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Barkham Newsletter

Issue 148 Summer 2024

from the Barkham Village Residents Association



Under Starter's orders! At the Easter Egg Hunt, see Page 12



Early summer fresh foliage in the Coombes

**In
this
issue...**

- ***First report from the Coombes maintenance team*** ***Page 11***
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Editorial



It's the middle of May and I have never seen the Coombes so wet! The paths are so so muddy! Maybe by the time you read this it will have stopped raining for a while.

Since much of the Coombes was bought by Barkham and Arborfield Parish Councils, a management team, known as the *Coombes Woodland Committee*, has been established to look after it. Their first of a regular series of articles is published on Page 11.

On the darker side, in *Wild about the Coombes* we hear about a destructive session in the Coombes.

I am delighted to welcome Dennis Eyriey to our team, taking on the vital role of DevWatch coordinator, monitoring and reporting on planning and development in the village. His first article is opposite on Page 3.

Following on from our email alert to members about vehicle theft, at my request, the Police have provided a contribution on this topic. It's well worth a read on Page 8. You only have to learn one new point to make it worthwhile.

I'm always keen to welcome new contributors and in this issue we start a new series of articles entitled

“What you got?” - a reference to the TV series *The Detectorists*. Gaynor and Josie White have found many items using their metal detector. Find out more about their activities and finds on Page 14.

The Village Hall is where we stage most of our events and the chairman of the Barkham Village Hall management committee, Derek Oxbrough, has recently retired and been succeeded by Allan Wrobel, who also happens to be a member of our Parish Council. There is an appreciation on Page 16 of Derek's contribution to the Village Hall over many years. From the BVRA, thanks for all you've done, Derek!

One of Allan Wrobel's other interests is fly tipping and he provides some useful advice on how to use the WBC website to report any you spot. I've used their site to report incidents and later noticed that it has gone within a few days, so it really does work! See Page 11.

Following the local elections and some ward boundary changes we now have three Councillors representing the parishes of Barkham and some other adjacent parishes on Wokingham Borough Council. They are:

- **Adrian Betteridge**
Liberal Democrats
- **George Evans**
Conservatives
- **Joseph Barley**
Conservatives

On Page 6 you can read their first contributions.

Finally on Page 20 is an article about girl guides. So what about the boys? Do we have scouting groups in the village? If so, let me know!

I do hope you enjoy the summer!

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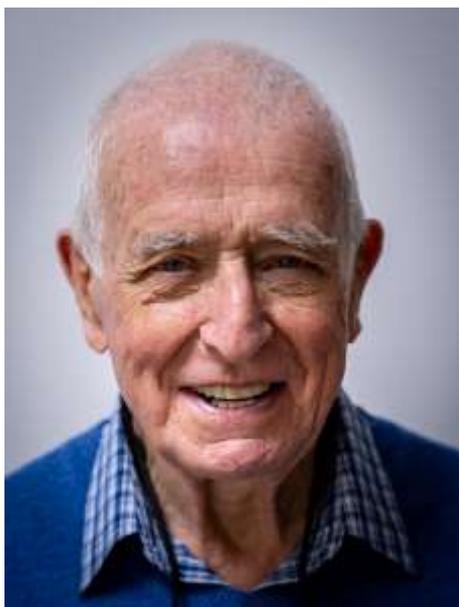
Email Updates

As well as our newsletter we are increasingly using email to keep in touch with residents. If you aren't getting emails from us, please send an email to

webmaster@barkham.org.uk

with your name and address. Also to ensure you receive our emails please add barkham.org.uk to your safe senders list. If you are unsure how to do this please email us for advice.

DevWatch Update



May I introduce myself – Dennis Eyriey – as the new DevWatch co-ordinator. Whilst I am retired now I spent over 50 years in local legal practice. However in this new role I very much have my “L” plates on!

Now that the local council elections are behind us we can anticipate news on the delayed Local Plan, as well as decisions on some of the longstanding planning applications. These include the large residential application at Blagrove Lane, the application for residential development of land near to the Leathern Bottel off Barkham Road and the application for 50 houses at Langley Common Road (close to the Arborfield Green roundabout).

Regarding other particular planning matters, I am told that the Bewley application on the land between Barkham Road and Edneys Hill – that was refused is unlikely to go to appeal. However I am also told that Bewley have it in mind to lodge a new planning application when some of the dust has settled.

The other interesting news is that the tenants of both Mortimers Farm on Edneys Hill and Brook Farm off Barkham Street have been given notice to quit by the Borough who

own the land (as successors to Berkshire County Council) who held them as farm small holdings. And that the Borough intends to use them as SANGS land (Strategic Alternative Natural Green Space) with the intention of creating an extension to Rooks Nest Wood. A formal planning application could be lodged later this year. It is a shame to see the farms go – but at least a de facto country park is a lot better than other possible uses for the land. However it should be born in mind that SANGS is needed to support other (probably residential) development in the vicinity. So that may taint the good news!

Finally, a new application has been made for nine mobile homes at Bluebells Farm, Commonfield Lane (adjoining the Arborfield Green development). An application on this site was made last year (and refused) for 14 mobile homes on the site. Whilst the consultation period has ended nevertheless we will raise a belated objection.

The other matter to report on is the planning application on 23 Almond Close seeking confirmation that use of the house there as a children’s home would not constitute development. This appears to have been made on behalf of the Borough Council (or at least with their support) and mirrors an application elsewhere in the Borough – that was approved. A number of the people living around have objected (the time for objections has now past). The intended use would be for up to 3 children (age 5 upwards) and one or two responsible adults.

Dennis Eyriey
DevWatch Coordinator



As we gear up for an exciting summer ahead, Me2 Club is thrilled to announce our participation in the upcoming Reading Children's Festival, Woodley Carnival, and Parallel Windsor. We will be hosting a variety of games and creative activities for children and families to enjoy. To make these events a success, we are seeking enthusiastic volunteers like you to join our team. If you are passionate about making a positive impact and creating memorable experiences, we would love to have you on board!



Update from Barkham Parish Council

Planning Round-up

Local Plan Update

Now that the local Elections have taken place, we wait to hear the make up of the new Borough Council and what their plans are going forward. This Council hopes that the first item on their agenda is to make progress with the Local Plan Update.

Edneys Hill Development

At the time of writing, there has been no notifications about an appeal submitted for the land at Edneys Hill, and the deadline for an appeal to be submitted has passed.

Arborfield Green Community Centre

A working group chaired by an Arborfield Green resident has been formed to work with Crest and WBC to scope out the new Community Centre as part of the District Centre development. An existing building will be repurposed to provide community activities alongside the planned retail outlets and existing sports facilities in the area. Your views at this critical stage of the project will ensure the new Community Centre delivers what is required by you – the residents - to promote a vibrant community spirit. There will be two drop-in sessions to let you HAVE YOUR SAY –

1. Tuesday 4th Jun 18:30 to 20:30
2. Saturday 8th Jun 10:00 to 12:30

at the existing Arborfield Community Centre, Princess Marina Drive, RG2 9GB. See you there.

The Coombes Woodlands

The *Coombes Woodland Committee* is currently looking to set up a volunteer group to help manage The Coombes Woodland. It is in the process of looking at what a volunteer group can undertake, and what items will need planning permission. Policies

and procedures are being drafted to cover any volunteer group activities. **Ed:** You can read their first report on Page 11.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact BPC's new deputy Clerk, Natalie, via Deputyclerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk to be added to the list to be contacted once the group is ready to be formed.

Annual Litter Pick

The annual litter pick took place on Sunday 24th March 2024 between 10am and 12 Noon. We had 30 volunteers turn up to help clear the parish of litter.

Volunteers met at the Barkham Village Hall, where they were assigned an area to litter pick. Upon their return



they were offered a bacon butty, a selection of biscuits and cake, and a tea or coffee.

In total, approximately 30 bags of rubbish were collected plus other items such as tyres, fly tipping, concrete blocks and even a full box of oysters! Large areas of fly tipping were reported to WBC to clear.

TVP for long service award for a BPC Councillor

On 11 March 2024, Councillor Chris Heyliger attended the Chief Constable's awards ceremony at Thames Valley Police (TVP), where he was presented, by the Chief Constable, a long service award for 5 years' service as a Police Volunteer. Pam Stubbs, Chair of Barkham Parish Council attended the ceremony as Cllr Heyliger's guest. The following was read out by the Chief Officer at the event:

Chris has been a member of Barkham Parish Council (BPC) since retiring from the Banking Sector. He is passionate about cycling and road safety and is Chair of the Road Safety Committee.

Speed on our roads is never far from residents' minds and BPC is committed to the Community Speed Watch initiative.



A small team began by using TVP equipment before buying its own kit. This has now been upgraded to include automatic number plate recognition which is much easier to use and requires less resource.

To promote the initiative, BPC worked with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) and TVP to design bright yellow 'Neighbourhood Speed Watch' signs to supplement the Parish Gateway placards. These have also been adopted by neighbouring parishes.

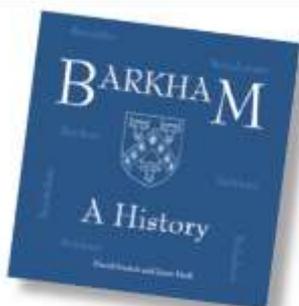
The purchase of two speed data loggers and four speed indication devices (SIDs) with some mounted on poles provided by WBC allows a profile of speed across the parish to be built. This is successfully used, to review speed limits and signage.

Much has been achieved and BPC appreciates the continuing support of TVP.

The Parish Council offers its congratulations to Chris on achieving this award in recognition of his long term service to Road Safety.

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.



The Quiz

In the hope that we will soon have some warm dry weather with clear skies, the theme for this issue is the Night Sky, but note that not every answer is visible to the naked eye! This time there is a bonus question, a particularly difficult one, perhaps!

1. By what name is the constellation Ursa Major better known?
2. Which planetary object, visible in the night sky using binoculars, has the shortest name?
3. Who wrote the music to the famous song, Moon River, and who originally performed it and in which film?
4. Which planet is sometimes known as the Evening Star?
5. Which planet did William Herschel discover in 1781?
6. Who composed The Planets orchestral suite?
7. By what name are the Pleiades better known?
8. Who played Jim Collins in the movie Apollo 13?
9. Which is the brightest star in the night sky?
10. When do we have a 'blue moon'?
11. Who entitled his autobiography *Failure is not an option*, referring to his experiences on the Apollo 13 mission to the moon?

Answers on Page 19

Where in Barkham?

Two electrical cables originally in ducting running along the road edge! I hope it gets fixed soon! Can you find this location before it gets fixed?

Answer on Page 19



Introducing our new Borough Councillors



George Evans

I am very excited to be writing in this edition of the BVRA newsletter as one of your newly elected Borough Councillors for Barkham & Arborfield.

I have lived in the area for 16 years and have seen Wokingham change and evolve into the place it is today. My background is in property and investment with a particular focus in care facilities such as care homes and retirement communities. The newly formed ward of Barkham & Arborfield encompasses all of the Parishes of Barkham and Arborfield & Newlands, a small part of Swallowfield as well as about 25% of Finchampstead for which I am a Parish Councillor.

Over recent years I have spoken and listened to residents across Barkham, knocking on your door to ask what it is that you want to improve in our area. I understand that you want to see improvements to our roads, ensure that green spaces are protected and see that Arborfield Green is developed sustainably with all the facilities that were promised. These are your priorities, and they are mine too.

I will champion transparency on key changes to our area such as the solar farm, Bohunt Sixth Form and development at High Barn Farm and Rooks Nest. It's important that residents living in Barkham understand what Wokingham Borough Council is planning to do on these topics and your views are taken in to account.

I have started receiving messages from residents who would like help with an issue or have given me their view on their priorities, and I welcome others to do so too. Please contact me at

george.evans@wokingham.gov.uk



Joseph Barley

I am honoured to have been elected as one of your local representatives at the Wokingham Borough Council. I have lived locally for my entire life, attending Barkham Preschool and Finchampstead Primary School in my early years before moving onto Leighton Park School in Reading. Barkham & Arborfield were in the unique position of having no incumbent councillors standing in the May elections and I hope to be a new local voice from which I can represent you and your views in the best way possible.

Having lived here for 22 years and knocked on hundreds of your doors recently, I am all too aware of the issues we face locally. I know many residents have concerns about overdevelopment in the local area and it's important we find the right balance between developing the ward to the needs of our community and protecting our countryside, I will work to ensure residents can enjoy the overdue facilities our community deserves such as the Arborfield Hub, Sainsbury's, Bohunt 6th Form and more.

Many of you have voiced concerns about overdue or delayed roadworks and fly-tipping down our country lanes too, it is vital that we openly monitor these issues and together I hope we can combat them. I'm eager to hear about any other questions or concerns you may have. So if you do have any local issues you would like to bring to my attention, please do not hesitate to get in contact at

joseph.barley@wokingham.gov.uk



Adrian Betteridge

I started my army career in Arborfield in 1984 and returned to the area on many occasions during my 20-year service, including living in Tope Crescent in the 1990s where our first child was born. I left the army in 2003 as a Lieutenant Colonel having been awarded an MBE for my work supporting operations.

My second career was as a programme manager with defence company BAE Systems, from which I took early retirement having been the project management director of the UK armoured vehicles business and the global cyber-security business. Since 2018 my wife and I have dedicated ourselves to local community and charitable activity.

We have lived in the Evendons area of Wokingham since 1996, from where our 2 children attended The Holt and Emmbrook schools. I coached and refereed at Winnersh Rangers football club for many years, have been the club captain at Swallowfield Velo Club since 2016 and coach cycling at Bohunt School on Saturdays. I co-founded a community group which helps the borough council improve conditions for walking and cycling. I have been the chair of Wokingham Liberal Democrats since 2023.

I am delighted to have been elected to represent Barkham and Arborfield for the next 4 years and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible when I am out and about in the ward. Contact me at

adrian.betteridge@wokingham.gov.uk
or on 07985 088298

Embracing Parenthood | The Essential Guide to Will Writing for New Parents

Becoming a parent brings joy and a multitude of responsibilities, including the vital task of will writing. While it may not be at the forefront of your thoughts amidst the bustling new life with your young ones, crafting a will is a fundamental step in securing their future and ensuring peace of mind.

The Importance of a Will for Parents

A will is more than a document; it's a declaration of love and protection for your family. Without it, the future becomes uncertain, potentially leaving your loved ones in a financial and emotional quandary. This guide delves into the reasons every parent should prioritise will writing, detailing the dire consequences of leaving such matters to chance.

Guardianship and Financial Security

Beyond assets, a will is a means to appoint guardians for your children, ensuring they are cared for by individuals you trust, should the unthinkable happen. It's about

laying a foundation for their financial well-being, incorporating provisions for their education, living expenses, and even their step into adulthood.

Tailoring Your Will: A Thoughtful Approach

From selecting guardians to specifying the age your children will access their inheritance, this guide emphasises a tailored approach. It addresses the nuances of including step-children and dependents, ensuring no one is left vulnerable. Moreover, it highlights the importance of periodically reviewing your will to reflect life's inevitable changes.

Embarking on the Will-Writing Journey

Whether opting for a solicitor, an online service, or a bespoke combination, the journey of will writing is demystified. The aim is to make this crucial process as accessible and straightforward as possible, ensuring every parent feels equipped and empowered to secure their children's futures.

Together, let's ensure your love and intentions are perfectly captured, for peace of mind today and security tomorrow.

Contact Leah Rickwood 07735587456 or lrickwood@soteriaplanning.uk for more information.

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SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK A MEETING WITH ME





Thames Valley Police would like to make the community aware of a rise in vehicle thefts in our local police area. We are encouraging the public to take extra security measures where possible to help prevent further incidents.

Many of the vehicle thefts are 'keyless thefts'. There are three distinct types of keyless theft and all utilise expensive digital equipment:

- 'Relay Theft', where offenders will boost the signal from keys stored within your property in order to start the vehicle parked on your driveway.
- The other two methods (referred to as an On-Board Diagnostic Theft or a CAN Bus Theft) require offenders to break into your vehicle before plugging software either into the dashboard or the front/rear of your vehicle.

We are asking the public to use different methods to help prevent someone driving your vehicle away:

- Faraday bags – storing keys in a faraday bag can help to prevent

Relay Theft, but they will not prevent On-Board Diagnostic Theft or a CAN Bus Theft.

- Steering Wheel Locks – to stop the physical movement of your vehicle. Not only do they act as a deterrent, but they can prevent someone being able to drive off in your vehicle.
- Other physical barriers – blocking your high performance/value vehicle in through the positioning of your vehicle on your property, or through the installation of metal bollards in front of your vehicle.

Make/models being targeted currently include Mercedes, BMW's, Ford Mustangs and Range Rovers. However, any vehicle with a digital-style key can be stolen.

Please rest assured, the purpose of this information is to enable you to take these simple steps, and we are contacting the community in an effort to deter offenders. We want people to be aware of these offences in anticipation we can stop this emerging crime trend in our communities.

If you see anyone acting suspiciously, such as vehicles or people in the area paying an interest in your or your neighbour's property, please report this to Thames Valley Police via 101 or on line through the TVP website www.thamesvalley.police.uk



Alternatively, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on free phone 0800 555 111. For further advice, follow the link in the QR code:



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New Look!

I want to make some changes to the look of this Newsletter and so I am looking for someone to help with the redesign. If you have graphic design or artistic skills then I'd like to hear from you. This would be a short project to help establish the new design and would not need ongoing involvement. If you think you might be able to help then please contact newsletter@barkham.org.uk



St James' Barkham

“God made me fast, and when I run, I feel his pleasure.”

These are the words, widely attributed to Eric Liddell, that you may recall from the Oscar-winning film, *Chariots of Fire* with its iconic soundtrack by Vangelis. If you have not seen it, prepare for many re-runs as the Paris Olympic Games approach, for it is exactly 100 years since those famous events unfolded in 1924.

As a brilliant sprinter Liddell was the natural choice to run the 100 and 200 metres, but he had withdrawn from these events because the heats were on a Sunday and as a devout Christian, his personal convictions wouldn't allow him to do so. (Happily the 100 metres was won by fellow Brit, Harold Abrahams).

Liddell suggested he enter the 400 metres instead. This was a time when nobody sprinted the whole distance but Liddell changed everything when he unexpectedly reached the final. He ran the first 200 as hard as he could and then the second 200 even harder, breaking the world record in a time of 47.6 seconds.

That race sealed Eric Liddell's place in sporting legend. What is less well known is that after competing for another year, he turned down a number of appealing offers associated with sport to follow in the footsteps of his missionary parents.

Liddell spent most of the rest of his life in China, first as a teacher and missionary, eager to share the Christian faith with others. In the Second World War, he was interned in a Japanese prison camp where he became a leader, helping the elderly, caring for the children, keeping morale high and teaching Bible classes. It was there that he spent his final years, before dying of cancer at the age of 43. Even with his declining health, a fellow inmate recounts...

Eric would say, “When you speak of me, give the glory to my master, Jesus Christ.” He would not want us to think solely of him. He would

want us to see the Christ whom he served.

How easy it would have been for him to bask in his own sporting glory, but Eric Liddell sought to give the glory to another: Jesus Christ.

Why would he or anyone do that? Well, each week at Barkham Church, we explore why Jesus is worthy of all the glory and good news for us all. We'd love to share more with you. Join us any Sunday, at 10am or 6pm.

Discover the meaning of life in 3-2-1

If you would like to investigate the Christian message for yourself, let me recommend a brilliant new resource. **The 321 Course** is a free interactive course designed to help you think about God, the world and yourself through immersive videos and thoughtful illustrations. It is available on-line or as an app. Just search for 321 Course. There are no hidden costs – just sign up and start exploring.

Julian Bidgood
Minister of Barkham



WOKINGHAM CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

A Song for Summer

Favourite Folksongs, Partsongs and Madrigals of the British Isles featuring John Rutter's "The Sprig of Thyme" and compositions for solo violin by Elgar

Conductor - George de Voil
Accompanist - Ben Giddens
Violinists - Henry Chandler & Jacob Reina-Caro

Sat 15th June 2024
7.30pm

All Saints Church
Wiltshire Rd
Wokingham
RG40 1TN

Tickets £15
£8 for students and under 18s

Available in Wokingham from
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Newbury Building Society
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or via email:
tickets@wokingham-choral-society.org.uk
also available from their members or at the door



See Page 21 for details

www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk

wcs

registered charity 274853

Wild About the Coombes

Did you have a good Easter? I hope so. Sadly, though, not everyone cares about how Easter was for others. Take, for example, the people who spent an hour or two on Easter Sunday driving cars through the Coombes. They obviously didn't care in the slightest how it might affect other people's enjoyment of Easter, let alone about the damage they were doing to the woodland.

It had been particularly wet leading up to Easter so the ground was soft and it was easy to see where cars had been driven. One car, if not more, had approached the Coombes along Wood Lane, a byway running between School Road and the Greenway near Ellis's Hill Farm. The driver was perfectly entitled to do so. At the bottom of the Hill down from the farm, they turned off Wood Lane and drove along the footpath into the woods, a public right of way for pedestrians, but not motor vehicles, or even horses come to that.

Before reaching the crossing with another public footpath, there is a boardwalk over a particularly boggy area. Not being wide enough to drive a car along it, before reaching the boardwalk, they turned off the public footpath to their right and followed a well-worn informal path through the woodland. For much of the way they had two wheels on the path with the other two wheels allowed to make a parallel rut in the undergrowth beside it. In places, the path went between pairs of trees that were less than a car's width apart. There were also occasional fallen trees blocking the path, which walkers could step over, but not so a car. In such cases, the driver found a detour, often lengthy, flattening bluebells and whatever else might be in the way, before returning to the path.

The damage was not confined to the woodland. Where the car had had to make a sharp turn, it had lost a wheel arch lining. Perhaps the driver did not realise, or maybe they simply couldn't be bothered to pick it up and reattach it to the car later, who knows? I can't help thinking that the car would have sustained plenty of other damage as it meandered its way around a surprisingly large area of the Coombes.

Within days, the Borough Council's Countryside Service had been to look at the site and advised on how best to protect it from another attack of 'joy' riding. There is a good chance that by the time you read this, there will be measures in place to prevent a reoccurrence. Hopefully, it is a one off. After all, I have lived in Barkham for over 30 years and am unaware of such a thing being done before.



This brief spell of wild driving damaged our Local Wildlife Site. Wild as I am about the Coombes, in a positive way, the impact that this uncaring incident had on the natural habitat drove me wild in a very different sense.

Now I hope you have a good summer. I'm sure you'll be considerate enough not to spend it in a way that spoils it for others, so enjoy.

Joe Wild

Coombes Woodland Committee

Towards the end of last year Barkham Parish Council jointly with Arborfield and Newland Parish Council were delighted to announce the acquisition of over 60 acres of the Coombes Woodlands. This Woodland sits along the boundary of the two Parishes and is a rare area of ancient woodland in Wokingham Borough, which through the collaboration of both parish councils is now preserved for the future enjoyment of local residents.

Since its acquisition a management team has been established consisting of Parish council representatives, and importantly some members from the local community bringing some valuable knowledge and expertise.

This group is known as the Coombes Woodland Committee. Its purpose is to manage maintenance and enhancement of the woods going forward.

The woods have had little maintenance over many years and whilst we do not want to change the nature of the area, following detailed mapping and logging of individual trees we have identified essential work that needs to be undertaken.

It is our intent that the character and feel of this lovely area will be kept very much as it is.

Woodland however needs a degree of management and there are some areas where there are non-native species such as rhododendrons. These need to be managed to allow the native species to flourish, and in addition there are areas within the woods that in the past and recently been damaged by inappropriate use.

To date essential maintenance and trees that have been identified as dangerous have been dealt with through the engagement of professional contractors.

However, going forward we would like to engage interested members of the local community to form working parties to help clear rubbish and attend to the clearance of some of the non-native species, in a careful and considered manner, and help us in the execution of management plan, to enhance and preserve the woods.

We encourage anyone interested in getting involved to contact the deputy clerk of Barkham Parish council via email at deputyclerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk or by phone on 01189-9762089.

Mike Barker

Vice-Chair Barkham Parish Council &
Chair of the Coombes Woodland Committee

How to Report Fly Tipping to Wokingham Borough Council

We all know and experience the increase of fly-tipping throughout the Borough. All reports are gratefully received and acted upon swiftly.

The Anti-Social-Behaviour team do a great job, but rely heavily on residents reporting fly-tipping. Here are a few handy tips to help you report them:

1. From Wokingham Borough Council's home page <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/> select:
 - Rubbish and recycling
 - Waste collection
 - Fly-tipping
 - Report Fly-tipping
2. On reaching the Reporting page, you're shown a map of the Borough but no instructions on what to do next. Even clicking on the '+' (Zoom) button no further instructions come up. If you click on the map itself, it does zoom in with a pop-up saying: 'To report a problem please zoom in'. You have to continue to zoom in, by clicking on the map again, until the message changes to: 'To report a problem please click on the map', only then, with one last click, do you get a dialog box displayed with which you can enter the details.
3. It helps the Anti-Social-Behaviour team immensely if you can be as precise as possible on giving the location of the incident. This is the location of the fly-tip not the location of your home. The most useful way is to give the 'What-3-Words' location of the fly-tip, if you have the app. Google Maps can give you a latitude and longitude, but W3W is preferred.

Allan Wrobel





BVRA Social Events

It's Newsletter time again - it's May as I write this and Summer should be here before too long! The Spring bulbs and shrubs have just about finished flowering, and the forecast is for drier and warmer weather, thankfully!

Since the last Newsletter there have been two social events - the first being the Children's Easter Egg Hunt. Over 40 children took part on a fine and not too chilly Easter Sunday afternoon. Despite the main Junipers Park being rather boggy, because of all the recent rain, the area where the tokens were hidden was quite dry. Finding the tokens and exchanging them for little chocolate eggs took no time at all, and then it was time for the raffle for the 'Big Egg' and other prizes including the Lindt Bunnies. The winner of the first prize was Margot Goddard - the little two-year old girl

being very pleased indeed. Many of the families commented on what a lovely event it had been and thanked us for organising it. Thanks go to all those who helped on the day, especially Alan for the photos, Graham who ran the raffle, and Peter who provided all the posters.



The Family Skittles evening took place on April 27th and was a great event with 39 people taking part, including teenagers and young children. After two rounds of team games a Ploughman's supper was delivered to all the tables, and this was then followed by the 'Killer' game which got very competitive until there was one person left! As usual, there was a consolation prize of a choc ice for all those knocked out. The winning team was 'The Barkham Rebellions' - a lovely friendly group who were not at all like their namesake! In fact they are a group of cyclists who have



ridden the renowned 'Rebellion Cycle Route' in Norfolk, so they are obviously keen sportspeople! The winner with the highest score of 24 in the team games was Dan, who was actually a member of the winning team. The winner of the Killer game was none other than Madeleine who we all know and who is also a member of Barkham Ladies.

Many thanks to Peter Jay who did all the scoring, to Gill who kept everyone on track for their turn, to Steve who ran the bar and to Gill, Peter Ainscough and wife Lesley who prepared all the lovely food. It had been a very successful evening with many lovely comments and people saying that they would be back next year!

Other events have been planned and booked for the rest of the year. These are:

- Quiz Night - October 5th
- Carols in the Park - December 13th

Details of these events and how to buy tickets for the quiz will appear in future Newsletters and on posters around the village, but make a note of the dates as they are both very popular events and always well attended.

As ever, I hope to see many of you at our social events, especially if you are new to the area - they are a great way to meet new people and also give support to your local Residents' Association.



If any of you feel you would like help at the social events then please contact Gill Powell for more information and leave your contact details on social@barkham.org.uk

Until next time I hope you enjoy the Summer and have lots of fun.

Shirley Warner

BVRA and Social Committee Member

“What You Got?” *

A Detectorist’s History of Barkham



We have been fortunate to have lived in Barkham for over 20 years. We have three [almost] grown-up children who have [not quite] flown the nest, two [adopted] pygmy goats, several moles, two resident fallow deer and four cats.

I have always been interested in history and old things, but more importantly in the stories *behind* the old things.

In December 2022 my 18 year old daughter asked us for a decent metal detector (as opposed to the toy one we had bought her when she was 12) for Christmas.... she spent a happy two hours in the mud in the dark with her cousins on Christmas Day evening but only managed to find huge pieces of tractor/ machinery/rusty iron!

Spring forward to March 2023. Having recently binge-watched the beautifully written, directed and acted BBC series *The Detectorists*, I soon became fascinated with the idea that thousands of items of treasure (and trash) lay beneath our feet just waiting to be found.

Our foray into the world of metal-detecting began one soggy March

afternoon as we ventured out into the back garden. We genuinely believed we wouldn’t find anything of interest, let alone value, in our own garden but we have been surprised over and over again with the remarkable things we have saved from the soil.

We now imagine a ‘*GOLDEN PATH*’ running through our garden, trodden on by thousands of footsteps over the millennia. Local people simply going to work, to church, to the market, taking their horses or themselves to the Bull Inn, or simply visiting friends over the fields.

We have found many, many, coins, mostly pre-decimal Victorian and Georgian minted pennies dating from the late 1800s-1930s, some Georgian ones dating from the mid-1700s, then our first piece of silver (a beautiful Queen Anne sixpence dated 1707). Every time we went back out in the garden we expected nothing. Every time we found something!

I look forward to telling you more in the next issue.

Gaynor (and Josie) White
familywhite25@gmail.com

* For those unfamiliar with the Detectorists television series, “What you got?” is a frequently used catch phrase.

Ed: this the first of what I hope will become a series of articles. Next month our intrepid explorers are going to visit my patch and who knows what they will find? If you would like to find out what lies hidden in your garden then feel to contact Gaynor and she will tell you more about what’s involved.

Queen Anne sixpence 1707



Coronation medal for King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra - 26th June 1902



Alan's Patch

This time last year, I wrote:

Well, my water storage tanks have been overflowing for months. Surely, we have had enough rain over the winter and spring to replenish our reservoirs. It all sounds very familiar!

Despite the autumn sowing failing again, my February sowing of broad beans is doing fine, so a good crop seems assured.



I have started to eat my first crop of asparagus from my three year old plants stalks. One of my sons lives in Germany and they go crazy for asparagus there. Field upon field of asparagus in the perfectly straight ridged rows. Pretty much every restaurant offers recipes using them during May.

In the greenhouse the slugs have had a field day, damaging many seedlings. This wet weather has been fine for them!

Pictured: simple apple blossom



Change is rarely about Willpower

Sometimes change is easy; perhaps you or someone you know changed or started a new habit recently and found it straightforward. But it's not the typical path. Even when we really want to make a change and can see how the change would benefit us in the future. Still, sometimes it just doesn't stick the way we would like – and it can be frustrating!

Let's imagine you decide to eat differently, following the 16/8 time-restricted eating approach you've heard about. In this approach, you eat within an 8-hour window (and so fast for 16 hours). You get specific, deciding that you won't eat after 7 p.m. or before 11 a.m. Great.

In the moment you decide, you're healthy with nothing in your circumstances to suggest you shouldn't try it (fasting is not for everyone!), and you believe the evidence suggests it's worth trying this approach, so it's an easy decision.

The first few days, buoyed with enthusiasm, it all goes well. The next day, Friday, you're watching your favourite TV show at 9pm, where you usually have a glass of wine and some nibbles... and are faced with the reality of craving. Aghh, I really want that snack! And come on, it is Friday, you tell yourself; you've had a hard week; give yourself a break! And so, the craving wins. And that's the end of this silly 16/8 fasting lark.

The challenge is not just establishing a new habit; it's dealing with all the existing ones! We often put too much trust in our willpower, which is

rarely up to the job. To say this isn't to suggest that any of us is weak. In our example, the combination of habit, emotion, and biology are all rooting for the wrong side, and willpower is overwhelmed.

It's all about strategies. Those with the best results know not to rely on willpower. What we need are strategies! Firstly, anticipate the craving (or remember it from the past), and decide what to do when inevitably you're faced with it.

The strategies don't have to be complex or sophisticated. Here are a few examples we might try for our 16/8 time-restricted eating example:

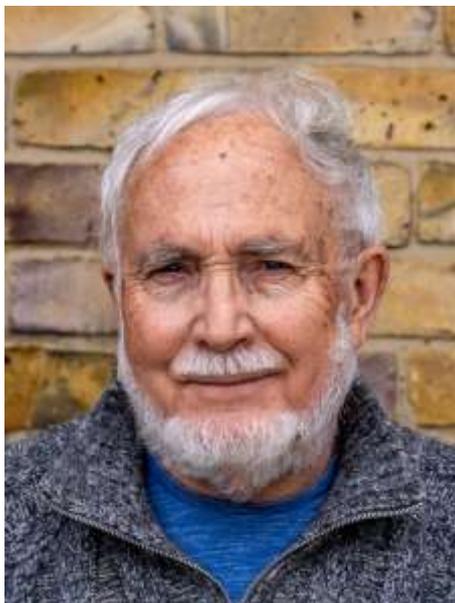
- Drink water – expanding the stomach can reduce hunger perception
- Clean your teeth – who wants to spoil that minty freshness
- Sit in a different seat – the trigger leading to craving may depend on several time *and* place elements coming together
- Remove the snacks – don't buy them, hide them, lock them up, ...
- Allow snacks once per week, e.g. only on Fridays
- Get support from family, friends, a coach, or community

Watch a different TV show at 9pm

These examples may or may not work for you. The key is to use strategies that help you deal with the challenges you will face and don't leave you at the whim of willpower.

Disrupting established patterns in our lives, even when we know they are unhelpful, can include a mix of physical and mental obstacles that make change messy, powerfully getting in the way of our desires. If you're finding a change difficult in your life, then welcome to club human. Now, how will you manage it?

Mark Quirk MSc
Healthspan Coach in Barkham
<https://PrimaryPrevention.co.uk>



Derek Oxbrough Retires

The Barkham Village Hall Management Committee would like to record our thanks to Derek Oxbrough, who has retired from the Charity after 15 years. Derek originally attended the meetings as the Parish Council representative, before taking on the role of Vice Chair. Working closely with Chris Barrows, the long time Chairman of the Committee, he was actively involved in the many maintenance tasks associated with the hall. Between them, they tackled most tasks, from unclogging drains to overseeing major projects, such as the replacement of the ceiling in the main hall. Derek also managed to successfully apply for funding through various grants to support works such as installing double glazing, replacement of exterior doors and installing soundproofed doors between the two halls. Derek was also responsible for the installation and maintenance of the defibrillator, with associated training for hall users.

Being community minded, Derek saw the hall as the soul of the village, and welcomed the many and varied user groups. The idyllic rural

setting and well maintained facilities have made it a well used venue for parties, weddings and many other social events.

Following the sad passing of Chris Barrows in 2021, Derek took up the role of Acting Chair, and during the next two years made some significant improvements to the technology associated with running the hall. The installation of Wifi enabled an updated booking system, with the ability to offer coded door entry. This was thoroughly researched after visiting other local halls to gain their experiences, and has completely transformed the process. One of the last tasks Derek undertook before leaving was to install signs for the building and for the car park, as he realised some contractors were unsure of the location, even when they had reached it!

Derek retired from the Committee at the January 2024 AGM and was presented with garden tokens, which were spent on two palm trees



for his lovely garden. He has passed the Chair role to Allan Wrobel, who has inherited a well maintained and smoothly run hall to oversee.

Christine Leigh & Judith Neuhofer Trustees

Barkham Pre-school

Are you looking for an early years setting for your child aged 2-5years?

Are you looking for a setting that accepts 2 year old funding, universal funding and 30 hour funding?

Are you looking for a setting that offers a stimulating and exciting learning environment for all children?

Are you looking to find a setting with an amazing outside space?

Are you looking for a setting with staff who will nurture and care for your child as their own when you can't be with them?

If you've answered yes to any of these questions then Barkham Preschool is the setting you're looking for!

Contact us now to book your show around - spaces available for September 2024.

preschoolbarkham@gmail.com



35 Years Ago

In Issue 8 is an article about the 'new' village hall opened in 1983. Then there is a plea for volunteers to drive the Playbus! I hope you enjoy reading it despite the variable standard of printing at that time!

BARKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Those who have come to Barkham since 1984, will not remember the small corrugated iron hut, a little way up Barkham Street from the Bull, that was the old Village Hall. This was erected in the 1920's as a temporary measure and gave sterling service to the village for the next 50 years! In spite of the lack of facilities (little parking for cars and even less in the way of kitchen equipment etc) the hall was well used by large numbers of villagers, young and old.

Eventually it became obvious that the life of this 'temporary' building was coming to an end. In 1979 a public meeting was called, at which it was decided to build a new hall, nearer to the church, this in spite of some reservations that a new hall could not be supported by a village the size of Barkham! There followed nearly four years of very hard work (and a great deal of fun) on the part of the Village Hall Committee members and villagers alike to raise the money, and the new hall was opened in the Autumn of 1983.

Of course, since then the new hall has gone from strength to strength. A number of new organisations catering for all ages, meet there regularly: there is a Beaver/Cubs/Scout Group (for boys between the ages of 6 - 15 1/2); a Brownie/Guide Group caters for girls of similar ages (7 - 14). There is a Playgroup for the very young, a Friendly Club for the not-so-young, the Barkham Wives welcome people of all ages; whist is played regularly at the hall, dogs are trained and table-tennis can be played. The Church makes good use

of the hall; as do people with no connection with any group, for parties suppers, weddings etc. It is obvious from this that the hall plays an important role in the village, and it is the villagers who keep it alive.

We hope that the future will bring continued success, although there are changes in the wind, which could affect the way the hall is run. The E.E.C.'s ruling that Britain must extend V.A.T. to areas previously zero-rated and it's classification of village halls as 'businesses' may well increase costs and hire charges alike.

The Chancellor seems to have some sympathy with charities who now find their status changed and ways are being sought to avoid, or at least alleviate, the effects of a V.A.T. levy. We need to work hard to ensure that our new label of local 'business' does not make it impossible for local people to meet locally to enjoy themselves and take part in village life. The Hall can be booked for private parties etc., by calling Tricia Carter on 788059.

Children will be playing in their front

leads me nicely into provision of a children's play area within Elizabeth Park. To the Recreation Department of The Wokingham District Council has yet to be decided and receive the benefit of the open areas within the Estate. A liaison is being maintained with the Recreation Department, and assure you all, that as the Department has its plans for a children's play area, the Recreation Department will have a

ASSOCIATION

LETTER

ISSUE 8

major input, not only to its siting, but also to the equipment/specification and associated environmental issues. If anybody has any questions, or wish to make comment about the play area, I would be pleased to hear from them.

MEMBERSHIP

The total of household registered as members passed the 350 mark recently, and a steady trickle continues

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A SECRET DESIRE TO DRIVE A BUS? -

no, not one of those puny Busy Bee things - you know, a real old fashioned double decker! Everyone will look up to you - Porsches, BMWs, the boss, everything will clear out of your way! The perfect antidote to a bad day at work!

Lessons given, no insurance costs and no HGV Licence needed.

The Wokingham Playbus is moved on a Sunday afternoon, Monday evening and Wednesday lunchtime from Emmbrook to Manor Road (off Evendon's Lane) and we are looking for drivers to help with this, probably one journey every 6 - 8 weeks during termtime. Its okay, we will empty the bus of children first and can arrange to collect you from work (if in Wokingham) or home and take you back again.

Go on ... contact Liz on 787455 and fulfil that secret desire!!

Finchampstead Flower Club

May 3rd was National Flower Arranging Day. The National Association of Flower Arranging Societies (NAFAS) suggests that flower clubs place an arrangement in a prominent position, with an invitation to take it. FFC have found that people are reluctant to take an arrangement and so, for the a few years, we have been leaving vases of flowers for people to take individual blooms. For the past three years, these have been left in Finchampstead Baptist Centre. Visitors and staff really appreciate them and it encourages people to join us for our meetings.

We meet at California Hall on the fourth Monday of the month, 7.30 for 8pm. £6 per visit to include refreshments and the opportunity to join in a raffle for the arrangements. On June 24th, Jennifer Thompson will be demonstrating “A Good Read” with flowers and foliage. On July 22nd Vijay Bhatia will talk about “Being Inspired By...” whilst developing her arrangements and in August we will hold a workshop. You are very welcome to join us.

Please phone the chair, Lis Barrett, 01189892092 if you would like further information or turn up after 7.30pm at California Hall (the road works aren't that bad and there is parking behind the hall) .

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

One skill that we have learnt is to fold back rose petals. It doesn't affect how long they live and really changes their impact. Not all roses cooperate! As the photos show, you can see that the pink ones did but the yellow didn't!



involve

MAKING A DIFFERENCE LOCALLY
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 without obligation via 01344 304 404, reception@involve.community or look at <https://involve.community/>



2024 is well on the way and hopefully Summer will appear before long - although the weather, with recent rain and cold winds needs to get the message!

Since the Spring Newsletter we have had our AGM in February when we reviewed the previous year and discussed the coming year's plans, and held our Silent Auction which raised some funds for the club.

In March we had a visit from Caroline Smith, Mayor of Earley Town. She told us so much about what being a Mayor involves, and having previously been Borough Mayor of Wokingham she has had a lot of experience. We viewed, and even wore, one of her official chains of office - it's quite heavy! And we studied her committee meetings agenda book, which was a very large tome - obviously there are many items to discuss at meetings!

April saw us enjoy an 'in-house supper' of Lasagne and Salad followed by a quiz on 'Musicals'. All the ladies working on their own or in pairs or groups were heads down busily studying the 20 questions. At times it was very quiet as they racked their brains and memories! It was a great evening.

We had two speakers for our May meeting. Firstly, our very own Diane Darling explained her work as a Volunteer Advisor for Citizens Advice, a position she has held for

many years. We heard how varied the topics, questions and queries are that she deals with regularly. In fact, earlier this year she received a community award, a Mayor's Honour Award, having been nominated by Citizens Advice Wokingham - a so well deserved award for Diane's work and commitment.

Our second speaker, Fiona Jones, from the Berkshire Lifestyle Concierge, presented a comprehensive list of some of the things we should do to put our affairs in order to help our families in our later years. If we haven't already done the following: Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney, given our special requests for our later living etc, then we should do these sooner rather than later. We were all spurred on to maybe 'declutter our homes' and put our affairs in order!

Over the next few months we have arranged speakers and topics on 'Living through the English Civil War', a Musical evening with a guitar player, and Local Stories of early bus and coach transport.

Our August meeting will be our Annual BBQ when we invite the menfolk and friends too. We hope for better weather this year as we really do want to enjoy all this outdoors in warm sunshine!

Our planned walk in April had to be cancelled for several reasons, but plans are in place for May and June.

We meet every first Wednesday of the month at the Village Hall at 7.45pm. We warmly welcome new members, especially if you are new to the area. For more information please contact

Shirley Warner (Chair)
shirleyannwarner@gmail.com
 0118 9789124

Quiz Answers

1. The Great Bear, The Plough or The Big Dipper
2. Io, one of the four moons of Jupiter that were discovered by Galileo
3. The music for Moon River was composed by Henry Mancini. It was originally performed by Audrey Hepburn in the 1961 film, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, winning an Oscar for Best Original Song
4. Venus
5. Uranus
6. Gustav Holtz
7. The Seven Sisters
8. Tom Hanks
9. Sirius, The Dog Star
10. When we have two full moons in the same calendar month the second one is called a 'blue moon'. This occurs every two to three years
11. Gene Kranz, the NASA engineer, most famous for being the flight director for Apollo 13.

Where in Barkham?

It's in Barkham Street, just after the junction with Barkham Road, opposite the gateway into the Bull car park. So it's on the left-hand side of the road, i.e. with no pavement. As they are electrical cables which might or might not be live, I hope it gets investigated soon!

Girl Guiding In our Community

Girl Guiding was first founded in the UK in 1908 and now more than 100 years later in 2024, Guiding is still supporting girls and young women to be the best they can be. Girlguiding is the UK's largest youth organisation dedicated completely to girls. The Guiding mission is:

“Through fun, friendship, challenge and adventure we empower girls to find their voice, inspiring them to discover the best in themselves and to make a positive difference in their community”.

Girl Guiding is doing well in the Wokingham Division, we have just under 600 members spread across 24 units covering central Wokingham, Winnersh, Finchampstead, Arborfield and Barkham.

Girls can join the Rainbows if they are aged 4-7, Brownies aged 7-10, Guides aged 10-14 and Rangers aged 14-18.

Girlguiding reports a 20% increase in young membership since 2021 and are seeking new adult volunteers to allow us to

continue to offer spaces to as many girls as possible. Sadly, we do have some waiting lists for units in our area and would love to talk to you if you could spare a few hours a week and join one of our unit teams.

Volunteering for Girlguiding has many benefits, with opportunities to meet new friends, share and gain transferable skills and take a break from everyday routines to spend time having fun and be inspired by incredible girls and young women – making a difference to the lives of girls in their local communities.

2nd Barkham Brownies meet in the Barkham Village hall, they are a friendly unit of 35 Brownies aged 7-10 – they like to have adventures, play games and enjoy working towards badges - this term they are working on an Olympic Challenge badge and taking the opportunity to learn some taekwondo, cricket and some golf. Last term they went to Clip 'n Climb.

The Brownies and their leaders like challenges and recently the girls had the opportunity to hold a Peregrine Falcon when a local expert from Feathers and Fur came to visit.

The unit often goes on trips and sleepovers and recently spent a night



at the Winchester Science museum – they are looking forward to going to PGL in September.

Also in the local area, there are Rainbow, Guide and Ranger units. Do you like the sound of these sorts of activities? Could you join our team? If so, we would love to hear from you, please email: girlguides.wokingham@gmail.com and one of the division leadership team will contact you for a chat.

Cathy Whittington



The Coombes CE Primary School
Arborfield, Berkshire

Limited Places Available in Reception
September 2024



Swimming Pool



Outdoor Learning

Contact us for a tour office@coombes.wokingham.sch.uk or Ph: 01189760751



Wokingham Choral Society Summer Concert

The theme of our summer concert on Saturday 15th June is very much about English composers and particularly the English madrigal and part songs. The madrigal is often sung without accompaniment (a capella) and would be a secular piece written for 4 – 6 voice parts. We will be singing two well-known madrigals by Thomas Morley and Robert Pearsall. Morley, a 16th century composer, has been called the father of the English Madrigal. Robert Pearsall was later in the early 19th century.

We will be singing **Summer is icumen in (Summer has Come)** a medieval English round of the 13th Century written in the Wessex dialect of Middle English. The manuscript was the first discovered example of a composition written with music notation and was found in Reading Abbey. It was probably written by one of the monks. The manuscript is now in the British Library but a copy of the manuscript in stone is displayed on the wall of the ruined chapter house in Reading

Abbey.

No concert of English music would be complete without some works of Edward Elgar. The choir will be singing two part songs *The Snow* and *Fly Singing Bird*, the lyrics of which were written by his wife the author Alice Elgar. This will be followed by two well known and wonderful pieces for solo violin *Chanson de matin*” and *Chanson de nuit*.

There are two wonderful rousing part songs by George Dyson called Songs of Courage. Dyson was head of music at Wellington College in the 1920s.

Finally - The Sprig of Thyme by John Rutter offers a selection of 11 traditional songs of the British Isles, drawing together long-standing favourites such as the *Willow Song* and *The Miller of Dee* with lesser known gems as *O Can Ye Sew Cushions* and *The Sprig of Thyme*. John Rutter born 1945 is one of the best known of our modern choral composers.

Visit www.wokingham-choral-society.co.uk for further details. If you are interested in joining our friendly choir, please contact Caroline, our Membership Secretary, for more information.



Wokingham's Olympic Fanfare Concert

We are thrilled to announce this exciting event, which promises to be an unforgettable celebration of the Paris Olympic Games through the power of music. From the iconic compositions of John Williams to the timeless melodies of Vangelis, the concert will captivate audiences and create an atmosphere of unmatched energy and enthusiasm.

As part of our commitment to supporting the local community, a portion of the concert proceeds will go to our nominated charity, Stepping Stones DS, which supports children and young people with Down's Syndrome in the local area.

For more detailed information about the event we invite you to read our official press release available at the following link:

<https://www.trinityband.co.uk/wokinghams-olympic-fanfare-concert/>



The Summer Term is a busy one for the orchestra - every May we hold a “Strings Workshop” at Oaklands School, open to all competent string players, whether orchestra members or not. We are also rehearsing for our **Summer Concert** which is at **All Saints Church, Wokingham on Saturday 6th July** and will feature **Elgar's 1st Symphony** considered to be a masterpiece and one of the greatest of all symphonies. The all-British programme also includes the stirring **overture to Dame Ethel**

Smyth's opera ‘The Wreckers’, based on tales of ships lured onto remote Cornish coasts to plunder their cargoes, and **Frank Bridge's** delightful **“Dance Rhapsody”** with its contrasting dance modes. **Tickets** are available via the link on our website at £15 and **18s and under are free.**

Look out for our beautiful poster which features interesting artwork connected to Elgar's home by **Malvern artist Antony Bridge**, whose work is exhibited and collected worldwide. The unusual pink colours were caused by dust

particles in the atmosphere blown over from the Sahara Desert, creating a stunning landscape.

The orchestra has over 60 regular members **rehearsing on Mondays in term time from 7.45-10pm at Oaklands Junior School, Butler Road, Crowthorne.** Our website has information about concerts, past and future, and you can also sign up to receive our **newsletter** with details of events and special offers.

www.crowthorneorchestra.com

Chris Gadsby

BVRA Committee



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



Cathy Whittington
Secretary
secretary@barkham.org.uk



Steve Young
Treasurer
treasurer@barkham.org.uk



Alan Edwards
Newsletter Editor
newsletter@barkham.org.uk



Dennis Eyrie
DevWatch Coordinator
development@barkham.org.uk



Dave Clements
Webmaster & Interim DevWatch
webmaster@barkham.org.uk



Louise Goldring
Membership
membership@barkham.org.uk



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



Shirley Warner
Social Team
Liaises with Barkham Village Hall

Newsletter 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.

| Issue | Deadline | Distribution |
|--------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Spring | 9 th February | early March |
| Summer | 10 th May | early June |
| Autumn | 9 th August | early September |
| Winter | 8 th November | early December |

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

Advertising

The newsletter is produced quarterly. The Spring issue is sent to 800+ households in Barkham, and the other three to the households who are paid-up BVRA members, which is currently 400+.

We offer four sizes of adverts all of which include membership of the BVRA. All sizes are in mm. The prices are shown below and cover a whole year's advertising in our four issues.

| Format | Advert size | Internal Pages | Back Page |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| Credit Card | 60 x 50 | £20.00 | £30.00 |
| Quarter Page | 124 x 104 | £50.00 | £75.00 |
| Half Page | 190 x 130 | £100.00 | £150.00 |
| Full Page | 190 x 270 | £200.00 | £300.00 |

Please contact the Newsletter Editor to discuss your needs and supply your copy to newsletter@barkham.org.uk by the deadlines above.

Facebook



Facebook Group



Website



Membership

Membership of the BVRA costs £3 per year and entitles you to receive four issues of this magazine.

To join please make your payment using one of the following ways:

1. By Direct Debit: these can be set up by following the link below <https://barkham.org.uk/bvra/bvra-membership>



All direct debits are fully covered under the UK Direct Debit scheme.

2. By Bank Transfer: email us at membership@barkham.org.uk for details.
3. By cash, drop off your payment at one of our collection points around the village. Contact us at membership@barkham.org.uk for details.

Useful Contacts

Barkham Parish Council

clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk

Bearwood Primary School

<https://www.bearwood-pri.wokingham.sch.uk/web/>

The Coombes CE Primary School

<https://www.thecoombes.com>

The Bull at Barkham

0118 304 2029

<https://bullatbarkham.com/>

St James Church, Barkham

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

Finchampstead Flower Club

<https://bbandoflowers.org.uk/clubs/finchampstead/>

Dinton Walking Group

dintonwalkinggro@yahoo.co.uk

Groups with Events

at Barkham Village Hall

Barkham Village Hall Bookings

<http://hallbookingonline.com/barkham>

Art Class

Kay Young

kaycatlady65@gmail.com

Barkham Ladies Social Club

Shirley Warner 0118 978 9124

shirleyannwarner@gmail.com

Barkham Pre-School

[Preschoolbarkham.net](http://preschoolbarkham.net)

preschoolbarkham@gmail.com

Bonsai Club

www.berkshirebonsai.co.uk

Dog Training

Lesley Slade 07885 899073

Martial Arts Class

Combat Academy UK

Andy Holmes 07783 206737

[https://facebook.com/](https://facebook.com/CombatAcademyUKBarkham)

[CombatAcademyUKBarkham](https://facebook.com/CombatAcademyUKBarkham)

Pilates Class

Vicky's Pilates 07729 783240

Simply Fit

Melissa Buckle

melissa@simplyfitberkshire.co.uk

Sunday Club

Julian Bidgood

office@abch.org.uk

Youth Club

David Horrocks

david.horrocks@abch.org.uk

BARKHAM DIARY

BVRA Events

| | | | |
|----------|-------------------------|----------|-------|
| 05/10/24 | BVRA Quiz Night | BVH | 19:00 |
| 13/12/24 | BVRA Carols in the Park | Junipers | 19:00 |

Monthly Events

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|------|-------|
| 1st Wed | Barkham Ladies Social Club | BVH | 19:30 |
| 2nd Tue | Barkham Parish Council | AGCC | 19:30 |
| 2nd Wed | Bonsai Club | BVH | 19:30 |
| 4th Mon | Finchampstead Flower Club | CRH | 20:00 |
| 2nd Tue | Dinton Walking Group Social | BVH | 19:30 |

Weekly Events

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|-----|-------|
| Mondays | Pilates Class | BVH | 10:00 |
| Mondays | Dog Training | BVH | 18:30 |
| 1st & 3rd Mon | U3A Group 2 Music Group | BVH | 13:30 |
| 2nd & 4th Mon | U3A Group 1 Music Group | BVH | 14:30 |
| Tuesdays | Rainbows | BVH | 16:30 |
| Tues-Fri | Barkham Pre-School | BVH | 08:30 |
| Wednesdays | Art Class | BVH | 19:30 |
| Wednesdays | Brownies | BVH | 17:00 |
| Thursdays | Pilates Class | BVH | 18:00 |
| Thursdays | Martial Arts Class | BVH | 19:30 |
| Fridays | Youth Club | BVH | 19:00 |
| Saturdays | Simply Fit | BVH | 08:30 |

Special Events

8th June Trinity Olympic Fanfare Concert
See Page 21 for details

16/th June Wokingham Choral Society
Summer Concert
Page 21 for details

6th July Crowthorne Symphony Orchestra
Summer Concert
See Page 21 for details

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

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