



£1, free to Members

Barkham Newsletter

Issue 106 Winter 2013

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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

Carols in the Park

Friday 20 December 7pm

The Junipers

Music from the Berkshire Maestros

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

More details on p10-11

Another record year for membership!

678 Barkham households are now paid-up members of the BVRA

Data Protection Act

Members are reminded that membership records are maintained on a personal computer. Details recorded are names, addresses, telephone numbers and payment records. The information is used solely for BVRA purposes, and any member is free to see his/her details by contacting the Membership Secretary.

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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

This time the theme is "the missing link" – you'll soon get the idea!

1. Violet, Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange. Red. What is the missing colour?
2. Anthony, Winston, Alec, Harold, Edward.....who is next?
3. Alpha, beta, gamma, delta – what's next?
4. James I, Charles I, Charles II, James II, William & Mary - who is missing and what is the link?
5. Reading, Chieveley, Membury.... what's next?
6. Chelsea, Chelsea, [?????], Chelsea, Wigan. What is the missing team?
7. The Famous Five consisted of Julian, Dick, Anne & George and who?
8. Embankment, Charing Cross, Tottenham Court Road. What is the missing tube station?
9. Christopher, David, Matt.....who's next?
10. ...speaking of Who's Next, who had an album of that name?

Answers on page 19

BVRA 2013/14 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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At the September meeting, Ann Teater came to talk to us about "The Origins of the Calendar". Diane Hayes presented "The Story of the Poppy Appeal" at the October meeting. Tony Weston will be coming to tell us about "Brownsea – a Secret Island". The Christmas Party will be on 4 December and is always well attended.

The meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month at approx. 7.30pm at Barkham Village Hall. For further details, please contact Pauline Vestey on 979 1714.

Angela Hands



Editorial

Welcome to the winter edition of the Barkham Newsletter! This is a good time to look back on the year.

2013 was another successful year for the newsletter. We had 3 editions with 20 pages and 1 of 24. We've also had another record year for membership. Thanks to Jim Butler and his team of newsletter distributors we now have 678 households as paid up members of the BVRA and so receiving all 4 editions.

We've 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!

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

Laurence Heath has continued to contribute Development Watch updates from time to time in addition to his responsibilities on the Parish Council. The quiz has become a fixture and I hope I manage to set the questions at the right level. Topics this year have included the Beatles, parliament, snooker colours and food. In this issue it's "the missing link". An eclectic mix!

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

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



News from Your Parish Council

Arborfield Garrison Development

The Parish Council have been working tirelessly with regard to the proposed development at Arborfield Garrison, the Army must move out by January 2016 when work will commence, if not before. We must remember that most of the military land is in Barkham, the name Arborfield Garrison is misleading: can we have suggestions for a name for this development please? "Langley Common" is one that has been suggested as this dates back to the name of the area before the Army moved in. Crest Nicholson have now been appointed as the main developer and it is very important that we work closely with them to achieve the best possible outcome.

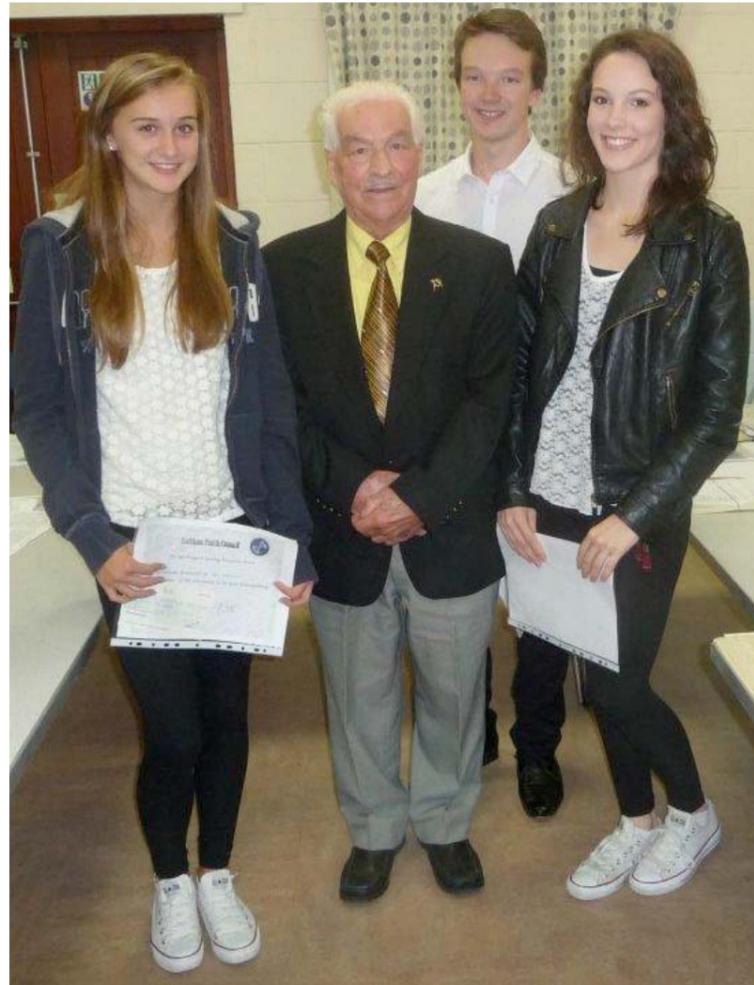
Arborfield Relief Road

I hope many of you took the opportunity to view the exhibition of the proposed routes for the Arborfield by-pass this was on display at the Village Hall and at Henry Street Garden Centre. The Parish Council consider Route B to be the best for Barkham. This route begins at the Langley Common roundabout and rejoins the A327 near Farley Farm, just south of the bridge across the Lodden. The route continues west of Henry Street Garden Centre. This route would be well

away from the residential areas in Arborfield village and would provide a link to the proposed Shinfield relief road. This seems to be the best route for providing Arborfield Garrison with direct routes towards Reading and the M4 eastbound and westbound, while avoiding the use of residential roads such as Langley Common Road, Barkham Road and Bearwood Road.

Breaking News

[Ed – difficult to have this in a quarterly newsletter!] We have just heard from Wokingham Borough Council that, following overwhelming local support, they are likely to adopt Option B as the preferred route for the relief road. This is subject to further investigations and planning.



SDL Community Forum

A Community Forum took place on Monday 11th November at 7.00 p.m. at Henry Street Garden Centre. These are excellent meetings where you can ask questions and raise concerns, please do support them as they are for your benefit in order that the best possible development with infrastructure can be achieved.

Planning Application : Land behind 336-350 Barkham Road

This planning application was highlighted in the last edition of the Newsletter for a proposed development of 25 dwellings. The Parish Council are delighted to inform you that this has been refused by Wokingham Borough Council. The main reason was that the proposed residential development is located within the

countryside, and outside of the settlement limit of Wokingham. Whilst it constitutes a reserve site its release is not acceptable in principle prior to 2026. Many thanks to all residents who wrote in to oppose the development.

Litter

The date for our next Parish Litter Pick is Sunday 23rd March, whilst we endeavour to report areas that are particularly prone to litter, the main area that seems to be a hot spot is Commonfield Lane, this is a popular area for fly tippers, if any residents do see refuse being dumped please could they report it and get any registration numbers. Clearing fly tipping costs the Borough Council a huge amount of money every year which comes out of your Council Tax. The bin which the Parish Council provided in The Coombes is obviously being well used, especially by dog walkers and this has clearly helped to keep this area clean. If there are any other areas that you feel would benefit from additional bins do let the Parish Council know.

The Sam Hosgood Sporting Endeavour Fund

The Parish Council were delighted that three worthy young people were presented with cheques from Sam Hosgood at the meeting of the Parish Council on 10th September (pictured opposite). They are Katie Abrahams who is a talented trampolinist and Jacob Payne and Sarah Wakefield both ice dancers. We wish them every success for the future.

Judith Neuhofer
Clerk to
Barkham Parish Council



New BVRA Website

The new website has been up and running for a few months and we hope you have taken the opportunity to have a look at it. The site has a fresh new look and introduces a number of additional features that build on the previous version of the site. In case you haven't, here is a reminder of what you can access there.

Our email subscription service has been extended. Now as well as being able to subscribe to development watch alerts to be kept informed of potential developments in the local area you can also subscribe to receive alerts for our social events. All you need to do is click the links on the home page and provide us with your email address. To ensure email addresses are genuine you will then receive an email asking to confirm your address – if you don't receive this please remember to check your spam folder and also set your email system up to accept emails from barkham.org.uk. If you are already a subscriber to the Development Watch alerts your subscription has been maintained but you will need to subscribe to receive social emails

We have reintroduced the History of Barkham section and have added a couple of new articles which we hope you find interesting. We've included a selection of pictures of Barkham but are always on the lookout for more. If you have any photos we could use on the site they will be gratefully received. Please send them to me at the email address below.

There are also back issues of the newsletters and Development Watch alerts so you'll be able to easily refer back to check previous communications. For all you quiz fans, we've also included 15 of the quizzes that have previously appeared in the newsletter. Why not submit a quiz of your own to test your neighbour's general knowledge?

There's a lot more information on the site – details of the parish council, a calendar of events and contact details of other local organisations. Why not go and check it out for yourself at <http://barkham.org.uk>.

Finally, we want to keep developing the site so I'd welcome any contributions or suggestions for what you'd like to see on the site. You can contact me at webmaster@barkham.org.uk

Regards
Dave Clements



Re-think for Arborfield Garrison Development Plans

The Arborfield Garrison Landowners Consortium (AGLC) are withdrawing the outline planning application that they submitted in April, and will be replacing it with a new application which is expected by April next year.

I consider this to be a positive development on a number of counts:

1. The AGLC appear to have recognized that the original application was poorly thought through: remember, this was the plan that proposed traffic lights at practically every main junction in Barkham. The planners at Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) recognised that it was "flawed" (to use planning language) and no doubt the fact that hundreds of residents wrote to voice their concerns stiffened their resolve.
2. It reflects new beginnings, with Crest Nicholson now taking over as the lead developer for AGLC. I am encouraged that Crest appear to be more ambitious about quality than many developers. In addition, they seem to have a more open approach to consultation with the local community.
3. At last there is a possibility of a realistic plan being proposed to deal with traffic issues arising from the development. In

particular the revised application should feature a transport scheme that takes account of the Arborfield Relief Road, to which WBC are now committed.

Barkham Parish Council has been very active in developing a relationship with Crest. We have already met with them several times, either on a bilateral basis, or as a part of a larger group. Some of us have also visited a Crest development at Bolnore Village, which is near Haywards Heath, to get an idea of what might be proposed.

Some residents may be sceptical of the value of talking to developers, but I take a more positive and hopeful view, that we should grasp any opportunity to put across our views so that they can be taken into account early in the design process. This is a far better position than the one we faced with the previous application, when we could only react to proposals served up by the consortium.

It is too early to predict the outcome of these discussions, or indeed the nature of the revised application. The main ingredients will remain the same: the number of houses, schools, medical facilities, retail, etc., but Crest say they will attempt to improve the layout: in particular they believe in centralising as many facilities as possible so as to make the centre as lively as possible. Crest say they place a high priority on the quality of landscaping and aim to apply "garden city" principles to the development.

There is no doubt that both the landowners and developer aim to make a profit from the development. While they will undoubtedly maximise value by building

some upmarket houses, they are also committed to building a range of housing types including affordable housing and homes for the elderly. A financially successful development should, we hope, mean that they will have a vested interest in maintaining quality throughout the development, making it an aspirational place to live.

Incidentally, it is now planned that the military will vacate the site by beginning of 2016 and that the first houses will be built around the same time. Crest will be the developer for the largest portion of the site, around 2,000 homes on former MOD land situated almost entirely within the Barkham Parish boundary. A small area between Sheerlands Road and the A327 (which is in Swallowfield Parish) will be developed by Wates. There is still no news on the submission of a planning application for the rest of the site covering the remaining southern area which lies within Finchampstead Parish. It remains to be seen which developer is chosen for that land.

BPC has made it very clear to Crest Nicholson that sorting out the transport issues is our top priority. They have confirmed that new consultants will be taking a fresh look at the potential problems and preparing a new traffic assessment. This time, the plan will take into account the Arborfield Relief Road. In the meantime some of you may have noticed black boxes appearing at strategic sites in the parish which record traffic levels. This is a BPC initiative to get our own live data on the local situation. Hopefully we will be able to report the initial results in the next issue of this newsletter.

We have stressed to the develop-

ers the importance of planning the northern gateway to the development (near Biggs Lane) to encourage traffic to opt for the relief road where possible, rather than taking residential roads through Barkham.

The visit to Bolnore Village development was illuminating. Though much smaller than the proposed Garrison development, it showed that the developers are capable of producing an attractive development built to high design standards. The village is still developing some 18 years since the first bricks were laid. The village centre is built around a square and seemed to be thriving. Local vernacular architecture has been widely used, in this case reflecting the Sussex style. Existing trees and hedgerows were retained allowing attractive landscaping and walkways away from traffic. It certainly matched many of the expectations that we have for the Garrison.

Whether we like it or not, development will take place at the Garrison. We are all aware that the government is under pressure, both to raise money (of which selling the Garrison site is just a part) and to meet housing targets to accommodate the rising population. Consequently there will be no turning back. The Parish Council and residents have to accept this reality. Nevertheless we will be keeping up the pressure to ensure that not only is the development of a high standard, but also, for those of us already living in the area, that the necessary infrastructure is put in place to ensure that we continue to enjoy living in Barkham.

Laurence Heath
Vice Chairman
Barkham Parish Council

Arborfield Gardening Association

Hello reader,

In August a few of our members attended Hurst's Centenary Show, with one of our members winning the 'young at heart' section. The Show had very enthusi-

Also in October was the 3 Society Social event enjoyed by Shinfield, Swallowfield/ Heckfield, and ourselves, Arborfield with contributions from a number of



astic support from local families who are clearly most industrious – every child seemed to win pocket money to take home. So there were some delighted little faces inside the hall, and smiling older ones enjoying the beer tent and silver band outside.

September saw us 'garden-hopping'; enjoying private viewings of local gardens and the annual Henry Street Quiz, this year won again by Ascot so congratulations go to them.

October was a speaker meeting and Mark Saunders from Fittleworth House in Sussex gave an interesting talk about his work as Head Gardener on a country estate. We hope to plan a visit to see this private garden next summer.

Barkham residents to both the logistics, as we hosted, and the Competition Table. This year it was won by Swallowfield with a tie for second place – so no one came last. Our theme for the evening was 'Magic of the Night' and our speaker from the Charity 'Wings of Freedom' which uses birds of prey to work with dementia sufferers and children with learning difficulties. Two beautiful owls were displayed, even taking flight across the hall, and guests invited to allow them to perch on their (well-gloved) hand. A real privilege to see!

If you would like further information about any of our events, our Christmas Party approaches, or to join our friendly club, please contact me; Jan on 976 0243.



Borough Councillor Report

The Arborfield Garrison Land Owners Consortium (AGLC) has announced it intends to withdraw the outline planning application for land at Arborfield Garrison with a view to submitting a revised application next year.

Following a detailed review of the constructive responses to the earlier consultations, and discussions with the planning department, ALC and Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) have agreed a mutually acceptable way forward to enable locally agreed development aspirations for the garrison site to progress. A timetable for a revised application is being discussed with the revised application expected to be submitted early in 2014.

Continuing its commitment to local consultation AGLC has now confirmed that where any changes to the master plan or other aspects of the application are submitted further consultations will take place.

Just to recap the scope of the planned development for the Arborfield Garrison (of which over 75% is within the parish of Barkham) here are the key aspects of the development:

- Up to 3500 homes, (current application for 2000 houses)

- a new 1,200 place secondary school
- a new two-form entry primary school
- public open space comprising sports pitches, children's play areas and natural green space
- financial contributions to enhance facilities and increase usage of existing areas of natural green space
- a new district centre featuring a food store and space for facilities such as a new GP surgery, police office and additional community/employment facilities
- transport measures, including new road junctions into the site and upgrades to nine local junctions
- a new cycle, footway and bridleway network through the site and enhancements to local bus services
- retention and/or protection of a number of existing buildings on site, including the MOD gymnasium and church, and the two scheduled monuments at Arborfield Garrison and Moat House
- a comprehensive drainage system to minimise any risk of flooding and control the rate at which water draining from the development will reach local streams and rivers
- comprehensive financial contributions from the developer to provide additional on and off site facilities & infrastructure.

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

On another note Wokingham Borough has been identified as the number one technology hotspot in the country, with more than five times the national average proportion of jobs in the tech sector – the fastest growing sector in the UK economy.

Wokingham Borough is at the heart of the drive for economic growth for the borough being home to large multi-national companies in Winnersh Business Park, Thames Valley Business Park, Suttons Business Park and Green Park, and benefits from a highly educated and skilled population as well as great transport links through proximity of Heathrow Airport and the M4, M3 and M40.

Wokingham Borough Council's vision is for the borough to be a 'great place to live, an even better place to do business' and the authority's economic development strategy aims to ensure the borough is a key player in the wider UK economy, with leading edge innovation, a highly-skilled workforce and a growing knowledge-based sector set within an attractive environment to live and do business.

The borough's high tech success has been revealed in the Tech Monitor UK report compiled by leading global financial information service company Markit together with KPMG and Its research has used a new method for tracking job creation and economic growth. This research has shown the tech sector has outperformed other sectors in terms of job hiring and output growth as well as highlighting the local areas, such as Wokingham borough, that have been key in this success, all of which can only be good news for Wokingham.

This leads me on to the Wokingham Town Regeneration, Wokingham town is set to grow by 4,000 homes, that's around 10,000 new residents who will be living here and sharing the facilities with existing residents. In order to cope the town needs to adapt and the Council regeneration proposals support this by helping to deliver the infrastructure to support this growth

Here are some of the key benefits of the planned regeneration scheme will bring:

Create a sustainable and strengthened economic future for our town

- Deliver retail requirements, food and non-food, to support new residents
- Create new jobs and support existing employment
- Deliver infrastructure, such as hotels, necessary to strengthen the town as a business location
- Allow us to differentiate Wokingham from neighbours such as Bracknell and Reading
- Establish a retail mix which strengthens the Market and independent offers in the town
- Encourage investment in Wokingham and retain our profile as one of the best towns in the UK

Support and strengthen Wokingham's community

- Create a town that meets residents' aspirations and reduces need to travel elsewhere
- Encourage community interaction by creating spaces for socialising, recreation and events
- Create homes for life to allow more people to live in

a sustainable and adaptable location

- Create flexible facilities that meet the needs of an increasingly changing population

Create the right spaces and facilities for our town

- Design new buildings to reflect actual Wokingham architecture rather than generic location
- Replace poor 1960's parade of buildings which lowers the overall quality of the town
- Create new pedestrianized public areas to support the changing face of a 'social high street'
- Increase the area available for specialist events and markets within the town centre
- Enhance the town park with facilities residents want such as improved play area and seating
- Increase the amount of short stay parking in the town centre and move long stay to edges
- Increased cycle parking in the town centre and help improve links to public transport

There is no doubt we need to ensure that the town centre reflects the aspiration of the residents of Wokingham borough and to have a fit for purpose vibrant town at the centre of the borough to ensure the future of the town as a destination place for us all.

To do this it is important we have long term control for the benefit of the town rather than the developer and the proposed plans does this by creating a self-funding project which does not rely on the public purse to supplement spend. This will ensure the profits and returns benefit the community rather than going to

private shareholders.

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

John Kaiser
Councillor for Barkham
Wokingham Borough Council
Email: john.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk
Telephone: 976 2116
Mobile 0771 419 2352

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 Neuhofer on 979 0296 or email clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk



Social Matters

Now that the clocks have been put back, the warm and sunny days of last summer seem a lifetime away. We have now had children knocking on the door – ‘trick or treating’ and fireworks seem to be going off every evening. What a shame that the nights are either

cold, wet or windy when it is good to get together with our neighbours.

By now, many of you will have planted the bulbs and are hoping that you will have a glorious display in the spring, unless like me you have a squirrel that seems to think it is a good idea to undo all my good work. This year I seem to have grown many strange plants but I expect many were from seeds that he or she had taken from my bird feeders last autumn. Hopefully, the lawn has been cut for the last time and



the leaves which seem to fall for ever have been collected.

In early October your social committee arranged another family skittles evening in the village hall and about 60 people attended. Participants were in teams and ‘Snowball’ won consisting of Penny, Andrew, Hugh and William Franklin and Tim Clarke. The highest score was obtained by two contestants – Richard and Dick. After a ploughman’s supper we had a game of killer and this was won by Richard Sylvester – there must be something in the name! - though nobody really lost as when you died you were given a choc ice to cheer you up.



Our next event will be the quiz evening and as I am writing this we have sold the sixteen tables and are looking forward to answering the questions and playing our joker cards to our benefit.

On Friday 20th December it will be our final event of 2013- the Carols in the Park. We will meet as usual at the junction of The Woodlands and The Junipers at 7pm. We will be accompanied by the Berkshire Maestros Breakaway Brass Band again this year and there will be mulled wine and mince pies when we get to The Junipers field. As we do not charge for this event there will be a bucket collection in aid of the musicians who kindly give

up their time to support us. I am sure you will agree with me that it would be flat if we did not have an accompaniment.

So please wrap up warm, bring your torches (carol sheets supplied), voices and money for the collection.

May I, on behalf of the social committee, wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year and we look forward to seeing you in 2014 at the events that we plan for you.

Judith Collins



Everyone is welcome to join Loddon Valley Ramblers on any of these walks.

Just turn up at the start or phone the leader for more details. Please wear appropriate clothing & footwear.

For more walks visit Loddon Valley Ramblers Website: www.lvra.org.uk



Thursday 12th December: Pangbourne College & River Pang, 5 miles. 10.30 from Station Road Car Park, (£1.10 for 3 hours) centre of Pangbourne next to Copper Inn, (RG8 7AR). **Leader – Ellen H. 07715 553979.**

Thursday 19th December: Shottesbrooke Farm and Park, Waltham St Lawrence & Pitlands Farm, 5½ miles. 10.30 after roadside parking near St John's Church, Littlewick Green, (SL6 6QN). **Leader – Alan B. 0118 961 6595.**

Thursday 2nd January: Ockwells, Stud Green & Paley Street through flat farmland, 6 miles. 10.30 from Ockwells Park, Ockwells Road, Cox Green; Car Park is 20 metres from the junction with Cox Green Road, (SL6 3YX). **Leader – Graham C. 07719 993787.**

Thursday 9th January: Crowthorne & Broadmoor returning via Wildmoor Heath, 5 ½ miles. 10.00 from Morgan Centre Car Park, Lower Broadmoor Road, Crowthorne, (RG45 7LA). **Leader – Jane T. 07899 734799.**

Thursday 16th January: Littlewick Green, Hall Place College & Ashley Hill, 4 ½ miles. 10.30 from Car Park of Dew Drop Inn, Hurley (near Littlewick Green), (SL6 6RB). *Registered assistance dogs only, please!* **Leader – Barbara C. 0118 940 3158.**

Sunday 19th January: A stroll through woods, glades & fields north of Slough, 5 miles. 10.00 from Burnham Beeches Nature Reserve Car Park, Leader – **David R. 01344 777890.**

Thursday 23rd January: Swallowfield Park, Thatcher's Ford & meadows at the confluence of the Whitewater & Blackwater Rivers, 6 ½ miles. 10.00 from Riseley Memorial Hall Car Park, Odiham Road, (RG7 1YB). Additional parking round the corner at The Bull at Riseley if you'll be visiting after the walk. *Registered assistance dogs only, please!* **Leaders – Silvia & Ricardo S. 07846 434861.**

Sunday 26th January: Through the Coombes, past Barkham Manor, on to Barkham Church & back through Limmerhill, 5 miles. 10.30 from the Bearwood Road end of Coombes Lane, Barkham after careful parking in the Lane, (RG41 4SU). **Leader – Janet R. 07968 080139.**

Sunday 2nd February: The Coombes & Carter's Hill; winter woodland, fields & tracks, 6 miles. 10.00 after careful parking in Coombes Lane, off Bearwood Lane, Barkham, (RG41 4SU). **Leader – Chris R. 07710 534818.**

Sunday 9th February: Bowsey Hill & Juddmonte Farm, 4 ½ miles. 10.30 from lay-by near former Seven Stars pub on Bath Road, A4, at Knowl hill, (RG10 9UR). **Leaders – Ian & Marianne M. 07429 337369.**

Sunday 23rd February: From Knowl Hill to Shottesbrooke Park & Waltham St Lawrence & back, 6 miles. 10.30 from outside David Hunt Tools, (RG10 9UR) after parking in former Seven Stars pub lay-by or in vehicle park adjacent to nearby footbridge on north side of A4. **Leaders – Pat & Daphne P. 07785 331375.**

Thursday 6th March: Ruscombe, Stanlake Manor, skirting Broad Hinton housing estate, Stanlake Meadow & back, 6 miles. 10.30 from Harehatch Garden Centre (opposite Wyvale), overflow Car Park to left of entrance near London Road / A4 junction, Harehatch, (RG10 9HW). Permission obtained so please patronise cafe & shop! **Leader – Barbara D. 0118 934 5506 / 07895 635001 (mob. on day of walk only).**

Arborfield Local History Society

Another year draws to an end and I am not sure where it went – probably a result of getting older and time seemingly accelerating.

We have had a busy few months with our regular monthly meetings and Summer Social Events.

June saw one of our members, Barbara Carr, give a fascinating talk on "Finding her long lost sister", where separated by adoption some 60 years ago, she undertook to find her. By all accounts, a well-attended meeting and her talk was fascinating. In July, John Mullaney told us about the influx of French refugees in Reading in the lead up to French Revolution. Again, a very well researched topic and interesting talk. I had no idea that there was so much remaining in Reading that resulted from this "invasion".

In July, we had our annual Garden Party, again kindly hosted by Sheila Bunce; a great social afternoon with delightful food and drinks. Despite the forecasts, the weather was kind to us until it was time to go, when the heavens opened – I got soaked. On the 5th August, we had our annual outing, this time to Portsmouth, a fascinating city with its naval history and much more besides. The pity was that it was not as well supported as we hoped, with only 32 members and guests travelling. With this in mind, we are looking for ideas for future trips, any thoughts please let me know.

At the beginning of September, we had a talk by John Harrison on "The History of Bell Ringing in Wokingham". Again, a fascinating topic and I for one learned a lot from the evening.

October saw Jason Wooderers present "Local Berkshire History in the 16TH/18th Century – as part of his PHD studies, Jason delved into local records including a large amount from Arborfield.

Then in November, Ken Fostekeew from the Berkshire Museum of Aviation gave a detailed presentation of Berkshire Aviation History. This focused particularly on Woodley but also included the intensive involvement of Berkshire in aircraft manufacture during the Second World War and the build up to the Normandy Invasion.

Future events include:

December 2nd – Christmas Dinner at Bearwood Lakes Golf Club. After a couple of years, many members were looking for a change of venue and it was decided to return to Bearwood Lakes. Details of cost and menus will be available at our next meetings.

January 6th – Our member Ray Lancaster will present "Things Ceremonial" relating to his army service and subsequent involvement with the local British Legion.

February 3rd – Steve Bacon will tell us about Thomas Hargreaves, who is understood to have been a colourful local character.

Our year draws to a close on March 3rd, when Janet Firth from Barkham will present "The Parish of Barkham (The Archaeological Aspect).

Meetings are usually held on the first Monday of each month in the Arborfield Village Hall, commencing at 19:45 and are open to

non-members on payment of a nominal fee (£2-00). Please come along and you will be made very welcome.

We have more than 70 active members and usually have 30 to 40 present at our meetings.

I am currently putting together our programme for 2014/15 – if anyone has any ideas or requests, please let me know.

Finally, we all know that traffic speed through the village is a big concern. Well it seems that this is nothing new; this report was published in the Reading Mercury on Saturday, 9th June 1900.

Jack Wilmott, of Silver Street, Reading, was summoned for driving furiously at Arborfield, on April 28th.

Furious Driving

PC Jeffreys and Samuel Jarvis, a farmer, proved the offence, stated that the defendant drove at a rate of 20 miles an hour and fell out of his cart.

The Defendant, who did not appear, was fined 20s and 11s.6d costs and in default, 14 days hard labour.

Speeding drivers may not nowadays fall out of their cars but may it not be a good idea to have hard labour as a punishment, perhaps a better deterrent to points on their licence.

Lastly, may I wish all members a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Ray Hill
976 0784
raythill@aol.com



Have you heard the good news?

On a recent Desert Island Discs, comedian Lee Mack made a fascinating comment about the fact that, like all castaways, he would be given a Bible.

“I’m glad you get the Bible, because I would read the Bible. I think it’s quite odd that people like myself, in their forties, are quite happy to dismiss the Bible, but I’ve never read it. I always think that if an alien came down and you were the only person they met, and they said, ‘What’s life about? What’s earth about? Tell us everything,’ and you said, ‘Well, there’s a book here that purports to tell you everything. Some people believe it to be true;

some people [do] not believe it [to be] true.’ ‘Wow, what’s it like?’ and you go, ‘I don’t know, I’ve never read it.’ It would be an odd thing wouldn’t it? So, at the very least, read it.”

That first Christmas, some shepherds working outside Bethlehem heard an announcement from God, as the angel proclaimed, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”

Have you ever heard that good news? If you have only ever thought that God wants to spoil your life, or that Christianity is all about keeping the rules, then I’m afraid you have picked up the wrong message.

This Christmas at Barkham, we will be proclaiming and celebrating what the Bible claims to be the best news in the whole world. We would therefore love you to join us for one of our Christmas services to find out more. For if you never stopped to find out what life is all about, it would be an odd thing wouldn’t it?

Julian Bidgood
Minister of Barkham

Christmas Services at St James, Barkham

Carols by Candlelight	22 Dec @ 7pm
Children’s Carols	24 Dec @ 4pm
Midnight Carols	24 Dec @ 11.30pm
Christmas Day	25 Dec @ 10am

Friday Club

Friday Club is a weekly youth club for children in school years 6-10. Run by volunteers from Arborfield and Barkham Churches, our aim each week is to have fun, play games, hang out with friends old and new, and hear a short talk from the Bible.

From November 2013, Friday Club will be moving into Barkham Village Hall after many years at the Scouts Hut on Evendons Lane. We meet on Fridays during term time from 7:00–8:30pm, and there is a weekly sub of £1. On most weeks, we also run a small tuck shop where sweets and drinks can be bought.

All young people in school years 6-10 are most welcome!

For more information, contact Jake Eggertsen (jake@abch.org.uk), or check out the website:

<http://bit.ly/HX9Gai>



Do you have an hour or so to spare each week? Maybe you are recently retired and would like to give some time to the local community? Perhaps your children are at school? Maybe you are not in employment and would like to keep busy while you are looking for your next job? Maybe you work shifts and would like a voluntary role which can fit around them? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then the Wokingham Community Transport Scheme needs you! All you need is your own car - there is no cost to you as we reimburse all your expenses. The Scheme provides low cost transport for the elderly to hospital, local doctors, dentists, opticians, physiotherapy and so on – and, when we have enough volunteers, some social trips. It provides an essential service to clients who live in Wokingham, Barkham and Finchampstead. Drivers are called on an ad hoc basis or can volunteer for a regular slot or client.

For more information, please contact the Wokingham Volunteer Centre on 0118 977 0749, email wok-vol@btconnect.com, follow us on Facebook or Twitter, or check out our website www.volunteercentrewokingham.org.uk.



Numbers - This is the time of year when we look at our stats for the first 6 months of the year (April to September 2013) and compare them with a year ago (April to September 2012). We have seen a 12% increase in new clients (up to 2,238 from 2,004) and a change in the top problem issue. It is now welfare benefits. A year ago it was debt. This is not surprising with all the changes to welfare benefits that have happened, and will be happening over the next year, or so. As far as Barkham is concerned there was a very slight increase in new clients from 32 to 33 in the six months.

There is a change in the way people are contacting us. Although the same numbers of people are still dropping in to see us in person, there has been an increase in people emailing us (up to 12% from 9%) and a drop in people phoning us (down to 44% from 47%).

Of course, not all of our client’s issues are that simple!

John Ferguson



CROWTHORNE Symphony ORCHESTRA

In September we held another successful Orchestra Workshop when both regular members and other players from near and far enjoyed a day working on the music Prokofiev wrote for his ballet 'Romeo and Juliet'. The photo, courtesy of one of our regular horn players, Alan Greeley, (alangreeleyphotography.com) shows some of the horn section enjoying the workshop. At the time of writing the orchestra is getting ready for the main event of the term, our Autumn Concert at Wellington College in November with Dvořák's Cello Concerto and Brahms' 4th Symphony as the principal works. Following soon after this concert we will be preparing for our Christmas festivities.



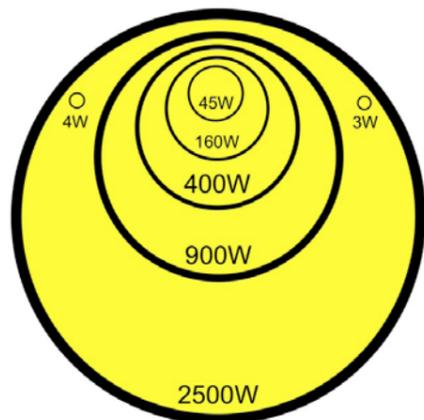
online via our website, or at £12 on the door.

The orchestra will resume weekly rehearsals at the beginning of January on Monday evenings from 7.45-10pm at Our Lady's Prep School in Crowthorne when we will be preparing for our Easter Concert. In a departure from the usual format and venue, this will be an evening of 'Opera Favourites' with Yateley Choral Society, at St Swithun's Church, Firgrove Road, Yateley on

Saturday 29th March – 7.45pm

We welcome anyone who would like to join the orchestra, subject to vacancies, and especially string players. If you are interested and are a competent player, even if you have taken a break from playing, please get in touch or come along to a rehearsal, if only to listen. Our website has lots more information and contact details: www.crowthorneorchestra.com

Chris Gadsby



Watt's up Doc?

Energy price hikes are back with a vengeance. But are we any more in tune with our electricity use? Here's a quick quiz to find out. Simply take each power in Watts from the graphic and match it with the right appliance here:

- Microwave
- Nintendo DS
- PC with monitor
- Kettle
- iPod
- Big old Plasma TV
- Laptop

The answers might surprise you, especially if you take a poor view of headphones and gaming. The electrical energy we consume at home is arrived at by multiplying the power rating of the appliances we use in kilowatts by the length of time we use them in hours.

These figures are fairly typical for the listed appliances. Are yours the same? Adapted from an open day activity created by Zoë Williams of www.superhomes.org.uk/138

Answers:

a) 900W b) 4W c) 160W d) 2500W e) 3W
f) 45W g) 160W h) 4W i) 3W

Wokingham Choral Society

will be performing

Rachmaninov's Vespers

on Saturday 22 March 2014 at All Saints Church, Wokingham at 7.30pm. Tickets £14.00 (over 60s £12.50, students and under 18s £5.00)

See <http://bit.ly/Nlppo> for details.

Christmas Concert

SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER 7:30PM

From the beautiful 'O Magnum Mysterium' and 'Pearl Fishers Duet' to the upbeat 'See Rock City' and yuletide favourites galore, our Christmas spectacular promises to get you in the festive spirit!

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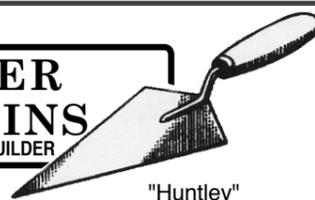
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The Quiz - answers

1. Indigo (colours of the spectrum/rainbow in reverse order).
2. Harold (Wilson) again (Prime Ministers under Elizabeth II)
3. Epsilon (Greek Alphabet)
4. Queen Anne (the Stuart monarchs)
5. Leigh Delamere (M4 Service Stations)
6. Manchester City (List of FA Cup winners for the last 5 years)
7. Timmy the dog (The Famous Five)
8. Leicester Square (Northern Line)
9. Peter. Modern day Doctor Whos (Christopher Ecclestone, David Tennant, Matt Smith, Peter Capaldi)
10. The Who!

Barkham Diary

4-Dec-13	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
10-Dec-13	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
10-Dec-13	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
11-Dec-13	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
20-Dec-13	BVRA Carols in the Park	Junipers	7pm
8-Jan-14	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
8-Jan-14	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
14-Jan-14	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
14-Jan-14	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
25-Jan-14	Refuse Lorry	Junipers	8-11am
27-Jan-14	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
28-Jan-14	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
5-Feb-14	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
11-Feb-14	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
11-Feb-14	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
12-Feb-14	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
21-Feb-14	Copy deadline for Spring Newsletter		
22-Feb-14	Refuse Lorry	Junipers	8-11am
24-Feb-14	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
25-Feb-14	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
5-Mar-14	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
11-Mar-14	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
11-Mar-14	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
12-Mar-14	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

AVH is Arborfield Village Hall BVH is Barkham Village Hall
CRH is California Ratepayers Hall FMH is Finchampstead Memorial 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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