



£1, free to Members

# Barkham Newsletter

Issue 145 Autumn 2023

from the Barkham Village Residents Association



## QUIZ NIGHT

**Saturday 21st Oct 2023**

**Fish & Chip Supper Included**

**Tickets available from Gill Powell**

**Email: [social@barkham.org.uk](mailto:social@barkham.org.uk)**

**LICENCED BAR**

**So you don't need to bring a bottle!**

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In accordance with its constitution the BVRA will hold its AGM at 7:30pm on Thursday 23rd November in Barkham Village Hall.

All residents of Barkham are welcome to attend.

Nominations for any post should reach the Chair by 2nd November

[chair@barkham.org.uk](mailto:chair@barkham.org.uk)

**In this issue...**

BVRA Chat	2	Borough Councillor	8	35 Years Ago	17
Editorial	3	Police	10	Social Matters	19
DevWatch	4	Wild about the Coombes	11	Societies	18
Church	5	Barkham Ladies Group	12	Music	20
Parish Council	6	Gardening	14		

Your distributor is:



## BVRA Chat

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter.

I am chair of the Social Team and for the next few months I am also chair of the BVRA team.

Since the retirement of our Borough Councillor, John Kaiser, Ian Pittock has been elected to replace him on

the Wokingham Borough Council. Ian very kindly offered to come along to our BVRA meeting to give us an update on matters concerning Barkham and is happy to continue to do so in future.

We have not held any social events since the last newsletter, apart from a BBQ to thank all the distributors who deliver this newsletter to you. You will see publicity for the other social events we have planned for this year elsewhere in this newsletter.

I hope the Autumn weather is better than we have had for most of the summer. Many places in The Coombes have once again turned to mud, but at least our gardens have enough water this year!

Gill Powell  
Acting Chair & Social Team Leader

## Children's Party

In the *35 Years Ago* article on Page 17 you will read about our first Children's Party. This event, held in January, was popular for many years.

We would now like to revive this event provided we can enlist the help of 3 - 4 parents to help us organise such an event.

If you think your children would enjoy a party and you would like to help organise it please contact me [social@barkham.org.uk](mailto:social@barkham.org.uk)

Gill Powell  
Social Team Leader

## BVRA COMMITTEE



Vacant, currently Rotating Chair  
[chairman@barkham.org.uk](mailto:chairman@barkham.org.uk)



**Dave Clements**  
Webmaster & Membership Admin  
Interim DevWatch  
[webmaster@barkham.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@barkham.org.uk)



**Alan Edwards**  
Newsletter Editor  
[newsletter@barkham.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@barkham.org.uk)



**Louise Goldring**  
Membership



**Simon Goldring**  
Membership



**Steve Young**  
Treasurer  
[treasurer@barkham.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@barkham.org.uk)



**Gill Powell**  
Chair of Social Team  
[social@barkham.org.uk](mailto:social@barkham.org.uk)



**Peter Ainscough**  
Social Team



**Jim Butler**  
Social Team



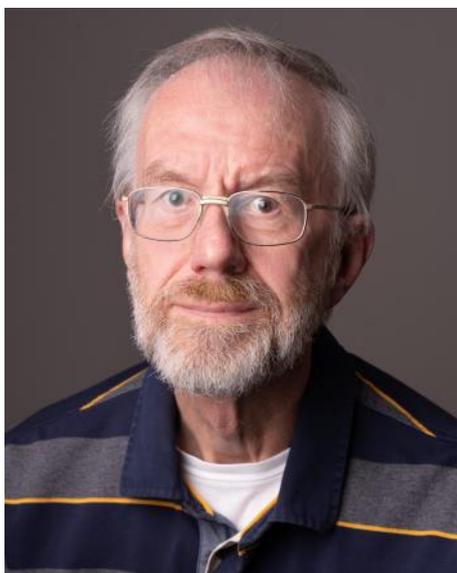
**Peter Jay**  
Social Team



**Shirley Warner**  
Social Team  
Liaises with Barkham Village Hall Committee



**Cathy Whittington**  
Social Team



## Editorial

In this issue we welcome the first wide-ranging contribution from our new Borough Councillor, Ian Pittock on Page 8.

## 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](mailto:newsletter@barkham.org.uk) by the deadlines shown below.

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

These are the second Fridays in February, May, August and November.

## 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](mailto:newsletter@barkham.org.uk) by the deadlines above.

Another new contributor is Derek Oxborough, who joins me as a gardening contributor. In his first occasional article, he has written about the *Veg Plot Invaders* on Page 15.

Another new regular contributor is Pam Stubbs with a recipe for *tea bread* on Page 22. Pam also happens to chair our Parish Council - clearly a lady with many skills!

In *Wild About the Coombes*, we find out about the diversity of wildlife in the Coombes.

On the music scene take a look at the concerts, see Pages 20 & 21.

## Email Updates

We send emails to keep you informed of social and planning activity between issues of this Newsletter. If you would like to enrol to our email messaging services then [please sign up here](#)

<https://tinyurl.com/448muy4>



## BVRA Membership

The Spring and Autumn issues are sent to all residents as we collect our subscriptions for the year. This issue and the next are delivered to only the fully paid-up membership of the BVRA which now stands at 627 a slight increase on last year. We are grateful for your support.

Note that we have our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 23rd November. See full details on the front page of this issue.

## Where in Barkham?



Answer on Page 23

## DevWatch Update

The last quarter has seen two new proposals of significant interest.

- A formal application has been submitted to WBC for the creation of a mobile home park on Commonfield Lane adjacent to the entrance to California Country Park. **See our DevWatch notice to the right, which shows what a typical DevWatch alert looks like.**
- A consultation on behalf of Anwyl Land inviting comment on a proposal to build up to 50 new homes off Langley Common Road

BVRA believe neither of these developments should go ahead. DevWatch alerts were issued for both and can be viewed on our website. In respect of the Anwyl consultation we advised caution in making comments as it could play into their hands when submitting a formal application, allowing them to say objections had been addressed.

The proposed Arborfield community centre is still under review and progressing very slowly. See more on Pages 6 and 9.

The proposed major developments at Edneys Hill and Blagrove Lane are still under review by WBC.

Our DevWatch mailing list has over 1200 subscribers – if you would like to join, you can sign up at <https://www.barkham.org.uk/barkham/keep-in-touch-with-bvra>

If you become aware of any potential developments, we are here to help and can be contacted at [development@barkham.org.uk](mailto:development@barkham.org.uk)

## Proposed Park Homes Site Commonfield Lane

It remains relatively quiet on the development front in Barkham with both the Edney's Hill and Blaygrove developments still with WBC for review. There is also no update regarding the Instalcom appeal held earlier this year. More details regarding all of these can be found in the DevWatch section of the BVRA website - <https://barkham.org.uk/devwatch>

We have just been made aware of a new application for a proposed park homes site on Commonfield Lane, Barkham. The proposal is to demolish the existing properties and replace with 14 static mobile homes. The site is located at the Biggs Lane end of Commonfield Lane adjacent to the path leading to California Country Park.

Although small and utilising an existing property, if approved this bring yet more housing to Barkham. Full plans are available on the WBC planning portal at: <https://planning.wokingham.gov.uk/FastWebPL/detail.asp?AltRef=231330>

Comments can be made to WBC using the link above and should be submitted by July 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Kind Regards**  
**BVRA**

## Sunshine Gardening Services

*"Making gardens more beautiful"*



For all your gardening  
and landscaping needs

Rely on an efficient and  
friendly service

Please call 0118 979 2291  
[www.sunshinegardening.com](http://www.sunshinegardening.com)  
10 Mallow Grove, Warfield, Bracknell RG42 5AR



## St James' Barkham Hope Explored

*'What is our only hope in life and in death?'*

How would you answer that question? Just think about it for a moment. It is a searching question and one to which we may feel it is just not possible to have an answer.

Life is so full of uncertainty. The last few years have taught us that more than we would have wanted with the

pandemic being followed by political turmoil at home, events in Ukraine and the cost of living crisis. We used to look to authority figures to inspire hope, but our confidence in leaders seems to be at an all-time low. And as for death... surely that is where hope ultimately ends. We don't like to think about it.

Except... we can never fully suppress the human need for hope. Don't we long to know that life has purpose? Don't we long to know peace in our hearts and to know that death is not the end? A verse in the Bible says, God 'has set eternity in the human heart.' What that suggests is that the longing we have in our hearts is a clue, pointing to a hope that really can be found.

The question with which I began is the first in a recently produced modern 'catechism' – a series of questions and answers that try to capture the most important beliefs held by Christians throughout history and around the world. The answer that follows is this: 'That

we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our saviour Jesus Christ.'

Jesus says he can give us hope that cannot be found anywhere else. Have you ever looked into his claims? At Barkham Church we welcome anyone who wants to find out more, as well as those who already have faith. Join us any Sunday at 10am or 6pm. And you can also look out for a short course we run from time to time, 'Hope Explored' which provides a bit more time to focus on these things more closely. All details via the website [www.abch.org/barkham](http://www.abch.org/barkham)

Julian Bidgood  
Minister of Barkham



## Barkham Village Hall

Barkham Village Hall has operated as a registered Charity successfully in its current location in Church Lane Barkham for over 35 years. Its main purpose is to act as community hub for the local area to support many regular clubs, groups, activities, and to act as a venue for family functions and weddings. Currently the Hall is almost solidly booked until the end of this year and with bookings stretching into 2024.

The Hall is run by a Management Committee consisting of officers, trustees, and some user group

representatives. Our financial situation is currently very good and we have a regular program of refurbishment and improvements to the Hall's facilities.

After the untimely death of our Chairman, Chris Burrows, two years ago the Hall has operated under the control of the Vice Chairman, Derek Oxbrough, who has recently suffered two bouts of ill health and has decided to step down at our AGM in January 2024.

**This means there is a desperate need to fill the Chairperson's position in the new year.**

If you are recently retired, or about to retire, and are looking for an interesting and absorbing task supporting the local community of Barkham then this position could be for you. Why not come along to one of our meetings to see what we are all about and how the Hall operates.

For more details please contact: one of the trustees:

Judith Neuhofer on 0118 979 0296 or 07770980361 or  
Christine Leigh on 0118 977 4333





## An Update from Barkham Parish Council

Barkham Parish Council have been working consistently to preserve the environment for our existing residents, we look at every Planning Application to assess the impact on surrounding residents, referencing the current Planning guidelines. It is a constant balancing act to keep as many home owners content with their surroundings within Planning Rules. We have a duty to keep our local roads safe for those who walk, cycle and those who have to drive. It is a challenge and we rely on our residents to let us know when we have got it wrong as much a WBC rely on us to do the same for them.

Barkham Playing Fields (Juniper Fields) is one success story. During the Covid outbreak and lock down it proved to be a safe haven for dog walkers and parents with children. We were able to meet, talk and, at the same time remain socially distant. The play apparatus area is excellent, although the wooden apparatus is apparently in danger of weakening and some has been removed, we hope, to be replaced soon. The playing field is no longer under water - after many investigations on both sides of the field, multiple leaking drains were found and repaired!

Arborfield Green boasts several SANGS, areas of open green space, but have also been promised a District Centre with a supermarket and other shops and a Pub based close to the village centre. There have been plans brought forward for a Community Centre, which, it is hoped will have multiple large areas, 1 providing a library, coffee shop,

Hairdressers, and many other facilities for all visitors, plus a Parish Office for Barkham Parish Council. We are also hoping that we might be able to find a new home for a Medical Centre and the Swimming Pool which is believed to still be in future plans.

We would love to hear from all of our Parishioners. Tell us again, as you did in the survey for the Neighbourhood plan, what would you like in the facilities. Send an email to [clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk) or join us at the next Parish Council Meeting September 12<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm in the Studio Room, in the old Community Centre, accessible from Princess Marina Drive.

Pam Stubbs, Chairman

### Arborfield Green Community Centre

In April 2023, Planning Application 230872 was submitted by Crest Nicholson regarding the proposed Arborfield Green District Centre which included converting the former library building for use as the new community centre.

Following comments received from that initial consultation several reviews have taken place including a third party Design Review Panel - a revised Planning Application under the same number is now available for further consultation. Many of the changes, most of which relate to layout, are positive but the question about the suitability of repurposing the former library building has not been addressed.

The success of a community centre does not just depend on having bricks and mortar but the ambience and layout of the building is important to attract users and to create a safe and relaxing environment. It is not certain that the current proposals for adapting this legacy building and its position will achieve all these goals. During several meetings with WBC on the subject, it became evident that another use of the this building is

being considered as an extension to Bohunt School. This was picked up in an article in the 02 Aug 2023 edition of Wokingham News where a member of the WBC Executive Committee expressed the view that this would not be resolved until October or November of this year.

It is difficult to see how this application can be determined with so much up in the air. WBC have a dilemma – there is a desperate need to facilitate the construction of the much promised and long overdue supermarket whilst taking time out to resolve and optimise these other issues. Can they be decoupled?

Graeme Dexter

### Barkham & Fly-Tipping

It hardly needs saying that fly-tipping is one of the fastest ways of trashing a locality, it's a palace for vermin, dangerous liquids can drain into water courses, and glass, lensing the sun's rays, is a fire risk.

Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) are doing sterling work combating this detestable practice, with prompt pickups and other measures.

But there is always room for improvement, for example, see the article in the local paper regarding the introduction of AI for automatic detection of vehicle registration numbers. Barkham Parish Council are considering financing WBC for additional measures to be taken in our parish as we have particular tipping hot spots.

This would not increase your rates as the moneys would come from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allocated to Barkham Parish for the new builds here.

You, yourself, can help. If you see a fly-tip please take a photo of it and send it (with location details) to the Clerk of the Parish Council [Clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:Clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk).

Alternatively report it yourself via <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/waste-collection/fly-tipping>

Allan Wrobel

## Road Safety Activities

Speeding on our roads is a major concern to many residents. In an attempt to improve road safety and to educate drivers to observe the speed limits, the Parish Council now have 4 Vehicle Activation Signs (VAS) which are deployed throughout Barkham. These are sophisticated Speed Watch signs that can graphically display driver's speeds when approached and is programmed to display a full range of messages, such as 'Thank You' in Green if within the limit or 'Too fast' in Red if more than 10% over the limit. The intention is to periodically move the devices around the Parish. Currently 3 are battery operated with one on Barkham Street being solar powered. This is an ideal location for a Solar device as it faces a southerly direction without being blocked by any overhanging trees. Barkham Road is an unsuitable location for Solar but with support from WBC the intention will be to mains power one of these from a lamp post, This will avoid continually recharging the battery.

As mentioned previously, a new automated Community Speed Watch (CSW) scheme has been introduced by Thames Valley Police (TVP). This is a national initiative to educate drivers to reduce speeding through communities based on the image capture of vehicles exceeding the speed limit (by 10% +2). This replaces the former Speed Watch scheme and eliminates the need to manually record vehicle details while on site. It provides a much higher degree of accuracy requiring less volunteers at each speed watch session.

A portable tripod-mounted radar camera will take images of speeding vehicles with the time, location, licence number and speed superimposed. At the end of each session, this will be reviewed, and the information passed to TVP so they can automatically generate warning letters to be sent to those offending motorists. BPC's Road



Safety Committee (RSC) has joined the CSW online scheme and have recently purchased their Radar Camera which is approved by TVP. They are now trialling the scheme and going through the training process. Once members of the RSC are comfortable with it, the intention will be to roll this out to other speed watch volunteers who wish to join as operators.

Chris Heyliger

## 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 presents for anyone who is new to the area and does not already own one.



# An Update from our Borough Councillor - Ian Pittock



This is an opportunity for me to report back to the residents of Barkham, hopefully, in as non-political a way as possible. I plan on updating you with matters from WBC, including where we are working with Crest, early thoughts on potential new projects, but also to address misconceptions or concerns that have been expressed.

Changes to the draft Local Plan Update covering future housing needs and sites are now well underway with work having continued through the summer break. All sites proposed by developers are being assessed for suitability. We will shortly consider the pool of suitable sites to make decisions on which should go into the plan. It is expected that the draft will be passed by the Council in November and published for examination by the government's Planning Inspectorate, at this point a new 5-year land supply will be recognised which should stop speculative planning applications. The following local sites have been put forward by developers: Hall Farm (up to 4,500 homes), Barkham Square (up to 800), Ducks Nest Farm (270), Blagrove Lane (370), 33 Barkham Road (37) and Commonfield Lane (mobile homes and a GRT site for 14 pitches). Two versions of the plan are being prepared, one that takes into account the previous over-provision of 2000 houses in the borough by the previous administration and a second that does not. Which gets put forward is dependent upon what statement Whitehall makes in the Autumn regarding previous over-provision. To avoid any chance of what is called 'pre-determination', I am unable to comment on any of these sites

until the new draft Local Plan Update comes up for approval by the Council.

Now that Rooks Nest Farm will no longer have houses, there is a plan for its use (for a map, see the Facebook Page – Save Rooks Nest). The site is now to contain a Covid Memorial Wood, which may be extended from the California Greenway up to Barkham Ride to screen the houses. There will be two Special needs schools built with 200 pupils in total, each dealing with a different set of disabilities and catering for 6<sup>th</sup> formers. These are a result of a DfE competition which is providing the funds. Other sites in the borough were considered but the time limits set by DfE ruled these out. There will be a purpose-built entrance off Barkham Ride with parking and drop off zones. Land behind the small number of houses opposite Rooks Nest Country Park is likely to be used for such as allotments which may also make use of the existing sheds at the farm entrance. I have asked for one of these sheds to be made available for Men-With-Sheds which retired men use for mutual support activities. An area is set aside for a solar farm. This was about to start building a few months ago when the National Grid threw a spanner in the works. The national problems with connecting to the grid are being worked through with some changes to regulatory requirements that state projects are handled on a first come basis, even if only an initial idea rather than shovel-ready like our project. There seems to be some very good news coming regarding this.

The planning application for houses at Edneys Hill is with officials. A recommendation for acceptance or refusal is expected to be made in September. I and a resident's group will speak against acceptance if it goes to the planning committee.

The two log drying kilns near land next to, but not part of, Bailiff Cottage have been relocated. This will stop smoke billowing across Barkham road and into surrounding homes. Officials have visited the film studios on Langley Common Road to remind the owners of the planning restrictions in force. There were complaints regarding

levels of noise and hours of operation of the generators.

Congratulations to Barkham Parish Council for funding improvements to footpath BA10 from the rear of Rooks Nest Country Park to Barkham Church, even though it belongs to WBC.

A full greenway route is expected to be built from Doles Lane via Barkham Church, across Rooks Nest Farm near the new Freely Fruity site to Biggs Lane. This is part of providing an off-road walking and cycling route from the village to the new District Centre and Bohunt School. The Freely Fruity site is a nursery for fruit trees which will then be sent onto orchards to grow on for the provision of free fruit to food banks; it was opened by Sir Ed Davey in April.

My colleague David Cornish has formally requested an improved crossing of Biggs Lane for walkers and cyclists using the California Greenway exiting onto Commonfield Lane then through Hazebrouck to the rear of Bohunt School, along with an upgrade for the path. I have formally requested a light controlled crossing of Biggs Lane north of Baston Road for those attending Farley Hill Primary School. Surveys will be carried out in September and need to take account of the tripling of pupil numbers currently underway. I have also asked officials if the cycling proficiency courses run (often in the summer term) for Y6 pupils can be brought forward to Y5 so that pupils can cycle to primary school for at least a year. One popular misconception is that Council Tax is spent on cycle paths when in reality none is spent. Funds for cycle paths comes from developer contributions for housing they build and using specific grants from various government sources. I have also asked for the entire length of Langley Common Road and Barkham Road to be classed as 30mph.

Some residents of Arborfield Green and Finchwood are preferring to park on the road outside their property rather than the allocated spaces at the rear of houses and blocks of flats. Some roads have had or will have yellow lines painted; this is to stop arterial routes used, or planned to be used, by buses from being blocked by parked cars.

The planning application for the District Centre is proceeding, with some changes having been submitted. This is expected to go before the planning committee sometime in the Autumn. Crest continues to work with Sainsbury's, with a planning application being prepared. Crest is in discussion with an unspecified publican. The planning application for the Sports Pavilion has been rejected and is being re-worked. The design for this is subject to Sports England guidelines. This will be for all sports with an all-sports management committee, not for one sport and one club. Although it will probably contain a kitchen, it will not operate a public café in competition with the pub and community centre. Consideration is being given to whether the MOD Library (aka Apprentice College) should be modified for use as a replacement community centre or a new build constructed instead; this is dependent upon another possible use for the MOD Library. Crest is finally commencing work on the area around the balancing lake in Watermans Close which is to be tidied up and the footpaths made useable; this is likely to take some months.

I started the campaign in 2005 for what became Bohunt School. This was intended to be for local children as residents were heartily fed-up busing children across and out of the borough to schools. We handed in a petition in 2006 and it went quiet despite periodic nudging. I joined the non-political Finchampstead Parish Council in 2010 and was then asked to stand for WBC in 2012 with an opportunity to progress the school. A number of councillors were involved in various ways in providing the school. I was given responsibility for day to day work with the parents group, officials and some contractors, Executive Members and the Schools Forum; I was also on the panel selecting Bohunt Trust to run the school. The school opened in 2016 using the MOD Library as we were still constructing the new building. This was designed as an F-shaped building on top of an E-shaped foundation and was for 1000 GCSE pupils (200 pa) and 200 6<sup>th</sup> formers (100 pa). The extra foundation was in expectation that the school would need another wing in the future to cater for additional pupils due to further housing in the area beyond that then known in the Local Plan. Shortly after opening,

Bohunt Trust requested that the DfE allow the school to increase the GCSE intake from 200 to 240, this was against the wishes of WBC. This was agreed even though it had a financial impact on other borough schools given that money follows pupils. This also used up the space that was intended for use as a 6<sup>th</sup> form such that when Y11 wanted to go up to 6<sup>th</sup> form they could not do so at Bohunt. Since then, Bohunt Trust and WBC (of both administrations) have been struggling to provide additional capacity for 6<sup>th</sup> formers and potentially more GCSE pupils, along with facilities for special needs pupils. Joint funding and a project was agreed in March 2022 by the previous administration, but which then quickly ran into a problem. Costs escalated from £5.8m to over £10m for the extra wing due to the project having been under specified, very high inflation of construction material costs due to energy prices arising from the Ukraine War, increased labour costs and general financial problems resulting from action by a certain short termed Prime... well you know the rest.

Back in about 2014, I had suggested keeping the MOD Library available for

a 6<sup>th</sup> form as insurance for the future. After being away for 3 years, when I returned to the council in May and was made aware of the problems in providing the 6<sup>th</sup> form promised for 2023, I proposed using the MOD Library to break the impasse. This would reduce immediate capital costs and retain the extra wing for a later expected expansion due to additional housing in the area. This is now being pursued along-side a revised option for the new wing, which if this latter option were chosen would not open until 2026. Apologies to anyone else who had been proposing the MOD Library as this had not cut through to decision makers of any party. A report to and decision by the Executive Committee will need to be made before the end of October to allow for 6<sup>th</sup> form applications to be submitted by parents before the end of October 2023 for admission in September 2024, using the MOD Library. I hope we can now get this done as our long held desire to stop busing pupils across and outside the borough needs to be extended to 6<sup>th</sup> formers, regardless of history. I would also like to finish what I started.

## The Quiz

I hope you have been enjoying the holiday season. In this issue the theme of the quiz is about places you might have visited on holiday, or perhaps not!

1. What is the largest city on the island of Vancouver
2. Mahe and Praslin are the largest islands in which group?
3. The ownership of which island is shared between France and the Netherlands
4. The government of which island is called Tynwald
5. Emperor Napoleon was exiled to which island in 1814?
6. The Isaac Newton optical telescope was originally installed in Herstmonceux Castle in Sussex in 1967. To which island was it moved in 1984?
7. Which island sold its top-level internet domain name for commercial use and what is this domain name?
8. Which island produces 75% of the world's vanilla?"?
9. Stanley is the capital of which islands?
10. Of which island is Sapporo the capital?

*Answers on Page 23*

# Rural Crime Update



Thames Valley Police are seeing an increase of reported thefts in rural areas.

To keep your belongings safe, please consider the below advice:

- mark your tools and equipment and register them
- keep a record of all valuable items
- lock equipment away in a secure building or part of a building when not in use
- secure tack rooms
- invest in a secure storage toolbox
- install a burglar alarm on buildings where equipment is kept
- always lock vehicles when left outside and keep the keys in your possession
- keep expensive items and vehicles out of sight when not in use
- consider using hitch locks, wheel clamps or ground anchors
- consider fitting outside security lights

Owners of Land Rover Defenders are being urged to take sensible security measures to protect their iconic vehicles which are being

targeted by rural criminals and organised gangs who also dismantle them for parts. To help protect your vehicle, please consider the below advice:

- Keep the vehicle locked at all times when not in use
- Fit an accredited alarm for security and a tracking device to locate your vehicle if stolen
- Fit a mechanical immobiliser such as a steering wheel or pedal lock
- Thieves will often target component parts so consider marking them using a forensic marking solution or system
- Keep the vehicle in a lockable building if possible, or park in well-lit areas which are overlooked
- Have the vehicle identification number etched on windows
- Consider fitting a hidden battery isolation or a fuel cut-off switch
- Take photographs of unusual features, modifications, damage or repairs which could aid identification if stolen
- Ensure any valuables are removed from the vehicle
- Don't share information on social media which could indicate where Land Rovers are kept
- For modern vehicles, keep electronic keys in a faraday pocket or signal blocking box at night

Please contact us if you have any information relating to crime in your neighbourhood. Report online at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk) or call us on 101. Always dial 999 in an emergency.

Alternatively, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on free phone 0800 555 111.



## 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 & Friday 9am - 4.30pm.

**Telephone:** 0118 969 6369

**Email:** [info@me2club.org.uk](mailto:info@me2club.org.uk)

**Address:** Me2 Club, Unit 9, Indigo House, Fishponds Road,



## Wild About the Coombes

The Coombes is home to a wide range of flora and fauna. Left to itself to develop as a natural habitat, without too much human interference, it has established an amazingly diverse and successful ecosystem.

The subject of biodiversity was covered to a limited extent in the application for the Coombes to be formally recognised as Ancient Woodland at the beginning of 2019. This was a joint submission by the Arborfield & Newland and Barkham Parish Councils, across whose boundaries the woodland spreads. Being midwinter, with most plant species dormant and many animals in hibernation, the Parish Councils relied on studies that had been carried out for other reasons by such bodies as the local Wildlife Trust (BBOWT), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association (WDVTA).

Using this available information as a starting point, I set about building a more comprehensive list of wild species in the Coombes. Largely from my own amateur observations, and those of other local enthusiasts who joined the endeavour, I recorded sightings of flora and fauna in the Coombes as the year progressed. Until then, I had barely noticed many of the individual types of plant that I had been passing for so many years. Now I found myself deeply engrossed, trying to identify the various species by name.

For each sighting, the species name, location seen, by whom, and the date were logged. Where available, a photograph was also saved. Many a time I had to return home to get a camera and re-find a specimen I had come across.

It surprised me how short the period is that most plants are in flower and the order that this happens. To thrive, they have to attract suitable pollinators to come and drink their nectar. It is not to their advantage if they flower when there is too much competition from other plants trying to attract the same types of insect. Nor is it worth staying in flower after the pollen has been taken. As for the sequence of flowering, I didn't previously realise, for example, that Wood Anemones tend to come earlier than Bluebells. I'm not even sure that I would have recognised an anemone, let alone put a name to it before 2019.

In most cases I was eventually able to identify each plant. One flower that I have failed with has five mauve petals that appear to be riveted in place. If you can tell me what it is in the photograph of a flower, taken in mid-April, I hope you will get in touch. [Ed: contact the editor]



When the first year had passed, I started to see the same species again. Because I was not all that sure whether I had seen them before or what they were called, I found myself going through the process all over again. But more often than not, there they were, already on the species list. They say that every cloud has a silver lining, and that held true for the pandemic. Just as the second time through the seasons was getting under way, the cycle was broken by lock-down.

The list of species that I have compiled has over 1000 entries spanning more than 430 distinct species. There are 41 fungi, 10 lichen, 254 plant and 129 animal species. Of the animals, there are 73 birds, 37 insects, 15 mammals and 4 others. But that only scratches the surface of the total ecosystem in The Coombes. The list so far includes no slugs or worms, creepy crawlies that break down dead matter or any bacteria. All told, there must be many thousands of different species that live their life in The Coombes.

As we move into autumn, fungi will be coming into their own. Turkeytail is particularly common, especially



on fallen trees, while Fly Agaric is ever popular with its spotted red cap



and association with fairies. Both are pictured, with some keys alongside a broken Fly Agaric to give a sense of its size.

Joe Wild



We are still a very active social group with monthly meetings of events and speakers.

June saw us having a visit again from Chris Rhodes who very kindly brought forward his planned September talk when our speaker couldn't visit at short notice.

His talk - 'Our Children's Earth - building the soil, sustaining the future' was very thought provoking about how we can all do our bit to help with the very possible problems we could face in the future. Our planet is definitely at risk!

In July, another returning speaker, Kevin Little, gave us his talk on 'Canals and Narrowboats'. This was very interesting as most of us present hadn't realised just how many canals there are in the UK! Nearly all of us had travelled on canals and indeed on Narrowboats at some time, and were surprised to hear of Kevin's extensive time spent on so many canals.

In true Summer tradition in August we held our Annual BBQ at the Hall, and despite torrential rain throughout the day, and the thought at one stage that it wouldn't take place, a total of 28 ladies, husbands and friends all did have a great time.

We tucked into great chicken, burgers and sausages, and some lovely salads prepared by some of our ladies, followed by tasty desserts.

We did have to eat in the main Hall



though, while our wonderful chefs , Laurence, Peter and Paul (pictured) cooked on the terrace under the shelter of a gazebo!

This year was a sharp contrast to last year when we were outside on the grassed area the whole evening on a lovely warm evening till the sun went down - that's our summers for you! Many thanks go to our chefs for the wonderful cooking and the ladies for their delicious salads.

Marilyn, one of our ladies arranged a walk on May 18th, the one which had been postponed from March because of rain. This was to the Trilakes/ Horseshoe lakes near Yateley, with afternoon tea at the cafe at the end of the walk. See pic at the foot of the page.

Sadly June was too hot, and July too wet for walks, but there might be more arranged before late Autumn, weather permitting.

We have speakers booked for September, October and November covering topics of 'The Secrets of Colour', 'Malawi-Culture and Country', and 'Nature and Wellbeing'.

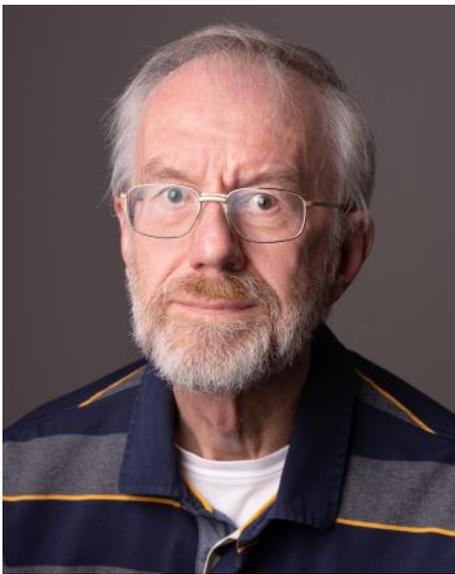
In December we will end the year with our usual Christmas Party when the ladies all bring some food to share, we will have mulled wine and take part in a 'Secret Santa'.

We will all feel in a festive mood after this !

We meet at the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30-7.45 pm, and enjoy friendship and a varied programme of speakers and events, and refreshments too, and we also have the occasional lunch out. We warmly welcome new members so for more information about joining the Ladies Group please contact Shirley Warner on: 0118 978 9124 or by email on [shirleyannwarner@gmail.com](mailto:shirleyannwarner@gmail.com)

Shirley Warner  
Chairperson





## Alan's Patch

Last time, I mentioned that my water storage tanks were full after all the rain in the winter and spring, but in June there was a prolonged dry spell and suddenly they were about a third full. Now, with the return of the rain in July and continuing into August, the tanks are full again! This has made for great growing conditions, especially for the weeds! We really do need some proper summer to ripen the fruit and squashes.

I had a high quality crop of broad beans but with my autumn sown seeds perishing in the cold winter spells, I had just the spring sown batch making the cropping season shorter.

In the greenhouse, a self-seeded tomato plant is growing alongside the deliberate ones so I'm letting that grow to see how well it performs. Aubergines are behind where they should be because of slug damage earlier, the same with the cucumber which I had to re-sow.

Butternut squash are developing



nicely. They need plenty of sun for them to ripen, but will we get it?!

Courgettes have been cropping well since the middle July. I just love their beautiful flowers, also yellow.



I normally rely on perpetual spinach but the true spinach has grown really well this year. Tasting them side by side, true spinach does taste a little better but I am happy to eat either and the longevity of the perpetual variety is very appealing, as it can be eaten into early winter and again the following spring - good value!

Sweet corn is delicious but one badger has already paid a visit and damaged three plants! I closed off the opening and it has not appeared since. I lost three plants in this first



attack. As you will see in Derek's column opposite, he has taken a different approach to dealing with badgers!

I've given up on my battle with the gooseberry sawfly! The broad bean distraction has had only limited success. I get a good crop each season despite the ravages that defoliate the plants until they re-grow.

Despite the cold spring the apple blossom was unaffected and there are lots and lots of apples.

In early July I thinned them drastically keeping only the best.

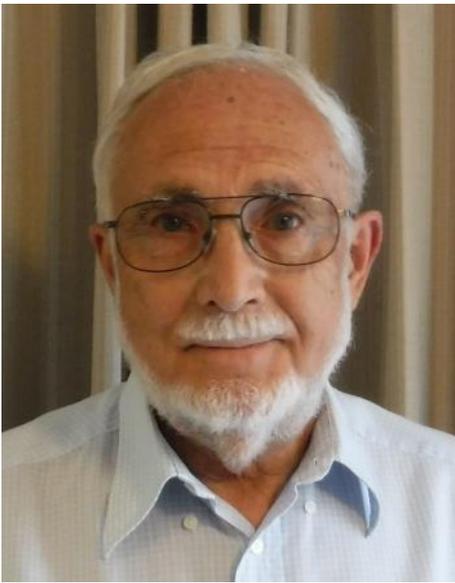


I even found conjoined twins!



Finally I am enjoying how my new patch of ornamental grasses are developing. I love how they sway in the wind.





pellets down. Not sure why as he does not eat the pellets, but maybe he is searching for the chicken.

Last year for the first time my Sweetcorn started to disappear just as it was ready for harvesting. It was all done fairly neatly at night and the central husks were left intact. Humans, deer, or the local fox was my first thought so I started to put some lightweight fencing around them for protection. This made no difference so a taller and stronger fence was erected. The devastation continued, so I put out a “nature camera” and then caught the culprit in the act.

This year, again for the first time, there was different issue with a much smaller predator. The small Pea plants started to be nibbled away and disappear overnight. The Peas plants are in a netted over cage to keep out the birds, as finches particularly like them so they were not suspects. In the end the “nature camera” was put to use again and the culprit was identified.



## Veg Plot Invaders

There is a joy in growing your own vegetables as the taste is so much better than supermarket version. For example, you can smell carrots as you take them out of the ground and they are really sweet. This also applies to Potatoes, Peas, Sweet Corn, Radish, and Runner Beans. There is also a deep satisfaction in looking at a plate of food where everything is home grown except for the meat.

However, there are certain obstacles and challenges that you need to face, but in the end, this teaches you to have a lot of patience. The weather is the main thing to contend with, particularly this year, with a very cold Winter followed by a very wet Spring and then a very hot/dry early summer meant that many plants did not grow or germinate first time around and had to be re-planted or re-sown.

Then there are the plant predators, from small aphids, caterpillars and other bugs, to the larger creatures that invade the Veg Plots. We have a local fox who regularly tries to destroy our rubbish bags but other wise does not do much harm except for digging holes in the Veg Plots after I have put chicken manure



This year I have installed a low electric fence round the Sweetcorn raised bed as this seems to be the

It was later found that the mice were using the vacant mole tunnels, because this year, so far, unusually we have not seen a single mole hill. I wonder if the moles were killed off by the by extreme cold last winter as the end of our garden reached -12 Centigrade every night for a good week just before Christmas. But the lack of moles is good news for the Veg Plots as they often dig their tunnels directly under each row of seedlings, that I had planted so that the plants lacked water as it was



advised solution to badger attacks. It is suggested that once they get a small electric shock they do not return. I will wait and see what happens.

taken away by the tunnels. I wonder what next year’s predator/s will be!!!

Derek Oxborough



## A Focus on Healthspan

There's lots of debate about if and how we might live longer. But there's less discussion about how long we maintain our health – and if you look at the averages recorded by the UK office for national statistics, there is a big difference between the average UK lifespan and healthspan.

My healthspan is how many years I spend with vitality, free of disabling ill health. If I follow the averages, I'll spend the last 15-20 years of my life with some disability due to ill health.

I don't find that statistic very encouraging! But what is encouraging is that when you look at what contributes to our healthspan, it's mostly within our influence. We might not be able to change our genes, but for almost everything else, how we live can have a massive impact on our healthspan - and the expression of many of our genes is influenced by how we live too.

There is encouragement to eat well, exercise and get enough sleep to support our wellbeing. But I think it's easy to miss that as well as supporting short-term wellbeing; this advice is also the foundation for healthspan, an investment in avoiding the diseases of ageing. One of the sure things about ageing is that, left to their own devices, our bodies and minds will deteriorate. But it is not all inevitable! What you do now impacts how you will be in years to come.

We could say if you want vitality in your final decade, whenever that is, ensure you exercise, make space for your sleep and eat the best quality food you can afford.

How can I say this? Most of the issues that lead to illness in our final years develop slowly, over decades. For example, cardiovascular diseases and dementias are by far the two most common reasons we leave this mortal coil – both are diseases that typically take decades to develop.

I don't want to head too far down a maudlin path because, irrespective of the statistics, I want to encourage you to actively invest in your healthspan – no matter your current health or age.

And congratulations if you're already on a healthspan-sustaining path!

So, it's all down to exercise, sleep and

food, then? Well, no, I'd like to add emotional health and relationships.

I'll summarise emotional health as a combination of how we deal with the stressful parts of our lives and our outlook on life, and it influences our physical health (and vice versa). When it comes to relationships, being a fundamentally social species, the quality of our connections, particularly those close to us, has a substantial impact too.

So, if we are to tip the odds in our favour toward our longest possible healthspan, then whether you are nineteen or ninety-nine, investing in and learning to love the five pillars of healthy habits is a splendid investment. So, how would you rate your: sleep quality, movement and exercise, diet quality and quantity, emotional skills, and relationships?

Mark Quirk MSc



**Mindfulness  
Berkshire**  
Courses - Coaching - Retreats

8-Week  
Mindfulness  
for Wellbeing  
Courses

Also - advanced courses - one to one - retreats - practice group



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

One to one  
and group  
coaching for  
health and  
wellbeing



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

**Health and Wellbeing  
Coaching**  
Mastery with Body and Mind

# 35 Years Ago

Unfortunately, there is no Issue 5 in the archive, so we move onto Issue 6! In this extract we read about the

sale of Barkham Manor and plans to convert it into apartments.

We also read about the very first Christmas Party for the children of

the village with Uncle Charlie!

This is a tradition we hope to revive, if there is interest from enough members, see Page 2!



## BARKHAM VILLAGE BARKHAM MANOR ITS ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS 1988

# LETTER

ISSUE 6

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It's been a few months since the newsletter has been published. It has been and gone - it was those few days in August which could be termed summer - and has come far too soon now, and what better reading can there be than the B.V.R.A's newsletter

One of the aims of the Association is to foster communication between members of the community. This is achieved through the publication of this newsletter, and the edit-

The Association is still actively discussing with the Wokingham District Council

the i  
"play  
which  
Elizat  
Counci  
the ro  
before  
fruitft  
any fir  
the Ass  
taking  
the vie  
in the p

Social E

Mr J Clifford Wolff has sold Barkham Manor and 67 acres of land (excluding The Coombes) to developers with offices in Greenford, Middlesex. The developers have applied to Wokingham District Council for planning permission to convert the house and stables, etc, into 12 self-contained dwellings and to build one additional house. The proposed units would use a new access located about 50 metres up the hill from the existing entrance. The additional house would use a new access to Barkham Road in the vicinity of "The Bull".

At the Wokingham District Council Development Committee (South) meeting in September, planning permission was refused. The developers are likely to resubmit a revised application for fewer dwellings.

The developers have not submitted any proposals for the rest of the 67 acres (i.e. the farmland between the Manor and the rear of the properties in Bearwood Road). The Coombes remains in the ownership of Mr J Clifford Wolff and will be the subject of the Public Inquiry arranged to open on 7th February 1989.

by the  
ded by Mr  
13). It  
if the  
d a more  
nd it  
o know  
phone  
helpful  
e

who  
"first  
: you  
o  
d.  
st  
ay I,  
ttee  
st to

which showed that the Association, although not formed for fund raising, had a surplus of income over expenditure. A report from Mr Carter, Membership Secretary, showed that over 260 households, out of an estimated 700 plus, were members. This is very encouraging, but 100% is our target.

Mr Noble, Planning Sub-Committee Chairman, gave a detailed report of the activities of the sub-committee, which ranged from comments on planning applications submitted within the parish, through to the gathering of information for the Proof of Evidence for the Public Enquiry relating to the proposed development of The Coombes.

The Constitution, covering the Association, was put to the meeting and after a short discussion, it was approved by the meeting.



Enjoy over 2 hours of fun with

# UNCLE CHARLIE

Clown - Punch & Judy - Magic

Tickets at £2.50 obtainable from Barkham Post Office and Stores, Bearwood Road or any member of the BVRA Committee.

... which coffee was served.

## Finchampstead Flower Club

FFC continues to expand with over 40 members, a significant number as it was our 40th anniversary this year. The club celebrated with a tea party in a member's garden. The weather was fine, we enjoyed a wonderful cream tea with fizz and members provided arrangements in tea cups to continue the theme!

We meet once a month to watch a demonstrator develop arrangements or for a workshop for ourselves. We have been inspired by "A rummage in the China cupboard", "Working with Wood", "Nature" and much more. Although its only just moving into autumn we are already planning our extra special open evening at Finchampstead Village Hall, where we have a national or international speaker and can seat more visitors. A seasonal theme will be used by Pamela Lewis on November 17<sup>th</sup> to entertain us. This is always sold out so please put it in your diaries now and contact the chair Lis Barrett on 01189892092 in October if you would like to attend.

Please also phone Lis if you would like to attend an earlier meeting, or just come to California Hall on Sept 25<sup>th</sup> (Vivien Withers with "My Floral Journey") or October 21st (Kathryn Austin with "Red Sky at Night") from 7.30 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/>





## Social Matters

Since the last newsletter Summer arrived for a while with a mini heatwave in June, but was quickly replaced by weeks of rain and cool temperatures in July. More like Autumn people were saying ! There were no social events arranged for this period which was a blessing, and hence there are no reports this time.

Future events for the rest of 2023 have been planned and booked.

The first is the Distributors' BBQ on Saturday August 19th at the Village Hall. This is when the BVRA thank the wholesalers who sort and deliver the quarterly batches of newsletters to the Distributors, who in turn then deliver to the residents. Last year's event was excellent - a warm sunny evening when we all ate and drank outdoors till sunset. We are hoping for the same this year! On Saturday October 21st the Annual Quiz is to take place in the Village Hall, 7.00 for 7.30pm. This includes a fish and chip supper and a licensed bar, and the cost is £15 per person. Tickets are available from Gill Powell

on [social@barkham.org.uk](mailto:social@barkham.org.uk)

Tables will be for a maximum of 6 people so please arrange your own teams if you can. But if you just turn up on the night without a team you

will be able to join a team then. The popular 'Carols in the Park' will be on Friday December 15th when the Breakaway Brass Band will be leading us again for the Carol singing. We meet at the junction of the Woodlands and the Junipers at 7pm and make our way to the edge of the Park for more singing. And then mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies will be available.

This is always a lovely way to enjoy the start of the Festive Season for families, adults and children alike. Carol sheets will be provided, and best of all this is a 'free event' !

However, there will be a bucket collection for the Band who very kindly give up their free time to play for us.

Please make a note of these dates, look out for posters around the village, and also check out the BVRA website or Facebook page. I hope to see as many of you as possible at these events as they are always great fun, and a great way of meeting people especially if you are new to the area.

We are always in need of a few more helpers to run the social events, to help set up, clear away and sometimes help with the catering. So if you are able to join the small team and do a little to help please contact Gill Powell using [social@barkham.org.uk](mailto:social@barkham.org.uk). Sadly the events will only be able to take place if we have enough volunteers to help out.

Shirley Warner  
Social Committee Member



**THE BARKHAM HOOKERS**  
CROCHET GROUP

Tuesdays 10-12 in the library at the FBC, Gorse Ride, Finchampstead  
 Tuesdays 6.45-8.45 pm in the library at the FBC, Finchampstead  
 Wednesdays 10-12 at Sanpa Restaurant, Denmark St, Wokingham  
 Fridays 10-12 at Sanpa Restaurant Denmark St. Wokingham

All sessions are Pay As You Go £5  
 All levels welcome from beginner to expert  
 Private 1 : 1 tuition also available

CONTACT GAYNOR WHITE FOR MORE INFORMATION  
 07985046977  
[Familywhite25@gmail.com](mailto:Familywhite25@gmail.com)  
 The Barkham Hookers Charity Page on FB

# CROWTHORNE Symphony ORCHESTRA

When a concert programme includes unfamiliar music, it can be challenging for the audience; when that music is also technically difficult, it is challenging for the orchestra. However, I am delighted to say that our concert in early July proved to be a hit with the audience and the orchestra came up trumps with a very fine performance of works by Beethoven, Dvorak and the somewhat neglected English composer, George Lloyd. There had been a programme on BBC R3 about Lloyd and his music just a few days before the concert, and we were rather thrilled that our concert got a mention. Perhaps our future publicity material could include 'Crowthorne Symphony Orchestra - as mentioned on Radio 3' !

The orchestra is also facing another challenge. It is no longer possible for us to hold our concerts at the Old Gym in Wellington College and our next

concert, on **November 25<sup>th</sup>**, will be at **All Saints Church in Wokingham**, where their 'Spaceforall' community project is now complete and offers an exciting new venue for all sorts of musical and cultural events. We are looking forward to performing there for the first time and the programme for our **Autumn Concert** includes **Dvorak's** well-loved '**New World Symphony**', **Poulenc's Piano Concerto** and **Verdi's Overture 'La Forza Del Destino'**. We will also be giving the first performance of '**Fanfare**'- a short piece specially composed for us by local composer **John Whittaker**, who is also a member of the orchestra. We have enjoyed playing several of John's compositions over the past few years. **Tickets are available via our website, and as usual children under 16 are free.**

It may be worth mentioning (albeit a little early!) that our **Family Christmas Concert** will be in the usual venue of **St John the Baptist Church in Crowthorne on Saturday 9th December 2023 at 4.30pm.**

Rehearsals resume on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September but do look at our website for more information about our concerts, past and future, and you can also sign up to receive our newsletter. 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](http://www.crowthorneorchestra.com)

Chris Gadsby



# wfs

## Wokingham Choral Society

Following our sell-out Summer Concert of music from opera and the musical theatre in the newly-refurbished All Saints' Church, Wokingham Choral Society are looking forward to another successful season. This term we shall be rehearsing Haydn's beautiful *Theresienmesse*, one of his best-loved choral works, composed late in the composer's long life, which we will perform at Reading University's Great Hall on **Saturday 18th November**.

If you are interested in joining our friendly choir, we warmly welcome new members in all voice parts and, if you'd like to give us a try, we shall be holding an Open Rehearsal at our usual rehearsal venue, The Emmbrook School, on **Thursday 14th September** at 7.30pm. Please contact our Membership Secretary at [www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk](http://www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk), where you can also find details of our forthcoming concerts and more information about us. We look forward to seeing you!



**...because you don't have to be great at singing for singing to be great for you!**

Do you love to sing, but for one reason or another you can't (or wouldn't dare) join a choir? Then **Sing for your Self** is the group for you! We are a truly local, no pressure, no performances, no demands and no expectations, fun singing group, where EVERYONE is welcome, no matter their confidence or ability levels.

With bags of energy, enthusiasm and empathy, my aim at **Sing for your Self** is always to create a welcoming atmosphere of inclusion, trust and fun, where everyone can relax, sing confidently and leave the session feeling uplifted and happy.

We currently run three sessions a week in Arborfield, Finchampstead and Winnersh. After a warm-up, where we leave behind the stresses of the outside world and our daily lives, we sing along to well-known songs from across the decades, from '60s right through to modern day. We learn one song more thoroughly each week, pausing to go through any tricky bits, and then we just enjoy singing them out! After our two daytime sessions we enjoy some refreshments together, bringing some often needed social contact into the day as well. Our sessions bring together men and women, from 18 to 80+ and provide some great laughs. And watching new friendships bloom amongst our singers is a truly wonderful bonus! Sessions are £5 each on a Pay As You Go basis, payable in cash or online, with donations for refreshments during daytime sessions. We also run a Pay It Forward Scheme for anyone who needs some financial assistance to attend our groups.

This July we held our biggest "Special" yet, which brought together over 100 group regulars and their guests at Barkham Village Hall, for a fabulous evening of fun. With a well-stocked bar of refreshments, we sang songs from Louis Armstrong to Billy Joel, from Elton John to Dua Lipa, from ELO to Coldplay and Andy Williams to Robbie Williams. The common theme? They were all absolutely wonderful songs to fill your lungs and sing out, leaving us all feeling great! **See photos overleaf.**

We also raised over £300 for First Days Children's Charity, which helps local families who are struggling to make ends meet. At this time of year with school uniforms to buy, this is especially important. As a group we have now raised well over £1000 for this incredible local charity. To find out more about them see [www.firstdays.net](http://www.firstdays.net)

As well as our weekly community sessions, we will be holding another big Christmas Special in December, with a refreshments bar and all your favourite popular Christmas songs from Bing Crosby and Andy Williams, to Shakin' Stevens and Slade! This session will be at Gorse Ride Junior School, Finchampstead, on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. We would love to welcome you along, whether you are already a **Sing for your Self** regular or just fancy a lovely, local Christmas Singalong!

For further information on local sessions, or to enquire about booking on to our Christmas Singalong Special, go to [www.singforyourself.co.uk](http://www.singforyourself.co.uk) or [www.facebook.com/sing\\_for\\_your\\_self\\_group](https://www.facebook.com/sing_for_your_self_group)

or send an email to [soph@singforyourself.co.uk](mailto:soph@singforyourself.co.uk)

## Sing for Your Self Group in action at Barkham Village Hall in July!



### Pam's Recipe

Tea Bread  
 Strong Black Tea 300ml  
 Self-raising flour 250g  
 Mixed fruit 500g  
 Ground mixed spice 1tsp  
 Light brown sugar 125g  
 Egg beaten

1. Grease and line two loaf tins (9x18cm). Preheat the oven to 180degC, Gas 4.
  2. After making the tea, add the fruit and leave to soak overnight or for at least two hours.
  3. Combine the flour, sugar, spice and egg in a large bowl.
  4. Add the fruit and tea liquid and mix thoroughly.
  5. Divide ito the loaf tins and bake for 1 hour.
  6. Cool slightly before removing from the tins and placing on a wire rack.
  7. Slice and serve, spread with butter
- This is a very forgiving recipe, a little more tea with it make a moist cake needing no butter.

### BVRA Online

[www.barkham.org.uk](http://www.barkham.org.uk)



Keep in touch - sign up



Direct Debit Set-up



# BARKHAM DIARY

## BVRA Events

21/10/23	BVRA Quiz Night	BVH	7:30pm
10/11/23	Copy deadline for Winter Newsletter		
23/11/23	Annual General Meeting	BVH	7:30pm
15/12/23	Carols in the Park	Junipers	7:00pm

## Monthly Events

06/09/23	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7:30pm
12/09/23	Barkham Parish Council	AGCC	7:30pm
12/09/23	Dinton Walking Group	BVH	7:45pm
13/09/23	Bonsai Club	BVH	7:30pm
25/09/23	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	8:00pm
04/10/23	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7:30pm
10/10/23	Barkham Parish Council	AGCC	7:30pm
10/10/23	Dinton Walking Group	BVH	7:45pm
11/10/23	Bonsai Club	BVH	7:30pm
23/10/23	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	8:00pm
08/11/23	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7:30pm
08/11/23	Bonsai Club	BVH	7:30pm
14/11/23	Barkham Parish Council	AGCC	7:30pm
14/11/23	Dinton Walking Group	BVH	7:45pm
27/11/23	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	8:00pm
06/12/23	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7:30pm
12/12/23	Barkham Parish Council	AGCC	7:30pm
12/12/23	Dinton Walking Group	BVH	7:45pm
13/12/23	Bonsai Club	BVH	7:30pm

## 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

## Special Events

18th November - Wokingham Choral Society (see Page 21)  
 25th November - Crowthorne Symphony Orchestra (see Page 20)

## Location Codes

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

Please contact the editor to add to or change this information

## Quiz Answers

1. Victoria
2. Seychelles
3. St Martin (the French side) and Sint Maarten (on the Dutch side) in the Caribbean
4. Isle of Man
5. Elba. In 1815, after the Battle of Waterloo, he was exiled again, this time to St Helena where he died.
6. La Palma in the Canaries.
7. Tuvalu, tv
8. Madagascar
9. Falklands
10. Hokkaido, one of the Japanese islands

## Where in Barkham?

On the left-hand side as you walk down Bearwood Road nearly at the junction with Barkham Road.

## Contacts

Art Class  
 Kay Young 978 5177  
 Barkham Ladies Social Club  
 Shirley Warner 978 9124  
 Barkham Pre-School  
 preschoolbarkham@gmail.com  
 Bonsai Club  
 www.berkshirebonsai.co.uk  
 Pilates Class  
 Vicky's Pilates 07729 783240  
 Barkham Village Hall Bookings  
 christine.leigh@btinternet.com

# Arborfield Tree Care

## 0118 976 1000



All aspects of Tree/Hedge work undertaken

Fully insured/ Free estimates

All Dangerous Work Undertaken

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

Email: [office@arborfieldtreecare.org](mailto:office@arborfieldtreecare.org)

*The Tree Company Others Look Up To*

## Vicky's PILATES

### Body Control

'Pilates is the body conditioning class suitable for all abilities and ages'

*By improving posture, reshape your body  
relieve tension and create  
a general feeling of well-being.  
Pilates is medically recommended  
to help relieve back pain and stress*

Call Vicky on 0118 989 2571 or 07729 783240

## French Polishing

**Furniture restoration of  
antique or modern pieces**

Dining and coffee tables given the  
original finish

All removal damage and insurance work

Phone Mike on 07973 759091

[www.working2help.co.uk](http://www.working2help.co.uk)



**two  
hoots  
cheese**



We are artisan cheese makers producing award winning handmade cheeses here in Barkham.  
If you would like to buy a cheese direct from our dairy or find a local stockist, please go to the Click & Collect page on our website or scan the QR code below.  
<https://twohootscheese.co.uk/>





**SOTERIA PLANNING**  
YOU • FAMILY • BUSINESS



**When was the last  
time you reviewed  
your Will?**

**Speak to Leah  
Rickwood**

Your Soteria Planning Adviser. Protect what matters.  
For YOU. For your FAMILY. For your BUSINESS.

**Get in touch:**

- [rickwood@soteriaplanning.uk](mailto:rickwood@soteriaplanning.uk)
- 07735587456
- <https://calendly.com/rickers/meet>
- [www.soteriaplanning.uk](http://www.soteriaplanning.uk)




**FLO PLUMBING  
& HEATING**  
IN AND AROUND READING



**BOILER  
SERVICING**



**TAP  
REPLACEMENT**



**LEAK  
REPAIRS**



**BATHROOM  
INSTALLATION**



Local, reliable small business. Fully insured and gas safe registered. No obligation quotes.  
T: 07540 996385 E: [dan@floplumbingandheating.com](mailto:dan@floplumbingandheating.com) W: [floplumbingandheating.com](http://floplumbingandheating.com)

The BVRA Privacy Policy can be viewed at the foot of the Home page of the website, [www.barkham.org.uk](http://www.barkham.org.uk). Email or telephone numbers provided by members will be used only for BVRA communications or to receipt their annual subscription. Any member is free to see their details by contacting the Webmaster.

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 contacting the Webmaster, email: [webmaster@barkham.org.uk](mailto: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.