called Yaounde?
8. Which is the largest country in the world which has no river?
9. In which country is the city of Odense?
10. What do these nine countries have in common?



An Update from Barkham Parish Council

Planning

At the time of writing, the Parish Council is still awaiting the decision from Wokingham Borough Council on the outcome of the two planning applications at Blagrove Meadows and Land off Edneys Hill.

The second hearing for the Instalcom appeal at Woodlands Farm was held in January, and the Parish Council now awaits the decision.

Precept

The Parish Council has now set the precept for the financial year 2023/2024. Due to the current financial crisis, the Council made the decision not to increase any of its Earmarked Reserves for this year, to assist residents with their costs. This has resulted in a lower precept for this coming financial year. The budget and earmarked reserves will be reassessed when the budget and precept is next set, and decisions for the following financial year will then be made.

The precept for 2023/2024 has been set at £26.18 per household, which is a reduction of 23.39%.

New Solar powered SID to help combat speeding traffic

Barkham Parish Council have recently purchased through CIL, a new solar powered Speed Indication Device (SID), to help make drivers more aware of their speed as a means of reducing speeding in the parish. The new SID is currently deployed on Barkham Street, where it will remain as a semi-permanent feature.

Other semi-permanent SID locations are being planned around the parish in conjunction with our existing rotatable SID and data logger locations.

The Speed Watch Sessions are due to resume in the near future, after a pause relating to the equipment requirements being changed by Thames Valley Police.

Annual Litter Pick

The annual litter pick is scheduled to take place on Sunday 26th March 2023 between 10am and 12 Noon. The meeting place for the litter pick is Barkham Village Hall, where you will be assigned an area to litter pick and to collect litter pickers and bin bags. We welcome any volunteers to join us. Refreshments will be provided.

Further details will be publicised on the parish council notice boards and website nearer the time.

Parish Councillor Vacancies

Barkham Parish Council has 2 vacancies for Councillors to join the Council.

The Parish Council is the first tier of Local Government representing the local community, delivering services to meet local needs wherever possible, and improving quality of life and community well-being. The Parish Council currently has two Councillor vacancies for co-opting.

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

From established communities in Elizabeth Park, rural and semi-rural areas and the new community developing at Arborfield Green, the Parish faces many opportunities



and challenges.

Parish Councils benefit from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which provides funds to help enhance facilities for residents.

This means we need as broad a spread of councillors as possible as we work with residents on the future of the area.

Would you like to join the Parish Council and help make decisions about how the Parish is run? Please contact the Clerk for more information, email clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk or phone 0118 976 2089.

Barkham Parochial Charity

Barkham Parochial Charities date back to 1698 when John Broadbank gave “eight shillings yearly to this Parish for ever”. Today this is brought together with six other charitable funds for the poor and used to make one-off cash grants to individuals or groups.

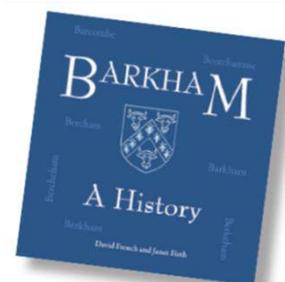
On the outside Barkham appears to be affluent and at the same time there are individuals that would benefit from a small grant when they fall upon hard times. The charities are small in today’s terms but are focussed on local needs and so have always been able to respond to requests for assistance.

There is a small amount of money available each year so if you know of any cases of hardship in the Parish of Barkham or in the adjoining Parishes then please contact the trustees in total confidence.

Contact: Malcolm Clark, Trustee and Correspondent: 0118 979 0070

History Books

The “Barkham A History” book can be obtained from the Clerk at £8.50 each or from Henry Street Garden Centre. These will make ideal Christmas presents for anyone who is new to the area and does not already own one.





BARKHAM VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



Join us at Barkham Village Hall



CORONATION CELEBRATION



Saturday 6th May



DON'T MISS OUT

Best Crown competition

DAYTIME EVENT AND

ENTERTAINMENT IS FREE

CRAFT TABLE!

GIANT TV LIVE STREAMING THE EVENT



TEA AND CAKE DURING THE DAY

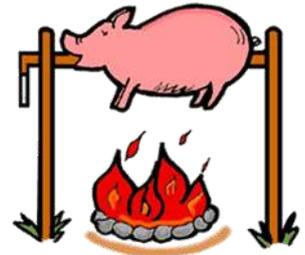
Children's Entertainer



all afternoon!!

Followed in the evening by

Royal Barn Dance



in the Marquee

7:00pm—10:00pm

LIVE BAND

Tickets for the Barn Dance & Hog Roast (with vegi option)

available from

Gill Powell Tel: 9783373

social@barkham.org.uk



Adult £12 (Children 16 and under £5)

(Evening event)



LICENCED BAR & RAFFLE

On the Sunny Side of the Street - for a Renewable Future



The new solar farm on land between Barkham and Finchampstead has taken a big step forward after Wokingham Borough Council appointed Bouygues E&S Solutions Limited, a global leader for designing and constructing solar farms, as the contractor for the scheme.

Planning permission for the 29 megawatts (MWp) capacity solar farm was granted in September 2021 under the previous Conservative administration. This means that on a good day, the solar farm could generate 29 megawatts of energy - equivalent to the power needed for 8,500 homes.

Alongside the solar panels the site will also see the planting of thousands of new trees as part of the council's Tree Project, and a new greenway route aimed at better connecting Arborfield, Barkham and Finchampstead to the existing network of rights of way to the north.

The solar farm is just one of the many ways that the borough council is helping the environment by generating sustainable power within the borough. It also has major financial benefits for the council which will enable the income to

be spent on vital services provided to residents.

Bouygues are an experienced company who have designed and built four solar farms in the past five years which are all larger than 20 MWp. Its portfolio also includes solar farms in Wales and Cambridgeshire. The borough council undertook an extensive tender process to appoint a contractor for this scheme using a nationally approved framework.

When considering the tender returns, the council placed emphasis on the quality and experience. This was to ensure the best contractor was appointed for such an important council project. The council wanted to ensure that any company it worked with, as far as reasonable, would ensure that all construction material and equipment would be ethically sourced and delivered value for money at the same time making sure minimum disruption to residents while the solar farm was being constructed.

It is a huge investment for the council and will be one of the

many solar farms planned around the borough that council has plans to install. As such it is important that any contractor not only delivers value for money but that it also helps to improve the borough's social, economic and environment wellbeing. The council also wanted reassurance that any construction would impact positively on the Borough and benefit the local area. There is no doubt we need to shift a big percentage of our energy as a planet to renewables and this financial investment will help us do that as well as benefiting the borough financially.

The contractors Bouygues have assured the council it takes its obligations seriously in relation to sourcing the necessary equipment and the labour for the site will be done in an ethical way.

Work will now start on designing the solar farm, with initial survey work starting in the coming weeks meaning residents will start to see more activity in and around the site. It is intended that construction work to install the solar panels will start towards the end of this year.

John Kaiser



New Chairperson

Required for Barkham Village Hall Charity

If you are community-minded and enjoy dealing with people please apply.

We hold bi-monthly meetings and the position would require approximately 3 hours a week of general supervision of projects and other affairs

Contact: Derek Oxbrough

doxbrough@hotmail.com

Tel: 01189 760578



St James' Barkham

Easter Story Trail

Join us for an afternoon of fun on Good Friday, Friday 7th April, following a trail on which you will discover the Easter story, before returning to the start where you can pick up some Easter goodies!

There are 2 routes, both starting from the Barkham playing field and play area in The Junipers, RG41 4UX.

the 5 km route initially takes you through the Coombes before crossing the fields to St James church where you can stop off for hot cross buns, biscuits, hot and cold drinks, before meandering back through the fields

The 1.5km route is ideal for little ones and will be focused in the wooded area next to The Junipers play park, with light refreshments available from the start point.

If you plan to take the 5km route, it would be helpful to download the *what3words* app in advance as this will help you locate the next egg on the trail.

Please collect your answer sheets between 2-3pm. There will be no cost for any part of the afternoon. If you do need to drive to the trail, bear in mind there are only a few spaces available in The Junipers, so please park considerately and make use of additional space in The Woodlands.

As well as our Easter Story Trail, we will as ever be celebrating the wonder of the message of Easter at Barkham Church on Easter Sunday. Services are at 10am and 6pm. Everyone is very welcome.

Website: www.abch.org.uk



**ST JAMES' BARKHAM
INVITES YOU TO OUR**

**EASTER
STORY TRAIL**

GOOD FRIDAY 7th APRIL

**FREE 5KM FAMILY WALK WITH REFRESHMENTS
SERVED AT ST JAMES' CHURCH ENROUTE.
EASIER 1.5KM ROUTE ALSO AVAILABLE
FOR LITTLE ONES.**

**PICK UP YOUR ANSWER SHEETS FROM THE PLAY PARK AT
THE JUNIPERS BETWEEN 2-3PM AND DON'T FORGET TO
COME BACK AT THE END TO COLLECT A CHOCOLATE TREAT**

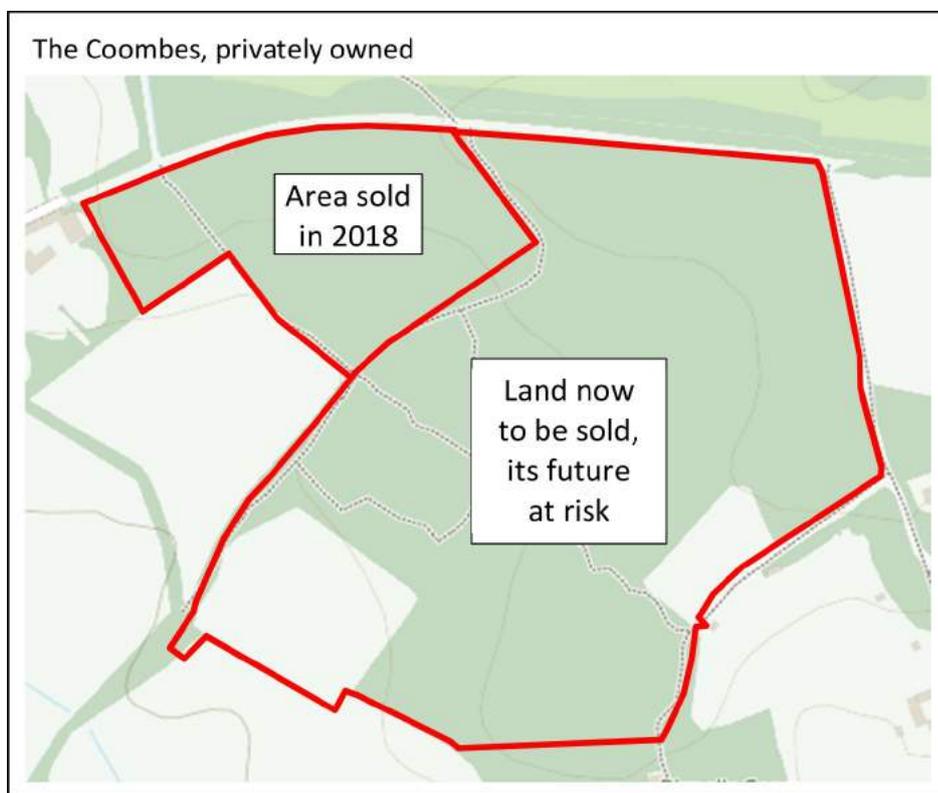
**IF YOU ARE DRIVING, WE KINDLY REQUEST THAT YOU PARK
CONSIDERATELY IN THE WOODLANDS
WWW.ABCH.ORG.UK**

Wild About the Coombes

I had something else I was going to cover in this issue, but something far more important has arisen. Instead, therefore, I am going to outline how the Coombes was affected when about one fifth of it changed ownership five years ago and the current risk of a similar thing happening across the remainder of the woodland.

In 2018, 16 acres of woodland in the north west of the Coombes was sold. Previously, people had felt free to walk through the area, most of them probably being unaware that it was anything other than a public amenity.

Very soon, signs were liberally nailed to trees in that area saying 'PRIVATE LAND NO PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY'. Fences started to be erected, a



practice that was swiftly curtailed by the Council. The character of the land has been

changed and the feeling of freedom lost.

Last December, it emerged that the owners of the rest of the Coombes wished to sell up. They are not the people who sold the other area, I hasten to add, and they have been good enough to allow the local community access to their land for well over 40 years. However, this freedom to roam, enjoyed by so many, is now in danger of being lost altogether.

The Coombes straddles the parishes of Barkham and Arborfield. The two Parish Councils and Wokingham Borough Council were made aware of the impending sale before the land was due to go onto the open market. They found the prospect of the woodland becoming closed to the public, combined with damage that new owners might inflict on the mature woodland, its natural wildlife habitat, rich biodiversity and carbon capturing potential, deeply unpalatable.

A period of time was negotiated with the agents to allow the Councils time to investigate how the land could be taken into public ownership, or that of a suitable charity such as the Wildlife Trust. They were given until mid-



February to come up with a proposal.

Both sets of Parish Councillors are devoting long hours to the task, all unpaid, intent on securing the Coombes as natural woodland to continue to be enjoyed by the community, along with the wildlife that inhabits it, for ever.

With the support of the Borough Council, they have been researching market prices for such land, options for jointly owning it with each other or suitable charities, best practices for managing it, the ongoing cost of ownership, possible grants, funding, and so much more. For them it is a steep learning curve.

Public bodies with woodlands have a statutory duty to conserve and enhance their biodiversity, and they need to be able to demonstrate their compliance. For this, Wokingham Borough Council has tree and ecology specialists on its staff and working relationships with organisations such as the Woodland Trust, Natural England and TVERC, an organisation that carries out ecological surveys.

Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust has already visited twice and given advice on how best to manage what is designated Ancient Woodland. The WBC Ecologist has also surveyed it and made recommendations.

Wishing to retain public access, the local authority would start with a survey to identify trees that may be dangerous, plan how to deal with them and in what order. Paths may be rerouted to avoid felling otherwise healthy trees.

Meanwhile, a Woodland Management Plan would be developed for its ongoing monitoring and maintenance, informed by the findings of a Habitat Assessment. The plan is likely to include, for example, systematic thinning of the denser patches of rhododendrons. This would allow more light through to currently-stifled plants, thereby increasing biodiversity. Historical Ecology records may be a guide as

to what may re-emerge this way, so that it can be helped to flourish once again. Opportunities for reintroducing additional traditional woodland management practices, appropriate to an ancient woodland environment, could also be explored.

With the implications of ongoing management becoming clearer, it is believed that the team will be able to offer a competitive price for woodland that is as heavily protected against development as the Coombes is.

I am so grateful for the efforts being made to secure the Coombes for the benefit of the local community and, to my mind even more importantly, the diverse range of wildlife that it supports. I see no better way of achieving this, at this point, than for it to move into public ownership.

With the deadline for Newsletter articles upon me, the proposal is still being worked on. By the time you read this, it will probably be in the hands of the vendors for consideration.

Let's hope that The Coombes, which I am so wild about, survives this crisis unscathed.

Joe Wild



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





Social Matters

As I write this we are having a brief frosty cold spell, but Spring is surely not too far away, as the snowdrops are in flower and daffodils are well in bud in my garden. Christmas and the New Year are now just a memory as we look forward to longer days and warmer weather.

Since the last Newsletter we have had two events to report on, the first being the Quiz Evening on November 19th. This was once again a very well attended and popular event with quiz master, Steve Richardson, assisted by wife Jan, providing the tricky testing questions. The winning team this year was 'Pieces of Eight', although they were actually a team of six! The usual Fish and Chip Supper went down very well, and there were comments, as before, of 'Will there be another quiz again soon'? I can confirm that plans are in place for another quiz later in the year!

The final event in 2022 was the annual *Carols in the Park* on December 16th. It was a bitterly cold evening, so the Breakaway Brass Band agreed to play for a shorter time than usual. We were still able to provide mulled wine and mince pies, as usual, thanks to one of the BVRA committee members very kindly offering us the use of his kitchen at his house close to the Park to make and heat the wine. This was needed because our usual gas burners would not

have worked properly at such low temperatures!

Over a 100 people came, including whole families with children, who heartily sang carols while walking from the Woodlands to the edge of the Junipers Park to continue singing before enjoying their wine and pies. This was a free event, but a bucket collection was made for the Band who very kindly gave up their time to play for us. And despite the cold weather everyone appeared to have a great time and started the festive period in good spirits.

Events and dates have been planned for this year with the next event being on Saturday March 25th at the Village Hall. This will be the ever popular Skittles Evening at 7.00 for 7.30pm, including a Ploughman's Supper. Tickets are £12 for adults, and £5 for primary- aged children, and can be obtained from Gill Powell, preferably by email at social@barkham.org.uk or by telephone on 0118 9783373. Look out for posters around the village and check on the BVRA website for details, and please put the date in your diaries. This is always a fun and quite a competitive event for all ages!

The Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt will be held as usual on Easter Sunday, April 9th, at 3pm in the Junipers Park. Entrance on the day is £1 for the children (cash please), and while the children are busy searching for tokens to exchange for small eggs, the adults will be able to buy raffle tickets for the Giant Egg and other chocolate prizes.

There will be a separate area for those up to 5 years old to search for tokens away from the older children. This is usually a very speedy event as tokens seem to be found quite quickly, but if the weather is warm and sunny, as it has been many times, families tend to stay on and enjoy the rest of the afternoon.





Other events have been planned and the Hall booked for the rest of the year:

- An event to celebrate the King's Coronation on Saturday 6th May
- Annual Quiz on 21st October.
- Carols in the Park, a date in December to be confirmed.

More details will appear in future Newsletters and on posters around the village, but make a note of the dates, so you don't miss out on the fun.

I hope to see many of you at these events supporting the local Barkham Residents' Association. It's a great way of getting to know people especially if you are new to the area.

Shirley Warner

Social Committee Member



PS. The Social Committee is always looking to welcome new people to join our small team to help organise and run events throughout the year - maybe to help set things up, or help with food preparation for example, at one or two events. Please think about joining us if you can, and for more information and to leave your contact details please contact Gill Powell on social@barkham.org.uk



Alan's Patch



We've certainly made up for the hot dry summer with a very wet autumn and winter. In addition, we had three cold snaps, one in December, January and again in early February as I write. Between them they have seen off the broad bean plants sown in early November. It's the first time in many years that the autumn sown beans have failed to survive. No



worries, I've sown some more, as I do anyway at this time of year.

All the winter jobs have been done – washing and fumigating the greenhouse, adding wood chippings to subdue the weeds under the fruit bushes and trees, along the paths between the beds

of the vegetable patch and in between the ornamental grasses.

Because of problems with the lawn mower I only recently gathered the fallen leaves and mowed the lawn! I then went on to rebuild my compost heap adding the new grass cuttings and a week later, the heap is steaming away nicely, despite frosty weather!

The greenhouse is now back in action. Last week I set up the electric propagator and lights, to extend the daylight making the

still eating potatoes in store plus butternut squash and shallots, however the apples and pears have gone.

I had a reasonable crop of Cannellini and Borlotti beans which I store in jars ready for use in casseroles. Finally in the freezer I have gooseberries and damsons plus frozen compotes of rhubarb, blackberries and raspberries along with processed tomatoes, which I use in casseroles, soups etc.

During the winter I photographed a dress rehearsal for a local



seeds grow stronger and bushier. I've sowed a few seeds – tomatoes, aubergine, chillies, cucumber and bell peppers plus some Little Gem lettuce which has germinated already. In addition, I've sown some carrot into the soil in the greenhouse.

The first sign of spring, bright yellow crocuses shining brightly in the sun, gives us hope that spring is around the corner!

The (perpetual) spinach was another casualty of the frost. Normally I get a good feast of new growth in spring before it bolts. In fact, there is precious little in the patch at the moment, just carrots and parsnips. I am

pantomime, Wizard of Oz. This photo is of the scarecrow. I need to get her to come and protect my patch from the birds in the summer!

Alan Edwards

Treat Body and Mind as One

We often separate physical and mental or body and mind - but, for most of us, this separation is often unhelpful!

In my work, I help people with things we could say were either body or mind. In one session, I may be supporting someone who wants to reverse type 2 diabetes (body), and in another, someone wanting to work more effectively with stress or anxiety (mind). And in both cases, physical activity like exercise and learning to work with difficult thoughts can help. Our body affects our mind, and our mind affects our body.

If we want to lose weight (body), many of us think of exercise and diet, which can help, but rarely on its own! Often, our habits (mind) are the biggest blockers.

Our bodies have an incredible set of systems that work to keep us in homeostasis or balance. If you feel hot, you'll have the desire to cool down, which might lead to removing a jumper, stepping outside, or fanning yourself. Feeling hungry? You'll desire food. Feeling tired? You'll desire sleep. Feeling upset? You'll likely want to go somewhere to feel comfortable (or otherwise fix it).

These are all examples of the mind and body working together to turn thoughts and feelings into actions –

and those actions may lead to further thoughts and feelings until we resolve the situation. And we know it's resolved because our bodies are back in balance, and we no longer feel the drive for change.

Although there's plenty more nuance than I'm describing, the key is that the same things drive both physical and mental wellness! Exercise and relaxation in balance support the body and mind. Stress and recovery in balance support the body and mind. Eating well and not too much supports the body and mind. Socialising in balance

with space to be alone supports the body and mind. Developing emotional skills supports the body and mind. You get the picture.

In fact, we have an 8-week mindfulness course, something we typically associate with the mind, especially given its name, because Jon-Kabat Zinn wanted to help those attending his hospital chronic pain (body) clinic.

Taking care of yourself includes activities that support both a healthy mind and body - and each supports the other, so we can treat body and mind as one.

Mark Quirk MSc



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IN BRACKNELL FOREST & WOKINGHAM BOROUGH

Charities, community groups: do you need extra help now we're coming out of the pandemic? Your group has done so much to support your local community and maybe now you need some assistance. If you're part of a local group in Wokingham Borough or Bracknell Forest, you can get free help with funding, recruiting volunteers, growth of your group and recruiting new Committee Members or trustees. We also run a wide range of training in both areas, suitable for your volunteers and employees.

inVOLve Community Services are there for any not-for-personal-profit organisation that needs those sorts of support. Contact us



Catalytic Converter Theft

Catalytic converters are devices fitted to vehicle exhausts to reduce the amount of dangerous gases emitted. They are often targeted by thieves as they contain valuable metals and can be removed in less than a minute.

Catalytic converter theft most frequently occurs in car parks, but they can happen anywhere. Thieves may then sell these converters via scrapyards, online, or ship them out of the country. Hybrid vehicles are most commonly targeted, as their metals are more valuable, but any vehicle can be at risk of catalytic converter theft.

Signs a catalytic converter theft is being committed

- a vehicle being raised using a car jack in a car park or residential area
- a loud drilling or cutting sound coming from underneath the vehicle

Prevent it

There are steps you can take to protect your vehicle. You can ask your car dealer for advice on locks or guards that are approved by the vehicle manufacturer and tested to Sold Secure Gold. Alternatively, try to park your vehicle in a garage, or if you have a commercial vehicle, park it in a secure compound. If this isn't possible, park in an area that's well-lit and overlooked and try to park

so the converter can't be easily reached by potential thieves. Vehicles that sit high above the road are particularly vulnerable.

You should also register your converter and mark it with a forensic marker, making it harder for thieves to dispose of. Visit www.securedbydesign.com or www.soldsecure for more details.

Please report it

- if the crime is happening now call [999](tel:999) - if you are unsure, we'd rather hear about it and decide if a theft is occurring
- if the crime has already happened then you can report it online www.thamesvalley.police.uk or by calling 101
- if you can, please note down details and descriptions of suspects and number plates of their vehicles (please do not approach any suspects)

- Please contact us if you have any information relating to crime in your neighbourhood. Alternatively, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on free phone 0800 555 111.

Receive free crime and information updates from Thames Valley Police by registering for Thames Valley Alert at: www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

Email: You can contact your local neighbourhood team via

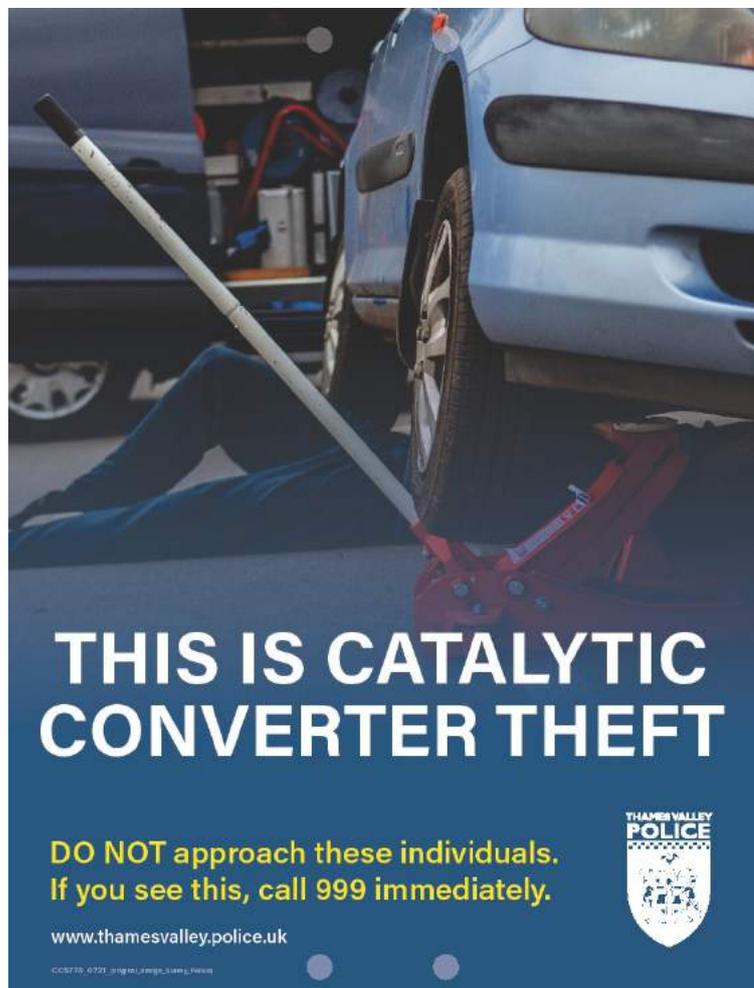
WokinghamNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk

Please note this email address cannot be used to report crimes or for any urgent matters.

Follow us on social media for regular crime updates and find out what your local policing teams are up to:

Facebook: TVP Bracknell & Wokingham

Twitter: [@TVP_Wokingham](https://twitter.com/TVP_Wokingham)



THIS IS CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT

**DO NOT approach these individuals.
If you see this, call 999 immediately.**

www.thamesvalley.police.uk



35 Years Ago

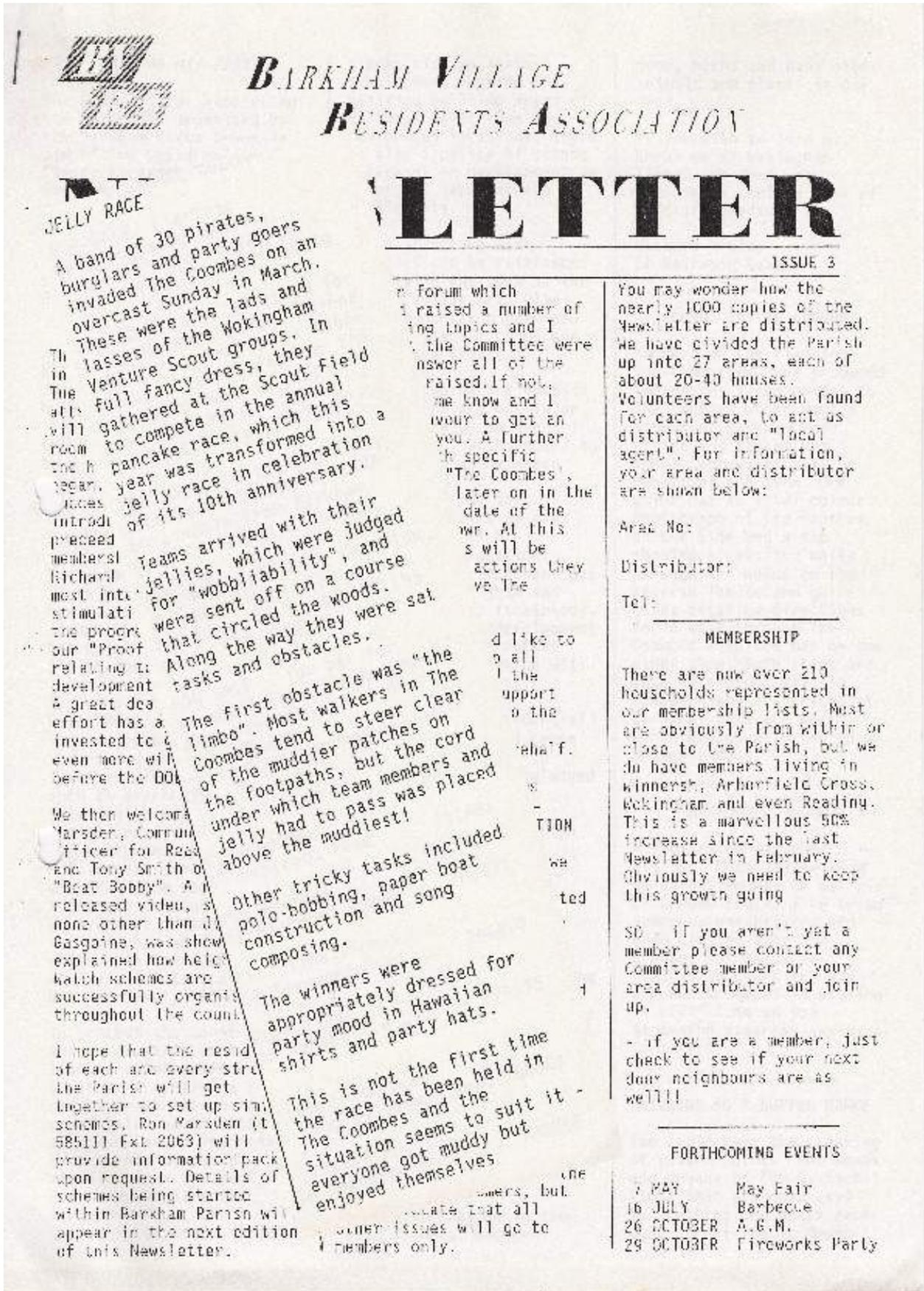
Whereas the first two issues were two pages, Issue 3 had more content and ran to four pages but still keyed in on a typewriter, photocopied and hand-stapled. Membership had risen to 210

households. We can see that the social scene was established with the May Fair, a barbecue and a fireworks party scheduled for later in the year. I noticed that residents were encouraged to put the dates in their diary or even in their 'Filofax'!

Remember those?

Perhaps the highlight was the 'Jelly Race'! Whatever happened to that!

Alan Edwards



Finchampstead Flower Club

FFC is for people who love flowers. We meet once a month to watch a demonstrator develop arrangements or for a workshop for ourselves. 2023 started well with Carol Bennett using a range of containers to demonstrate some of the flowers for sale in the new year, from Spring bulbs to orchids.

In February we held our AGM and look forward to another year of beautiful arrangements. These include Kate Thomas on March 27th (It's a flowery thing in Spring) and Caroline Golding "A rummage in the China cupboard" on April 24th. In May we will hold a club dinner and then on June 26th Stephanie Penikot will demonstrate flower arranging whilst "Working with Wood"

Each month some members enter the flower arranging competition (this is voluntary and provides lots of manageable ideas for displays at home). This year has been based upon Beatles song titles and "Twist and Shout" provided some brilliant entries.

Please phone the chair, Lis Barrett, 01189892092 if you would like to attend or just come to California Hall on the fourth Monday of the month at 7.45 for an 8pm start.

You can follow our activities at <https://bbandoflowers.org.uk/clubs/finchampstead/> or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Finchampstead-Flower-Club-2011434195620803/>

Kriss Turner



Farley Hill Bowls Club News

It is with much sadness and regret that I have to tell readers that Farley Hill Bowls Club closed down last October, due to a declining and ageing membership no longer being able to run the club and maintain the bowling green. We will finally leave the Victory Hall at the end of March.

We sincerely hope the Victory Hall Trustees will make best use of the bowling green without us. We are leaving enough essential bowling equipment to support their aim of adequately maintaining the green to encourage enough casual

bowlers from local U3As and other local organisations that want to hire the green for their individual use. Besides Lawn Bowls, the green has much potential for use as a croquet lawn, since the high standard of lawn maintenance required is much the same. They can and do work well together because croquet hoops only make small holes which helps to aerate the lawn.

Anyone interested in pursuing either of these sports at Farley Hill should now contact the Victory Hall via their website rather than me please.

Bill Dowling, retiring Secretary

Barkham Ladies Social Group

I'm pleased to say that the Ladies were able to meet each month in 2022 and since the last report (Winter newsletter) we have enjoyed our Christmas Party on December 7th, where once again there was a wonderful buffet of delicious festive food, both savoury and desserts. This was all provided by our lovely ladies who never disappoint. Judith's mulled wine went down very well too!

There was lots of chat, and we all signed a large Christmas Card to each other for which we made a donation to the 'Link Visiting Scheme' in Wokingham in lieu of sending our usual cards to each other. The Hall was decorated beautifully and with a Christmas Tree too, we had Christmas music, and a Secret Santa added to the fun, and we all went home with a gift.

For our January gathering we had a lunch at the Wheelwrights Arms in Hurst on the 4th when 19 ladies enjoyed a post-Christmas and New Year catch up.

February 1st saw us back in the Hall for our AGM and 'Silent Auction'. We reviewed the past year and revealed plans for the coming year, and the Auction raised funds for the Club.

Jenny, our Programme Secretary, has once again managed to book some excellent speakers and topics, to add to the Games Evening with Supper, and our Annual Summer BBQ.

For the March meeting we will be having a speaker whose topic is 'Monumental Britain - Facts, Folk and Footpaths'. This sounds intriguing!

In April we will have a Games Evening with a supper, and for the May Meeting Marjie Walker, the CEO of the Link Visiting Scheme, for whom we made our Christmas donation, will visit to tell us more about the work they do.

Future topics include 'Living

through the English Civil War in the Reading Area', when we invite the menfolk and friends along, Canals and Narrowboats, Malawi, and Nature and Wellbeing - so a diverse range of subjects.

Our Annual BBQ is in August when once again the menfolk and friends are invited too.

From April onwards one of our Ladies will hopefully be resuming her programme of *Walks with Lunch* which are arranged on different days each month and to a variety of local venues.

We meet at Barkham Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.45 for 8.00pm start, and have speakers or an event, followed by coffee/tea and biscuits and time for a chat.

We always welcome new members, so if you are thinking of joining us then please contact me, Shirley on 0118 978 9124, or by email:

shirleyannwarner@gmail.com

for more information.

Shirley Warner

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For more info please visit: www.barkhampreschool.net

CROWTHORNE Symphony ORCHESTRA

Our **Spring Concert** will be on **Saturday 25th March 2023 at 7.30pm** at **The Old Gym, Wellington College, Crowthorne**. Tickets are on sale via our website.

In addition to the wonderful **Violin Concerto** by **Sibelius** the programme will include **William Walton's "Spitfire Prelude and Fugue"**. Between 1934 and 1969 Walton wrote the music for 13 films. This piece was originally written for the 1942 film 'The First of the Few' which starred Lesley Howard and David Niven and tells the story behind the iconic WW2 aeroplane. Walton arranged his film score to create the stand-alone piece that has become one of his most well-known works, regularly heard on classical music radio channels. Much of it is in the style of a patriotic march reminiscent of Elgar's 'Pomp and Circumstance Marches' written about 40 years earlier. A very lively fugal section depicts the urgency of the making of the Spitfire, and the solo violin plays a lyrical tribute to its designer R.J. Mitchell.

Also in our programme is the tone poem "**The Pines of Rome**" by the Italian composer **Respighi**. Along with its sister piece "The Fountains of Rome" this is probably his best-known work, the four movements representing settings in different areas of Rome where pine trees are to be found. The concert will start with **Vaughan Williams' Overture "The Poisoned Kiss"**.

The orchestra is proud of its friendly reputation and welcomes new members, subject to vacancies - if you are interested in joining us, please get in touch. **Weekly rehearsals are on Mondays in term time from 7.45-10pm at Oaklands Junior School, Butler Road, Crowthorne**

Our website has information on concerts, tickets, rehearsals, workshops and more: www.crowthorneorchestra.com

Chris Gadsby



Trinity Concert Band The Music of Flight

- St Joseph's College, Upper Redlands Road, Reading
- Saturday 4th March 2023
- 7:00pm (doors open at 6:15pm)

Join Reading's award-winning Trinity Concert Band on a musical journey through the absorbing story of flight!

For thousands of years, humans have dreamed of taking to the skies. The quest has led from kite flying and hydrogen-powered hot-air balloons to daredevil flyers launching themselves into the air and onwards to supersonic flight and man's first steps on the moon.

The Music of Flight will feature a host of classical favourites and iconic music from the big screen that will take you on a musical journey through the trials and tribulations that have led to modern-day aviation and space flight, and will showcase Trinity Concert Band's incredible musicianship. Highlights include:

FLY ME TO THE MOON

633 SQUADRON

**THOSE MAGNIFICENT MEN
IN THEIR FLYING
MACHINES**

MARS: THE PLANETS

SPITFIRE PRELUDE

SUPERMAN

SKYFALL and many more!

With such an exciting repertoire performed by one of the UK's top community wind orchestras, The Music of Flight is a concert you won't want to miss – a musical delight for performers and audiences alike. So, whether or not you've experienced the thrill of live music, be sure to book your tickets for this spectacular concert.

Tickets for TCB newcomers, Ukrainian refugees and accompanied under 16s are free.

Tickets can be booked online at <https://www.trinityband.co.uk> or via the box office on 0118 4492099 (phone and WhatsApp).

Wokingham Choral Society

Spring Concert 2022 Saturday 18th March The Great Hall Reading University

Wokingham Choral Society is delighted to have begun rehearsals of a new and exciting programme of Italian Renaissance and Baroque music, under the direction of a new Musical Director, Cathal Garvey, and to be performed at 7.30 at The Great Hall, Reading University, on Saturday March 18th.

Those who heard our performance of his 1610 *Vespers* a few years ago will be keen to hear Monteverdi's dramatic 1630 setting of Psalm 112, *Beatus Vir*. Moving on in time into the Baroque age, we shall be performing Vivaldi's ever-popular *Gloria*, composed in 1715, and Pergolesi's hauntingly beautiful *Stabat Mater* of 1736, in an arrangement for choir (a

performance postponed from 2020). Further details of the concert can be found at www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk

Wokingham Choral Society is always pleased to welcome new members and anyone interested

in joining us at a rehearsal, on Thursdays at 7.30 at the Emmbrook School, please do contact our Membership Secretary through the website for more details about how to join our friendly and enthusiastic choir. We look forward to hearing from you!

WOKINGHAM CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS
Spring Concert
wfs

Vivaldi:
Gloria
Pergolesi:
Stabat Mater
Monteverdi:
Beatus Vir

Cathal Garvey Conductor
George de Voil Continuo

18th March 7.30pm

The Great Hall
University of Reading
London Road Campus
RG1 5AQ

registered charity 274853 www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk

Tickets £17.50
(£5 for students and under 18s)
Available in Wokingham from:
Town Hall Information Centre,
Newbury Building Society,
Jay Design & Print.

Also available
online: ticketsource.co.uk/wokingham-choral-society
order via email: tickets@wokingham-choral-society.org.uk
from choir members or at the door

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DINTON WALKING GROUP

‘The Talking Group that loves to Walk’

WHAT DOES THE GROUP DO?

We organise about 60 leisurely paced, pleasant 4-6 mile walks of various grades of difficulty, throughout the year. These are usually within a 10-15 mile radius of Wokingham but we also arrange some further afield & occasionally in London. We have an active programme of monthly meetings with entertaining speakers, social events including suppers, quizzes & a Christmas Lunch. Each year we nominate a charity for our fundraising events throughout the year. We also organise an annual walking holiday for our members.

OBJECT

The Group was formed to increase opportunities for all like-minded adults to gain safe access to the countryside & promote friendship amongst members by providing a regular programme of walks & related activities. No one will ever know the pleasure that walking & talking in the company a group can bring until it has been experienced.

HISTORY

The Group was formed in September 1999 under the auspices of Wokingham District Countryside Services by amalgamating the Women’s Walking Group & the Over 50s Mixed Walking Group. After 2 years the Group formed its own management committee & all walks are member devised & led. We are affiliated to The Ramblers’ Association.

WHERE & WHEN ARE MEETINGS HELD?

Walks are weekly, usually on a Tuesday at 10.30am, with various local start points & submitted by the members. These are communicated to the membership by our bi-monthly newsletter.

A monthly evening meeting is also arranged for members & although the group was originally formed at Dinton Pastures, we are now based at Barkham Village Hall & meet at 7.45pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

MEMBERSHIP

We are a mixed group with currently some 100 members of semi-retired/retired people who enjoy talking & walking. Usually an average of 25-30 members come along to each walk. The Group offers a very warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us for fresh air, exercise & companionship. However some may also prefer to walk quietly & safely within the group whilst enjoying the natural world. Anyone interested in walking with us is always welcome to come along & try us out before committing themselves. A Sample Walks Programme is available to view on our website, run for us by Winnersh Parish Council & can be seen at www.winnersh.gov.uk/dwg

Membership runs from 1st January & is currently £6 per annum. Contact

dintonwalkinggrp@yahoo.co.uk

if you are interested.

Handy Person

Required for Barkham Village Hall Charity

If you are community minded and enjoy practical DIY tasks then would you be able to help us with the maintenance of our Village Hall.

The tasks are as and when needed and include minor plumbing and electrical jobs as well as supervision of more major projects carried out by contractors.

Please Contact: Derek Oxbrough

doxbrough@hotmail.com

Tel: 01189 760578

BARKHAM DIARY

01/03/23	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7:30pm
08/03/23	Bonsai Club	BVH	7:30pm
14/03/23	Barkham Parish Council	AGCC	7:30pm
25/03/23	BVRA Skittles	BVH	7:00pm
27/03/23	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	8:00pm
05/04/23	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7:30pm
09/04/23	BVRA Easter Egg Hunt	Junipers	3pm
11/04/23	Barkham Parish Council	AGCC	7:30pm
12/04/23	Bonsai Club	BVH	7:30pm
24/04/23	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	8:00pm
03/05/23	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7:30pm
09/05/23	Barkham Parish Council	AGCC	7:30pm
10/05/23	Bonsai Club	BVH	7:30pm
12/05/23	Copy deadline for Summer Newsletter		
22/05/23	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	8:00pm
07/06/23	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7:30pm
13/06/23	Barkham Parish Council	AGCC	7:30pm
14/06/23	Bonsai Club	BVH	7:30pm
26/06/23	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	8:00pm
05/07/23	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7:30pm
11/07/23	Barkham Parish Council	AGCC	7:30pm
12/07/23	Bonsai Club	BVH	7:30pm
24/07/23	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	8:00pm

Quiz Answers

1.	Australia
2.	Tunisia
3.	Ecuador
4.	South Korea
5.	Belgium
6.	Canada
7.	Cameroon
8.	Saudi Arabia
9.	Denmark
10.	They all qualified to compete in the recent World Cup in Qatar!

Where in Barkham?

On the left-hand side of Barkham
Road walking towards the *Old
Leathern Bottel* on the edge of the
Village.

Weekly Events

Mondays	Pilates Class	BVH	10:00am
Mondays	Dog Training	BVH	6:30pm
Tuesdays	Rainbows	BVH	4:30pm
Tues-Fri	Barkham Pre-School	BVH	9:00am
Wednesdays	Art Class	BVH	7:30pm
Wednesdays	Brownies	BVH	5:30pm
Thursdays	Pilates Class	BVH	6:15pm
Thursdays	Karate	BVH	7:30pm

Location Codes

AGCC	Aborfield Green Community Centre
AVH	Arborfield Village Hall
BVH	Barkham Village Hall
CRH	California Ratepayers Hall
FMH	Finchampstead Memorial Hall

Contacts

Art Class	Kay Young	978 5177
Barkham Ladies Social Club	Shirley Warner	978 9124
Barkham Pre-School	preschoolbarkham@gmail.com	
Bonsai Club	berkshirebonsaiclub@gmail.com	
	www.berkshirebonsai.co.uk	
Barkham Village Hall Bookings	Christine Leigh	christine.leigh@btinternet.com

Contact the Editor if you would like to publish the dates of your events in this Diary or to update them.

BVRA Online

www.barkham.org.uk

Keep in touch - sign up

Direct Debit Set-up




Group









The home of live
music in Wokingham



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

Crazy Diamond - 50th Anniversary of 'Dark Side of the Moon' - Wednesday, March 1

Mark Harrison Band -Friday, March 10

The AC/DC Experience - Saturday, March 18

Oye Santana in concert - Friday, March 31

China Crisis in concert - Friday, April 14

STINGCHRONICITY: The Story of Sting & The Police - Friday, May 12

**The SOUNDS OF SIMON perform the music of Paul Simon and Simon & Garfunkel
- Friday, June 16**

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

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You can amend your mailing preferences or opt out at any time by clicking on the link at the foot of any of our emails or by 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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