

£1, free to Members

Barkham Newsletter

Issue 102 Winter 2012

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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

Carols in the Park

Friday 21st December 7pm

at The Junipers

For more details see page 10



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BVRA Chairman

Can you help please?



The Barkham Village Residents Association's role is "to preserve and enhance the character of the Parish of Barkham as a community". The chairman facilitates this role and specific duties include:

- To chair the Association, Committee meetings (4 per year) and the AGM.
- Co-ordinate actions across the Association's fields of activities.
- Represent the BVRA with outside bodies (e.g. Parish Council, media, the public).
- Recruit new Committee members when necessary.
- Write the Chairman's introduction to each Newsletter.
- Time commitment could be a maximum of half a day per month.

If you feel you may be able to take on this important role in the local community or would like more information, please contact any member of the committee (details opposite).

The Quiz

As it's the 50th anniversary of the release of Love Me Do and the Magical Mystery Tour was filmed in Barkham (OK, not true –Ed), the theme for this edition's quiz is The Beatles. Answers on page 19.

1. What is the link between 20 Forthlin Road and "Mendips"?
2. Who was the original bassist when they were a 5 piece group (pre "Fab Four")?
3. Who was the Beatles manager until he died in 1967?
4. On whose TV show did they appear in February 1964 which brought them to the attention of the American public for the first time?
5. In April 1964 they had the top 5 in the US Billboard Chart. Can you name 3 of the 5 songs?
6. "Our World" was the first international live satellite broadcast in June 1967. Which song did the Beatles perform?
7. Which song features the line "...and the fireman rushes in from the pouring rain – very strange...?"
8. What was screened on BBC1 between a Petula Clark special and a Norman Wisdom film on Boxing Day 1967?
9. Who played the guitar solo on "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" from the White Album?
10. On Abbey Road, what is the next line after "You should have seen Polythene Pam..."

Advertising and Newsletter Contributions

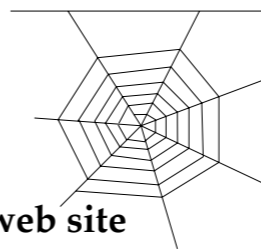
Newsletter articles / contributions for the Spring edition should be in by 22 February. It helps if these can be submitted in electronic form by email to newsletter@barkham.org.uk. They may also be hand written or typed, and should be sent to the Editor, Stewart Richardson, at 342 Barkham Road, Wokingham, RG41 4DE.

For trade adverts, contact Ian Overton by email to treasurer@barkham.org.uk, or call 973 4806. We offer three sizes, 64mm x 54mm at £22, 124mm x 105mm at £52 and 190x130mm at £100, for 4 quarterly insertions.

Distribution of the next issue will take place in early March.

BVRA 2011/12 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Barkham web site

Now that the Parish Council have launched their own website, I shall be making some changes to the BVRA site to ensure it maintains its own distinct identity and to avoid confusion to residents. Primarily we will focus on social and Development Watch news.

More photos please!

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

Simon Zarywacz



Editorial

2012 was another successful year for the Newsletter and the winter edition is a good time to look back on the year.

We had 2 editions with 20 pages, 1 of 24 and 1 of 28 pages. The 28 page summer edition commemorated the 25th anniversary of the BVRA and the 100th edition of the newsletter and featured a front cover designed by Emma Dodds of Bearwood Road and The Coombes Primary School. Emma was the winner in our "design a cover" competition and the standard of the entries was such that we featured a montage of other entries on the back cover. We also splashed out on colour in the centre spread, featuring photos from the archives of the past quarter of a century in Barkham. The autumn edition carried more photos than ever before including another colour centre spread recording the events of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

We've also had articles from some new contributors, who are always welcome if difficult to find! Can I take this opportunity to appeal for more? Where are all you budding journalists? There must be a local issue that interests or annoys you – share your views and write me a piece about it!

This edition features news of a debut crime novel from a Barkham resident. There must be other residents with something interesting to share with our readers – let me know. I'll publish anything (within reason)!

Regular contributors cover the church, history, schools, gardening, rambling and other local organisations, including local music societies. The centre pages are usually reserved for "Social" – Judith's report and plans for forthcoming events and pictures of recent ones.

Since David French moved away the reports from the Development Watch team have not been as frequent but Laurence Heath has kindly stepped in with some updates from time to time.

The quiz has become a fixture and I hope I manage to set the questions at the right level. The summer edition featured 25 questions – one for every year since the formation of the BVRA.

We continue to cover the activities of Barkham Parish Council and I'd like to take the chance to thank them for once again supporting the newsletter with an annual grant. Without it we would have to reduce the size of the newsletter and increase membership fees, both of which we want to avoid.

I also want to thank the advertisers who give us an important source of revenue to offset against our costs. I hope they get some return from their investment!

Finally, as always I'd like to thank Bob Bishop for his continuing work as the "publisher", Steve Young as the "wholesaler" who packages up the copies and to all the distributors without whom the newsletters would never reach the streets of Barkham!

Stewart Richardson
Editor



So if you could spare a few hours every year and want to get involved please contact me.

Jim Butler
Membership Secretary
978 3572



Faster broadband for all?

Many residents want faster Internet access for business or entertainment according to the results of the Barkham and Arborfield Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire. This will surprise those in the area who already have high speed broadband, but Barkham is a divided community when it comes to high speed access.

If you are connected to the Arborfield exchange, as many of us are, you will know that speed can be extremely variable and high speed merely a dream. The answer is a costly upgrade to Arborfield Exchange, but this isn't seen as economic by the providers.

Berkshire will have access to funds for subsidising upgrades, but it will only happen in areas where sufficient residents show that they want 'superfast broadband'. So, if you are affected you should register your interest in faster broadband at www.SuperfastBerkshire.org.uk/register. It doesn't commit you to anything or any provider, but it will make all the difference to the outcome.

There will be more information about the campaign shortly on the Parish Council web site: www.barkham-parishcouncil.org.

Ken Lane
Parish Councillor



News from Your Parish Council

Thank you to all those residents who took the trouble to complete the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire, we are now busy analysing your responses.

The survey seeks to get answers from local residents on key questions that affect the area including the need for affordable housing, comments on local transport and the impact of the proposed development at Arborfield Garrison. Analysing the questionnaires will be just the first step in producing a Neighbourhood Plan. As the Plan evolves, there will be further consultation with local people. The final Plan will then only be adopted after a referendum for all residents. [There is a separate article by Laurence Heath on the Neighbourhood Plan responses on page 6 – Ed]

Within the next couple of weeks a new footpath will be ready for use. This new path will link into the present Barkham footpath no. 10 which runs from behind St James Church, the path will cross two fields and enter Rooks Nest Wood which is off Barkham Ride. This will give walkers a longer route when starting from Rooks Nest Wood and the opportunity to visit the beautiful church of St James. As soon as the path is ready for use the Parish Council hope to have some maps available for residents to use.

For any residents who are new to the area, did you know that the Parish Council pay for a refuse lorry once a month, it is situated at the top of The Junipers next to the park on 4th Saturday of every month (except December) from 8.00 – 11.00 am. This facility is for any bulky household waste that is too big for a normal collection, the driver is only too pleased to help you unload your car. No commercial waste please. The next date will be 24th November and then 26th January. All dates are published on our web site, www.barkham.parishcouncil.net

The Parish Council also have a history book "Barkham A History" written by two of our local historians, David French and Janet Firth. If you are looking for a Christmas present for a friend or relative who has an interest in local history this could be the very thing. The cost is £5 and they can be purchased from the Clerk.

Judith Neuhofer
Clerk to Barkham Parish Council



Sporting Endeavour Awards

This year Barkham Parish Council is proud to present two worthy winners of the Sam Hosgood Sporting Endeavour Fund, Jacob Payne and Katie Abrahams. Jacob is aged 15 and is a new winner of this award, his chosen sport is ice dance and he has just started to compete at an international level. Katie Abrahams also

aged 15 has been trampolining since the age of 6 and also competes at an international level. Sam Hosgood who is a previous long standing Chairman was delighted to present the two worthy winners with a certificate and a cheque which will go a small way towards their training costs.



Wokingham Job Support Centre are gearing themselves up for their 20th Anniversary Celebrations in 2012 having first opened its doors on the 4th December 1992 at The Ritz Business Centre, Easthampstead Road, Wokingham and in that time has supported over 7000 clients in their search for employment.

The Centre itself relies heavily on the hard work, dedication and commitment of both its Centre Supervisors and Volunteer Advisors all of whom work tirelessly in providing support and guidance to the unemployed.

The centre offers FREE access to:

- 1 to 1 Advisor Support
- Administration Support
- CV writing
- Interview techniques / skills / mock
- Career Matching programme
- MS Office / Internet access
- Stationary / printing / telephone / newspapers

Workshops are also an integral part of the services that WJSC offer;

CV Workshop Need a fresh eye on your CV? We can advise on your existing format and content or why not join one of our workshops and create a new one using the latest techniques.

Interview Techniques Workshop We run regular workshops to practise your interview skills, in small groups or 1 to 1, you can try out those tricky interview questions and practise your responses to build your confidence

50+ Workshop A special workshop which is most appropriate for our more senior clients. It has been designed to help you explore the potential of your transferrable skills and celebrate your wealth of knowledge and capabilities.

So please do come along to; The Cornerstone, Norreys Avenue, Wokingham, RG40 1UE. Tel: 01189 770517. Email: Jobsearch@wjsc.org.uk. Website: www.wjsc.org.uk



Excellent response to Neighbourhood Plan survey

Barkham and Arborfield Parish Councils can now start to prepare a detailed Neighbourhood Plan thanks to those who responded to the questionnaire delivered to every household in September.

In total there were 367 responses – just over 14% of all households, which I am told is a very good response for this kind of survey. The data is being analysed and the early results show that residents in both parishes are keen to keep their own identities and are concerned about the impact of the proposed redevelopment of Arborfield Garrison.

Detailed analysis will reveal more about residents' priorities as well as giving a breakdown by location, age groups and employment status.

The results will provide the basis for developing a joint Neighbourhood Plan for Barkham and Arborfield. Any plan has to go through a rigorous process that culminates in a referendum, so the two communities still have quite a bit of work to do and residents will be asked to play a part at every stage.

We will be keeping all residents up to date with the results, but

here are the headlines so far:

There is almost total unanimity that the identities of Arborfield and Barkham as distinct communities should be maintained (97% of responses) and that green gaps should be preserved between the villages and neighbouring communities (99%).

There is a similar high level of agreement that if the development of the Arborfield Garrison relies on local residential roads it would be detrimental to the environment of the villages through increased noise, pollution and safety concerns (97%).

Fewer than a third of residents actually live in the area because it is near to work (27%) and the average journey to work is roughly 30 minutes.

Unsurprisingly the majority of journeys to work are by car (78%, rising to 85% including car share and car/train options).

Bus services are not used at all by over half of respondents, with shopping cited as the most popular reason (20% of all respondents).

Residents are keen on cycling for leisure and exercise, but safety is considered the main problem both by cyclists and non-cyclists (91%).

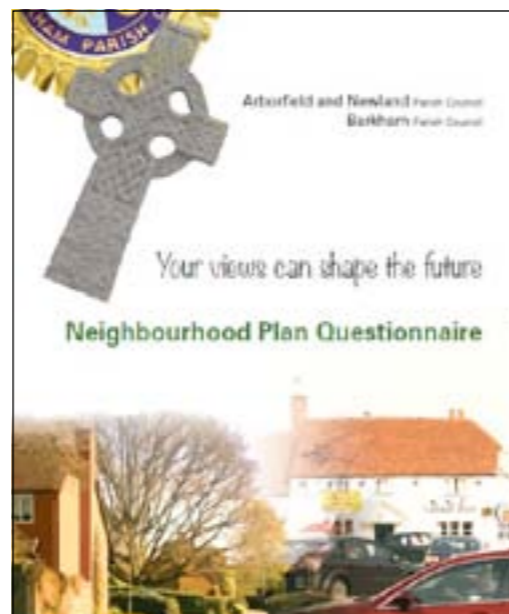
There is support for an Arborfield by-pass (55% if it is at least a mile from the village, with an additional 16% accepting one nearer the village). It is likely that further analysis will show that support will be higher amongst Arborfield residents.

There is a difference of opinion

about what should be done at Barkham Bridge. Nearly half believe it should be widened (49%) but the same percentage would prefer traffic calming or no change. Further analysis may well reveal that Arborfield residents would prefer widening, but Barkham residents would not. This will be a tricky point to resolve!

There were mixed messages regarding affordable housing. There was a fairly even split between support (38%) and opposition (39%) with the remainder in the "don't know" camp. Only 17% of respondents identified a need within their own households. This will require further research, for example whether there are different requirements for social and rented housing, or low cost housing for sale. Ultimately this should influence the mix of housing at Arborfield Garrison.

Unsurprisingly, there was a wide range of responses to the need for new facilities within the redevelopment of Arborfield Garrison. The top preferences were: a doctors' surgery (48%), primary school (45%), secondary school (41%), dentist (41%), indoor sports hall (28%) and local shops (27%).



The question regarding open spaces produced strong support for footpaths (71% of top three responses) and cycleways (63%). Other support was for allotments (30%), bridle ways and wildlife refuges (both 23%), and jogging tracks (21%).

The existing open spaces appear well appreciated, especially The Coombes (80%); Arborfield Park (62%); and Junipers Field (48%). No doubt the last two will have much higher scores within their own communities.

The top two preferences for re-using the Listed Buildings forming Arborfield Garrison stable block are a café/restaurant (38%) or museum (31%). A combination of the two would seem a good compromise!

Finally, the most important challenge facing the community was considered to be traffic congestion (84% of top three responses), followed by development (45%), traffic speed (41%), protection of open spaces and green gaps (40%), and traffic noise (37%).

The results confirm that many of the area's problems are related to transport and development. In particular the communities will expect that any development at Arborfield Garrison is accompanied by the provision of the necessary road infrastructure.

Although we are very much dependent on our cars, there is a latent demand for cycling opportunities which can only be resolved by provision of safe cycle routes. Walking is very popular and our open spaces are appreciated: there is a clear desire to preserve our countryside and the important green gaps. These

are important themes that must be explored further as the Neighbourhood Plan evolves.

Thanks again to all respondents. The Neighbourhood Plan will endeavour to keep you updated as we make progress this important exercise.

Laurence Heath
Vice Chairman
Barkham Parish Council

Barkham Village Hall

Next to St James' Church, beautiful rural setting for weddings, christenings and parties.

From as little as £22/hr for both halls. £25/hr after 6.00 p.m. on Saturday.

Can accommodate 175 guests and now has a new fully equipped kitchen. Plus with the benefit of Lottery Funding a new ceiling and lighting have been installed which can be fully dimmable for evening celebrations.

If you are a group who needs somewhere to meet on a regular basis why not use your local village hall, we have plenty of tables and chairs and spacious car park and grounds for use during the summer. We offer very competitive rates for regular users.

Further information can be obtained from the parish council web site with photographs of the hall plus a calendar with availability. Please contact Judith Neuhof on 9790296 or email clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk



In the last year we helped 4,592 new people with 10,157 new problems. There were 100 residents of Barkham, who visited us 230 times with 221 new problems. It cost us £4,500 (of which Wokingham Borough Council contributed £3,870) to help those Barkham residents.

Wokingham Borough is supposed to be one of the wealthiest places in the country to live. However, we know that there are some areas of severe deprivation in the borough. For example around 25% (approx 1150) of the people we saw were unemployed and looking for work and around 36% (1653 people) had a monthly household income below £1000.

We saw 75 people homeless people during the year (a rise from 56 the year before). Some were sleeping rough, but most in LA Bed & breakfast accommodation. People staying with friends/relatives (often called 'sofa surfers') amounted to 345 people or families for the year. That is a total of 420 homeless people, or families that came to us during the year. It was 330 the year before. Let us hope this particular trend does not continue.

WOKINGHAM
26-28 Market Place
(next to WH Smith), RG40 2AP
public@wokingham-cab.org.uk
www.wokingham-cab.org.uk

Hours:
Mon - Thu: 9.00am - 3.00pm
Fri: 9.00am - 1.00pm

Telephone assessments:
0844 499 4126



What's happening at Wokingham Borough Council

Plans have been moving forward on the town centre regeneration and the outline has been consulted on and work should start in 2013. The plans are available for anyone to look at either at the council offices or on line on the council's website.

The council has been looking at the future of library services in the Wokingham Borough. To this end the council has been working with interested parties in a competitive dialogue process to see if there are ways that we can work with the private sector to improve the library service we offer. The result is that we haven't been convinced there will be enough benefits for our library users to continue with the process. We also don't want to take the risk the key objectives would not be achieved for residents.

We are committed to providing a good library service and are one of the few councils who have recently opened a new library. We want to make sure our libraries continue to meet the needs of local communities and will be work to explore options to improve the service. This will include looking at how we can link in or work

with other services such as sports, leisure and culture.

I have been working on the working party to deliver the new primary school provision strategy which was agreed by the executive at the end of October. The strategy will create additional places through new school provision between 2013 and 2016 at a number of sites across the borough, as well as put into action a priority programme of works to deliver 150 new places for 2013/14.

A new foot path is available to Rook Nest Wood, it links into the present Barkham footpath number 10 which runs from behind St James Church, the path will cross two fields and enter Rooks Nest Wood which is off Barkham Ride

On Planning, Wokingham Borough has lost the appeal made by Reading University with regards to the Shinfield Strategic development location and we are yet to understand the full implications and as I write and we are busy looking at the judgement which runs to over 300 pages.

There is no question when dealing with developers all the I's need to be dotted and T's need to be crossed in addition our planning guidance must be evidenced based to ensure we only get well designed sustainable developments.

With the Government's approach of preference for development driven by the economic woes of the UK it becomes even more important we all voice our opinions at the earliest stage possible; it is too late when they are laying the bricks.

If one will be fighting Barkham's corner to ensure we keep our identity as a village and defend it from unsuitable planning which will put unacceptable strains on infrastructure and destroys the very reason why most of us have chosen to live in Barkham.

We are still waiting for information with regards to the planning at the Garrison.

The development may be called Arborfield but nearly two thirds of development falls in Barkham. So what happens at the Garrison is important to us all.

I would like to wish all who live in Barkham a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year and don't forget you can contact me on any issues relating to Barkham or Wokingham Borough Council generally

John Kaiser
Councillor for Barkham
Wokingham Borough Council
Email: john.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk
Telephone: 0118 9762116
Mobile 0771 419 2352

"Winter Wonderland" Christmas Fair – with **St. Sebastian Wokingham Band** and Christmas Market

Saturday 1st December, 4pm – 7pm

Saint Sebastian's Church of England Aided Primary School, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham, RG40 3AT

£1 single entry or £2.50 per family on the door on the day



It is now the 3rd anniversary of the club's formation by David Annets of Sandy Lane.

The idea of a motor club for local members for all classic models from any manufacturer has proved very popular with membership now reaching over 100 and all from Barkham and its surrounding areas. We must have become popular as there are now six memberships in Sandy Lane alone. Barkham appears to be an area where many gardens and garages have been hiding cars (and motorbikes) of interest.

The club meets on the last Wednesday of each month at various venues. Recent meetings have been at The Cantley House Hotel, Blackbushe Airport Cafe, The De Vere Warbrook House Hotel Eversley and the Wokingham Cricket Club's new clubhouse off Bearwood Road.

Weekend activities are regularly organised with club runs to classic shows, air shows, car jumbles and motor sporting events. In May we once again showed some forty vehicles at the annual Bearwood College Car and Motorcycle Show of which we are part of the sponsoring organisation.

This year has been especially busy with our participation in the Wokingham Diamond Jubilee celebration on 3rd June, lining both sides of a very wet Broad Street with a wide selection of our mem-

Why Not Become a Distributor?

Please come and join our team of distributors for the Barkham Newsletter.

We currently require three distributors for various parts of Barkham (approx. 20 or so households each).

So for the opportunity for a little light exercise and a chance to meet your neighbours please call me (Jim) on 978 3572 or e-mail membership@barkham.org.uk

Thank you

bers' cars. The following weekend a smaller group of our cars was on show in gorgeous sunshine at Barkham's own BVRA Jubilee Fete on Saturday 9th June at the village hall.

To top all this the club was selected to display some fifty of our vehicles at the "Windsor Castle Concours of Elegance" alongside entries from owners clubs for Aston Martin, Bentley, Ferrari and Jaguar. The cars lined both sides of The Long Walk leading to the castle, where a show of very rare and special cars from collections worldwide were exhibited alongside cars of the Royal Household. The sun shone for us all day making it a very special occasion and we felt privileged and grateful for the efforts of David Annets who with his "contacts" made the event available to the club. The visiting public were enthusiastic

about our club particularly as we had such a diverse range of cars on show. Bentleys and Ferraris are fabulous vehicles but after an hour or so the public wanted variety and BADCCC gave them it.

For further information please try our website badccc.co.uk and on Facebook.

Bernie Hicks



Social

What a year this has been – hot weather (yes there was a day in March) when it should have been spring-like and then rain when we wanted sun. How anything managed to survive in our gardens this year is beyond me. Personally we have our shrubs hard pruned twice this year and they are still larger than ever before. At the time of writing, the clocks have been put back and it really seems as if autumn has arrived with the beautiful colours of the leaves. I have spent many hours planting bulbs only to watch the squirrels, who have been absent for a couple of years, busily digging them up so it will be interesting to see what appears next spring.

For those of you that came to the skittles I hope that you enjoyed

the evening. Although the numbers were down on previous years we did managed to have six teams and the winners on the evening were Barkham City Rollers consisting of Sharon and Stephen



Henry, Cathy and Dan Daly and Colin and Jo Cable. After supper we played a game of killer and the winner was Colin Cable. There must be something about this as last year the winner of killer was also in the winning team on that night as well.

By now we will have had the quiz evening and I hope all of you that attended enjoyed yourselves and I will give a fuller report in the next edition of the newsletter.

As I said last time we hope to have the date of our annual Carols in the Park and I can now confirm that this has been arranged for Friday 21st December. Please wrap up warm and join us at 7pm at the junction of The Woodlands and The Junipers where we will be accompanied once again by Berkshire Maestros Breakaway Brass Band. Bring along your torches, (carol sheets will be provided) voices and money for the bucket collection for the band who kindly give up their time to play for us, and I am sure that you would agree when I say that it would not be so enjoyable if they were not there. We will sing carols and process towards The Junipers Park for mince pies and mulled wine. This is always a popular event and photos from last year can be seen on the front page.

On behalf of the committee may I wish you all very happy Christ-

mas and a Prosperous New Year and we look forward to seeing you at one, if not more, of our functions in 2013.

Judith Collins
977 1579
social@barkham.org.uk

Understanding Computers!

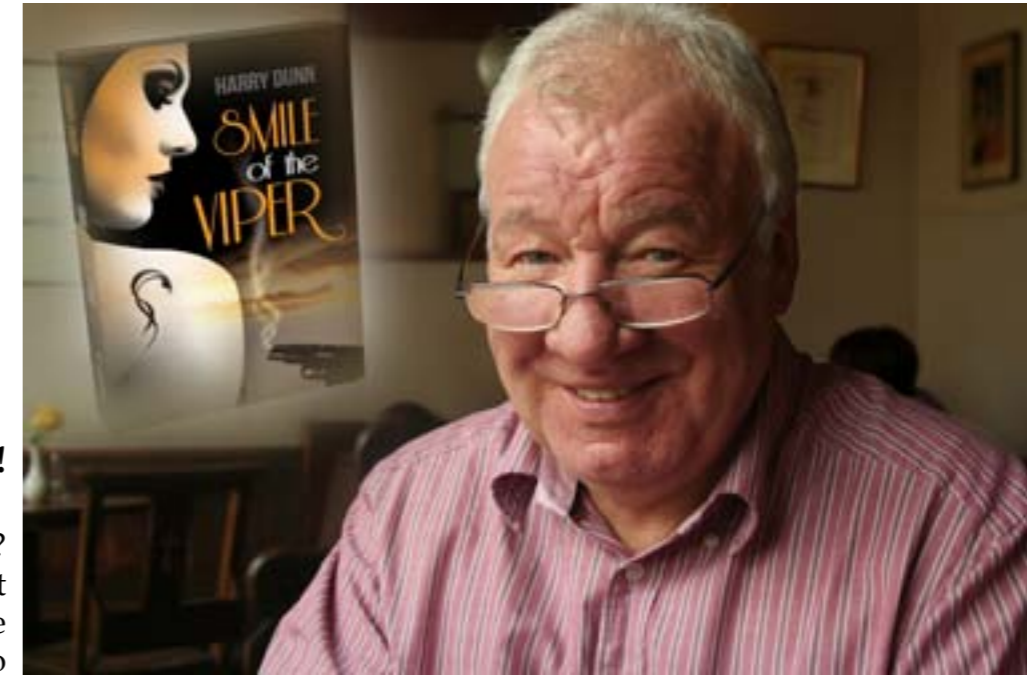
Are you baffled by computers? Would you like to learn more but don't know where to start? We've helped over 200 older people to learn the basics in computers. We offer one to one tuition in a friendly jargon-free atmosphere to help get you started. Before long you'll be getting to grips with email so that you can keep



in touch with grand-children and far away friends; you'll be able to pursue hobbies and write letters and even browse the shops online. If you're aged 60 or over and would like to learn more then get in touch. Our sessions happen every Wednesday morning in Wokingham town centre. These sessions are run by The Link Visiting Scheme, a small local charity who care about older people in Wokingham Borough. For more information please call us on 0118 9798019 or ask a friend to check out our website on

www.linkvisiting.org

Barkham Resident Celebrates Publication of Debut Crime Novel



Harry Dunn, a Barkham resident for twenty five years has had his debut crime novel, Smile of the Viper, published by Caffeine Nights.

It is a fast paced thriller featuring London private investigator Jack Barclay who is on the trail of a crooked financier. The hunt takes Jack to the Latin Quarter of Paris and then Mexico before the dramatic climax in London. As he takes on the Russian mafia, he uncovers a nightmare world of betrayal and murder, putting his own life in danger. In the grand tradition of the genre, it has a completely unexpected twist at the end.

Harry spent many years with the BBC and travelled on promotion tours with the likes of Delia Smith and Keith Floyd. It was during the many weeks spent in hotels, he began reading novels and crime was always his genre of choice. 'Keith Floyd once said: You know enough about it all. You should write your own novel.

'It's been a fascinating journey to become a published author but it's not for the fainthearted. Rejection becomes the norm but I was determined to get there. The perseverance paid off and now I'm on the other side of the bookshop signing table.'

Smile of the Viper is available from bookshops and also as an eBook in all formats including Kindle and ePub. It has been receiving 5 star reviews on Amazon.

Wokingham Times

If you have local news or would like your event photographing for the paper, please let me know. My direct line is 918 3023.

Jon Nurse





Yea, Lord, we greet thee

Christmas at St James' Church

Back when we were just coming to St James, before I started working here, I had no idea just how busy Christmas could be. The two weeks running up to Christmas Day are – without a doubt – the busiest of the year, but in many ways they are the most exhilarating too.

One of the privileges of being part of the local community is being able to welcome different groups into the church for their own Christmas activities. Every year Barkham Pre-School make their way across the car park from the Village Hall for a very simple retelling of the Christmas story (and a cup of tea and a mince pie for the helpers and mums who come too). The Coombes School Carol Service alternates between Arborfield and Barkham churches, and we very much look forward to having them back with us again this year as well.

Then there are the five main Christmas services we run each year. There's the Nativity, on the morning of the last Sunday before Christmas, when the children from our Sunday Club re-enact the events of the first Christmas. Our increasingly popular 'Carols by Candlelight' usually takes place on the Sunday evening before Christmas (although this year it will be happening on Sunday 16 December, a week earlier than normal). The candlelit church

looks stunning (and smells lovely too, thanks to the mulled wine we serve afterwards). Our musicians are already trying to work out how they can meet the annual challenge of trying to match the quality of what they did the previous year.

Things get very busy on Christmas Eve. The afternoon sees our all-age 'Family Carols,' which is traditionally our best attended service of all (standing room only in the last few years – and not much of that). It tends to be chaos, but it's wonderful to see so many gathering in this way. We've changed the time this year, from 3pm to 4pm, in the hope that this will better suit those with very young children, so it could potentially be very full indeed.

My favourite service (speaking personally) is our 'Midnight Carols,' at 11:30pm on Christmas Eve. It's very different – very thoughtful and calm – and deliberately so, in order to give people an opportunity to reflect. So – even if you know you won't be ready for Christmas Day by then, why not face up to the fact that you'll have to make it up as you go along on the day itself, leave the rushing around, and come and join us to pause and remember what this season is really all about?

Then it's home for just a few hours' sleep before we're back again for our Christmas Day Service at 10am, when regulars and visitors alike start the day by praising the God who gave us his Son.

There's one new feature in our Calendar this year. Wokingham Town Council have invited our friends at the Church at the White House to put on a Live Nativity (animals and all!) in central Wokingham on the afternoon of Sunday 23 December. That will be

a huge undertaking and they need all the help they can get, which is why we've happily moved our Carols by Candlelight to Sunday 16 December, so we can help them with the Nativity instead. This means there won't be anything at Barkham Church on the evening of Sunday 23 December. But do listen out for details of the Live Nativity and hopefully we'll see some of you there.

And why all this activity?

The first verse of the first carol we sing at the service of Carols by Candlelight reminds us that the things we remember at this time of year aren't just a myth. They actually happened in space and time – 'Once in royal David's city.' If we'd been there then, we'd have seen them too.

And the last verse of the last carol we sing at our Midnight Carols (hopefully just after midnight – if we've got our timings right!) reminds us who that baby was, and why he's worth remembering:

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given!
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!*

Jesus said he was God himself, born as one of us, in order to save us.

That's a big claim! Why not take the time to look into it some more this Christmas? We'd love to welcome you to St James', and hope all our services will be helpful for those who just want to think more about these things.

But – if that claim is true – then surely there's only way to respond – and not just by remembering that baby.

O come, let us adore him!

Will you?

St James' Church, Barkham: Christmas Services 2012

Sunday 16 December
7:00pm - Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 23 December
10am - Nativity Service (including activities for children after the Nativity)
Afternoon - Live Nativity in Wokingham (details tbc)
[Please note there will be no evening service at Barkham Church on 23 December.]

Monday 24 December
4pm - Family Carols
11:30pm - Midnight Carols

Tuesday 25 December
10am - Christmas Day Service

Please come and join us if you can. For more details, visit www.abch.org.uk or call the Church Office on 0118 976 0285.

The Green Deal costs of eco-refurbishment

The Green Deal has launched but are the costs of eco-refurbishment well understood? A number of basic factors influence the costs involved:

Scale and ambition of works
Age, type and size of your home
Grants, subsidies and incentives

Most projects start with improved insulation and draught-proofing and move to more efficient heating and windows. Solar and heat recovery systems may also be suitable, but radical carbon reduction could require all this and more.

The final cost will be driven by how green you want to go. Reducing a typical older home's carbon emissions by 80% will not be

cheap. One study by The Existing Homes Alliance puts the cost at between £12,000 and £54,000. If your budget is at the lower end, solar panels and external wall insulation are likely to be off the menu.

Insulating older solid wall properties is challenging, especially if all your walls are exposed to the elements. But, if your property was built after 1930, it will probably have cavity walls. These can be insulated at little or no cost with an energy supplier offer.

Subsidies change over time so it is worth seizing a good deal. Modest grants are available for renewable heat technologies like solar thermal, biomass and heat pumps. The long awaited Renewable Heat Incentive is due in summer 2013. Green Deal finance packages are due in the New Year.

Be sure you get the best independent advice and start with a refurbishment plan and a defined budget. For more on costs, see www.superhomes.org.uk/refurbcost



Sash windows can be double-glazed
Photo courtesy of www.superhomes.org.uk

The Big Picture

The Green Deal is a Government backed scheme to help people to refurbish their homes. With rising fuel prices, over 3.5 million people living in fuel poverty and some legally binding carbon reduction targets, the Government needs us all to start cutting our fuel use. The government is targeting an 80% reduction in UK CO2 emissions from 1990 levels by 2050. The first Green Deal finance packages are expected in January 2013.

Arborfield Gardening Association

Such a lot seems to have happened since my last article, so I will whiz through events to give a flavour of what Garden Club has been up-to:

September saw us visit Henry Street Garden Centre for both a meeting on fruit bush care, and also the Inter-Society Quiz.



Thanks go to the team at Streets for hosting both events, very well organised as usual, and congratulations to the worthy winners of the Quiz – Ascot.

Our October meeting was a most interesting talk by members of Berkshire Bonsai, who demonstrated the way to create and plant up a bonsai tree. We hope to arrange another visit by them next year, and I have issued a challenge to members to bring along a bonsai that they have grown themselves to that meeting! We'll see how we get on... Also in October was the 3 Society

Social and this year Shinfield hosted. It was a very enjoyable evening, and well attended too with the usual good numbers from the Arborfield contingent, so thanks go to Shinfield for the entertainment and excellent meal. Speaker Geoff Lunn treated us to a selection of his stunning photographs of wild birds taken

over the years in his Surrey garden. Well done also to Shinfield, this year's winners of the table competition. As usual the Arborfield entry was very classy, and made up of contributions from many different members, pulled together on the day by Loraine, so thanks to all who participated.

In recent years local clubs have found it difficult to arrange coach trips for their members, cost of fuel, financial viability, admin etc, so members have successfully tried going on coach trips run by a local company who specialise in this. Particularly to 'garden'

destinations of course, and thus far to National Trust properties, as many AGA members are also members of the NT and therefore enjoy free entry. We have been to Cliveden, see members enjoying the view across the Thames River Valley before going off on a River Cruise along the Thames, and recently to Stourhead for the autumn colours and historic house. The outward journey was sunny, and so an additional bonus was a stunning view across Salisbury Plain to Stonehenge. We just circulate the brochure, anyone interested in a trip lets me know, if others are keen to join them, everyone books their own ticket, easy! An adventurous trip to Bruges in the spring has been mooted; let me know if you'd like to join us on one of our trips.

We have our Christmas Party for members coming up on 13th Dec, 7pm in the Village Hall, please note the early start. Please ring me asap for details if you'd like to come along, the deadline is end of November for this as we're planning a traditional style Christmas Party with silly games, secret santa and faith supper, so we need to know numbers. New members are always welcome, but please let me know before the end of Nov if you'd like to come to the party. Ring me, Jan, on 9760243.

Jan Heard (Chairman)



Thursday 13th December: The Chilterns: Fairies Hole, Greys Court & crossing Badgemore golf course, 6 miles. 10.00 from the Maltster's Arms Pub CP, Rotherfield Greys (permission obtained), RG9 4QE. Leader – Roger Avent 07774 230784.

Sunday 16th December: A 17th century farm, a 13th century moat, a roman wall & a lot of farmland, 6 miles. 10.00 from free Silchester Roman Town CP, Wall Lane RG7 2HP Registered assistance dogs only, please. Leader – Christiane Eden 01344 762658 / 07896 170542.

Thursday 27th December: Fields & Canal around Odiham, 4 miles. 10.30 from Odiham Wharf CP at the end of London Road off the High Street, near the Water Witch pub, RG29 1AL. Leader – Ray Sharp 07761 251217

Sunday 30th December: Easy walk via Lands end following River Loddon & through Alder Moor, 4 ½ miles. 10.30 from CP in Ashenbury Park, off Tippings Lane, Woodley, RG5 4RX Leader – Vlad Peksa 0118 969 4819 / 07778 852870.

Thursday 3rd January: Mill End to Killdown Bank (Medmenham), Rotten Row & Hambleton, 5 miles. 10.30 from Mill End CP near Hambleton, RG9 6TL. Leader - Dougal M. 07719 450283.

Thursday 10th January: The Ridges, Horseshoe Lakes & Finchampstead, 5 miles. 10.00 from Wellingtonia Avenue NT CP, Crowthorne, RG45 6AE. Registered assistance dogs only, please! Leader – Stephen

S. 07776 148720.

Thursday 17th January: Roman Amphitheatre, Foudry Brook & extensive views over Hampshire, 5 miles. 10.00 from CP



opposite Horse & Groom pub, Mortimer, RG7 3RD. Leader – Jane T. 07899 784319.

Thursday 24th January: Via Newell Green, Warfield, Tickleback Row, & Binfield Manor, 5.5 miles. 10.00 from Jocks Lane Recreational Ground CP, Bracknell (access is from the

de sac) after careful street parking; or use 190 bus from Wokingham, stop opposite, RG42 4BT. Leader – David M. 07932 246232.

Thursday 14th February: Blackwater Valley & Spout Pond, countryside between the Blackwater River & Finchampstead Ridges, 4.5 miles. 10.00 from CP at Ambarrow Court Countryside Park, RG45 7QA. Leaders – Ricardo & Silvia S. 07846 434861.



Binfield Road [B3018] end of Jocks Lane only), (RG12 2BH). Leader – Graham C. 07719 993787.

Thursday 31st January: Easthampstead Park & part of the Wokingham Way, Bracknell, 4.75 miles. 10.30 from London Road, Bracknell (cul

Thursday 7th March: Pindar's Wood, Greys Court & Earl's Wood, 5 miles. 10.30 from Malsters Arms/St Nicholas Church, Rotherfield Greys after parking near church or in pub CP if visiting pub afterwards, RG9 4QD Leader – Barbara C. 07957 965460.

By the time you read this we will have held our Autumn Concert for which we had two soloists! In addition to our young pianist for the Grieg concerto, Kodaly's 'Hary Janos Suite' includes a rather unusual instrument – the cimbalom – which is popular in Eastern Europe. It is described as a concert hammered dulcimer and we were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to hear Ed Cervenka talk about the origins, history and techniques for playing this instrument before the concert. Ed was cimbalom soloist for the soundtrack to Lord of the Rings, and he has just recorded the music for the forthcoming Hobbit film. We hope to include more pre-concert talks in future programmes.

Our next concert is an afternoon event, a Family Christmas Concert at St John's Church in Crowthorne on Saturday 15th December at 4.30 pm. Please note the earlier time. As usual the programme will include lively seasonal music and an opportunity for the audience to join in with traditional Christmas Carols. Don't forget, children of 16 or under go free to all our concerts so bring the whole family.

The orchestra rehearses at Our Lady's Prep School in The Avenue, Crowthorne, weekly during term time from 7.45 – 10pm and we welcome new members. We are particularly looking for new recruits in the string section and at the moment would welcome some extra cellists – do get in touch if you would like to join us.

The date for our Spring Concert has been announced – Saturday

6th April, 8.00pm The Old Gym, Wellington College. It will be an evening of Tchaikovsky, to include his lovely violin concerto, so put it in your diary.

As usual, advance tickets for the Christmas Concert at £10 will be available from Traveltime Travel Agents, High Street Crowthorne, or £12 on the door.

For more information about the orchestra, our workshops and concerts, as well as online ticket sales, see our website www.crowthorneorchestra.com or ring Ruth on 972 2164.

Chris Gadsby

New Musical Director for Trinity Concert Band

It is with great pleasure that we can announce that Paul Speed



has accepted the role of MD for the band. Paul started playing the trumpet aged 10 and gained his first interest in Wind bands at High Wycombe Music Centre. He went to "Goldsmiths" College, University of London gaining a BMus Hons degree, before studying the trumpet with Paul Cosh and Paul Archibald at The Guildhall School of Music. Paul enjoys teaching and teaches at

Wellington College, Berkshire and the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe

As a conductor, Paul has conducted various wind bands for Berkshire Maestros as well as sectional work for Windsor and Maidenhead Orchestra, Aldworth Philharmonic and with the University of London and Exeter University. Paul is also the current Musical Director with South Berks Concert Band.

We are all looking forward to working with him are sure you'll enjoy his choice of music

Paul replaces Chris I'Anson who has had to step down due to pressure of work. He will be missed by the band and audience alike, but hopes to help us out when he can in the future. Chris led the band to Platinum and Silver awards in Concert Band Festivals regionally and nationally as well as conducting several concerts during the year including the successful Bandstand Marathon to celebrate the end of the Paralympics. Chris's last concert with us, Movies & Musicals, was a varied selection of John Williams and Andrew Lloyd Webber's delightful music. We also welcomed Tania Pratt as our guest singer to sing "Love Changes Everything", "Phantom of the Opera", and "Highlights from Evita", which were all received with enthusiastic applause from the audience.

The band thanked Chris for a great year and presented him with some flowers!

The next major concert for the band will be the Christmas concert which will take place on Saturday 8th December 2012 at



7:30pm, in Bearwood College Theatre, Sindlesham. See www.trinityband.co.uk for directions and tickets. Ticket Prices will be £8 in advance and £10 on the door.

Look forward to enjoying a wide selection of music including "Christmas Festival", "White Christmas", "Fairytale of New York", and a Band favourite "Sleigh Ride"

You can follow Trinity Concert Band on Twitter and on see more on Facebook.

Wokingham Choral Society

Our next 2 concerts are as follows:

Christmas Concert
Saturday 22 December 2012
at 7.30pm
St Pauls Church, Wokingham
Tickets £9.00, (£5.00 students and under 18s)
tickets@wokingham-choral-society.org.uk

Faure Requiem
Saturday 9 March 2013
at 7.30 pm
St Pauls Church, Wokingham
Tickets £14.00 (£5.00 students and under 18s)
tickets@wokingham-choral-society.org.uk

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10.	"She's so good looking but she looks like a man"
9.	Eric Clapton
8.	Magical Mystery Tour
7.	Penny Lane
6.	All You Need Is Love
5.	5: Please Please Me 4: I Want To Hold Your Hand 3: She Loves You 2: Twist And Shout 1: Can't Buy Me Love
4.	Ed Sullivan
3.	Brian Epstein.
2.	Stuart Sutcliffe
1.	National Trust. Both are now owned by the Aunt Mimi at "Mendips". Lennon who lived with his homes of Paul McCartney early days of the Beatles) They were the childhood (and

The Quiz - answers

Barkham Diary

5-Dec-12	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
11-Dec-12	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
11-Dec-12	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
12-Dec-12	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
21-Dec-12	Carols in the Park	Junipers	7.00pm
2-Jan-13	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
8-Jan-13	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
8-Jan-13	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
9-Jan-13	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
22-Jan-13	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
26-Jan-13	Refuse Lorry	Junipers	8-11 am
28-Jan-13	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
6-Feb-13	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
12-Feb-13	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
12-Feb-13	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
13-Feb-13	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
22-Feb-13	Copy deadline for Spring Newsletter		
23-Feb-13	Refuse Lorry	Junipers	8-11 am
25-Feb-13	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
26-Feb-13	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
6-Mar-13	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
12-Mar-13	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
12-Mar-13	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
13-Mar-13	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
Weekly Events			
Mondays	Pilates Class	BVH	11.30am
Mondays	Dog Training	BVH	6.30pm
Tues-Fri	Barkham Pre-School	BVH	9.00am
Thursdays	Pilates Class	BVH	6.15pm
Fridays	Youth Club	BVH	6.30pm

AVH is Arborfield Village Hall BVH is Barkham Village Hall
CRH is California Ratepayers Hall

Useful Numbers

Police

Wokingham Police Station 0845 8 505 505

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Council

Wokingham Borough Council 974 6000
Environmental health 974 6384
Social Services 978 9800
Trading Standards 974 6400
24hr out of hours 0800 212 111

Wokingham Town Council 978 3185
Citizen's Advice 0844 499 4126
Wokingham Library 978 1368
Job Support Centre 977 0517

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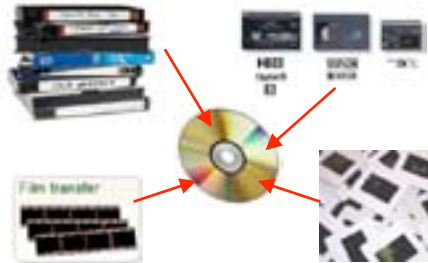
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