



£1, free to Members

Barkham Newsletter

Issue 108 Summer 2014

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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

**Could you be our new Secretary?
See page 2 for details**

**Next BVRA social event
Family Beetle Drive 13 Sept
For details see page 10**



**Have you paid your 2014 BVRA subscription?
If not, please pay you distributor as soon as possible. The
autumn and winter issues are delivered to paid up
members only**

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BVRA Secretary – could you help please?

We have a vacancy on the BVRA Committee for the role of Secretary. The main responsibilities are:

- Attend and participate in the quarterly committee meetings & Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- Take, agree & distribute minutes arising
- Solicit & collate officer AGM reports in advance of the public meeting

This is a key role to oil the wheels of the BVRA machine and to contribute your ideas in the development of the residents' association!

Please contact Stewart Richardson (details on page 3) or any committee member for further details.



The Quiz

This time the theme is "Parts of the Body", although as always some of the links may be tenuous!

1. Which Scottish rugby player of the 1980s and 90s has the same name (although spelt differently) to one of the stars of Starsky & Hutch?
2. Which Celtic folk song features the lines "Step we gaily on we go. Heel for heel and toe for toe. Arm in arm and row and row..."
3. In Horse Racing, what is the shortest winning margin called?
4. Which English actor played the part of Giles in the long running US TV series Buffy the Vampire Slayer?
5. Who succeeded Michael Foot as Leader of the Labour Party?
6. "Good Morning Starshine" is a song from which musical?
7. Guy Garvey is the lead singer of which band?
8. In 2007 Damien Hirst created an infamous work called "For the Love of God" containing 8601 diamonds which was on sale for £50m. Which part of the body was it modelled on?
9. "General Tom Thumb" appeared in the productions of which American showman?
10. In which US State would you find the Finger Lakes?

Answers on page 19

BVRA 2014/15 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Editorial

Welcome to the summer edition of the Barkham Newsletter! Can I start by asking any residents who haven't paid their 2014 BVRA subscriptions to please pay your distributor the £2 per household fee as soon as possible. If you don't know the name of your distributor, please contact Jim Butler (details on left). The autumn and winter editions of the newsletter are distributed to paid up households only, of which there were over 650 last year.

You will see from the advert on page 2 that we are looking for a new secretary to join the BVRA committee. Please consider volunteering to help us in this role. We only have 4 meetings per year of about 1 hour, plus the AGM (which coincides with one of the quarterly meetings), so the time commitment required is not great. However it is a vital role to (as we say in the advert) "oil the wheels" of the residents' association and join in general discussion as to what we should be doing in the community.

In the spring edition, we announced that we had created a "Forum" facility on the BVRA website (www.barkham.org.uk) and I would encourage you to use it to voice your views on lo-

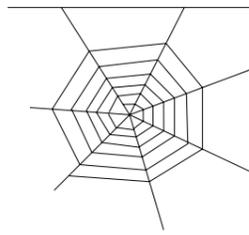
cal issues. You will see on page 13 that one resident has concerns about traffic at the junction between The Lilacs and Bearwood Road. I suspect many others may feel the same way so if you do so you can make your views known on the Forum. Alternatively, if you disagree you can make your point too.

As usual, we also feature news from Barkham Parish Council, our WBC councillor, St James's Church and various societies including forthcoming musical events. Laurence Heath provides one his regular updates on the Garrison development plans and related issues.

The quiz this time is loosely based on "parts of the body" but any anatomical knowledge you may have will be no help at all!

If you have any comments (good or bad, but hopefully constructive!) please email me on newsletter@barkham.org.uk.

Stewart Richardson
Editor



Barkham web site

I hope you like our revamped website www.barkham.org.uk

We are constantly looking for ways to improve it and would welcome your suggestions.

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.

Dave Clements

Advertising and Newsletter Contributions

Newsletter articles / contributions for the Autumn edition should be in by 5 September 2014. It helps if these can be submitted in electronic form by email to newsletter@barkham.org.uk. They may also be hand written, 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 late September.



News from Your Parish Council

Litter Pick

The annual Litter Pick took place on Sunday 23rd March, despite advertising the event to all residents the turnout was very disappointing, where were you all? It was a warm morning, unlike last year, and we were able to sit outside and enjoy the refreshments and chat to the other helpers. The small band of willing volunteers did manage to collect 19 orange sacks of recycling, 33 black sacks of rubbish, one petrol can, a flood sign, numerous hubcaps, a set of steps, a large number of vodka bottles and a fire extinguisher. The worst area continues to be Commonfield Lane which is used for fly tipping if you do spot anyone using this a dumping area please report them to WBC Waste Services. A



big thank you to Marion Heath and Judith Collins for providing the tasty refreshments for all the willing litter pickers.

History Book

We are delighted to inform you that the Parish Council now have a new stock of "Barkham A History". The history book has now been reprinted with a new Foreword which details the forthcoming move of the Garrison to RAF Lyneham. If you are new to the area and do not own a copy of the history book they can now be purchased from the Parish Clerk (details below) for £8.50 each.

Neighbourhood Plan

For the past 18 months Arborfield and Newland Parish Council and Barkham Parish Council have been consulting residents about proposals for a joint neighbourhood plan. The desires of local residents for more facilities and the need to tackle transport hotspots were highlighted in a local survey undertaken by the Councils. Since then councillors and residents have been working in topic groups to look at the issues and to begin progress

towards the creation of a plan that would eventually be subject to a local referendum. Now the two Councils have taken the creation of a joint plan a step further by submitting an application to Wokingham Borough Council to register the area within the two Parish boundaries as the Neighbourhood Plan area.

The application was recently handed over to Sarah Hollamby (Head of Development Policy and Planning) by Borough and Parish Councillors, representing the two Parishes were Pamela Stubbs (Chairman of Barkham Parish Council, Ken Lane and the Clerk Judith Neuhofer from Barkham Parish Council and Paul Townsend and Gary Cowan from Arborfield Parish Council at Wokingham Borough Council offices.

The application is now subject to public consultation before being considered by the Executive in the Summer. John Kaiser, an Arborfield Parish Councillor and Borough Councillor for Barkham, said that the major development at Arborfield Garrison will have a profound effect on the area. A joint neighbourhood plan will be an excellent opportunity to ensure, for example, that new greenways are created to link up with the new development and provide safe routes to the new schools.

The Steering and Topic Groups are being given a formal structure and the Parishes are now looking for more residents who would like to be involved in helping to create the Neighbourhood Plan. Anyone wanting to take part should contact either of the Parish Clerks.

Arborfield Garrison SDL Update

It is now widely known that Arborfield Garrison Landowners Consortium (AGLC) withdrew

new secondary School is not yet known but needs to be central for all Barkham, Arborfield and Finchampstead pupils.



Handover of the Neighbourhood Plan application

their application towards the end of last year. Since then they have started to carry out a new Highway Assessment together with reassessing the original documents. You may have seen the strips across many of the local roads which are being used to record traffic movement in preparation for a new application which is expected during the summer. The Marino Family Trust (MFT) also anticipate submitting the application for their land south of the MOD land, around the same time as the AGLC application.

Secondary School

Following the series of 3 meetings held at the Finchampstead Baptist Centre in Finchampstead, WBC have announced that they are committed to having an Academy status school which will open in September 2016. Consequently the South of Wokingham (SOW) Free School Group has halted their bid for a free School in the South of the Borough. The exact location of a

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

The Community Forums

The Community forums are held at Henry Street Garden Centre and are an excellent opportunity for residents to have their say on the development and its impact on residents and have been very well attended.

Forthcoming dates for 2014 are as follows:-

- Thursday 19th June
- rescheduled date
- Thursday 11th September
- Wednesday 12th November
- Thursday 12th March 2015

All dates may be subject to change

Judith Neuhofer
Clerk to Barkham Parish Council



Update on Garrison Development Proposals

Time Scale

Barkham Parish Council (BPC) has continued to meet with Crest Nicholson and other parties involved in the development of the Garrison site. The Planning Application is now anticipated late summer or early autumn – a slight delay on what was previously advised. The MOD are still on track to vacate the site by the end of 2015 and building will commence early in 2016. It will take at least ten years for the development to be completed in its entirety.

Vision – a Garden Village

Crest appreciate that in order to make the maximum return on their investment, it is in their interests to create a high quality environment. Their vision for a garden village is most encouraging. It is to their credit that they have commissioned a team of landscape architects at the outset so that the scheme will make the most of the natural assets of the site. Crest have bought into a number of design principles that go back to Ebenezer Howard, who provided the inspiration for original garden towns such as Letchworth established in the early 1900s. These include relatively low housing densities, an

emphasis on landscaping and the provision of an attractive environment for walking and cycling.

The natural assets of the Garrison site include a large number of trees, hedges and a water course through the site. A new tree survey has been completed which revealed that there are 3,500 trees (considerably more than counted in the previous survey!) with a high proportion of good quality trees. It is intended to keep most, if not all, of the best trees and as far as possible existing hedges. The watercourse, which runs from west to east across the site and includes the lake to the east of Biggs Lane will be developed as an attractive amenity area as well as providing a crucial flood relief scheme.

The landscape architects are placing a lot of emphasis on “greenways” – walking, cycling and horse trails, to create an integrated network throughout the site. Proposals are also being considered as to how this can be linked to the existing network of paths in Barkham and the other neighbouring parishes. This will be essential both as a leisure amenity and for the provision of safe cycle routes to the proposed secondary school.

Southern Area

We are hoping to meet with representatives of the Marino Trust who own the southern section of the Special Development Location (SDL). They will be making a separate planning application in due course. Little is known about their plans at this stage, but it is hoped that they will buy into the garden village principles proposed by Crest rather than resorting to the unimaginative

mass production designs adopted by too many developers.

Garrison Stables

As mentioned in the previous edition of the Newsletter, consideration is being given to the future of the infirmary stables. It is anticipated that they will be repaired when they are handed over by the MOD. As I see it, this should have been the MOD’s responsibility in the first place: being listed buildings they should at the very least have been maintained in a weatherproof condition. Crest have been thinking along similar lines as BPC and are investigating if the stables can be used a museum with a “War Horse” theme.

Secondary School

As reported elsewhere, Wokingham Borough Council have committed to opening a new secondary school by September 2016 and the attempt by the South of Wokingham group to set up an alternative free school has been suspended. The big remaining question is where the school will actually be located. It had been expected that an announcement would have been possible some weeks back but the final decision has been delayed.

My suspicion (I do not know for certain) is that a deal is in the offing which affects, directly or indirectly, the Reading Football Club leaving their existing training ground at Hogwood and taking possession of the proposed site at Bearwood Golf Club. The current hiatus over the ownership of the football club is probably not helpful in finalising these arrangements and in turn the failure to win promotion to the

Premier League has not improved the attractiveness of the club to new owners. If Reading had managed to get through to the play offs, it might all have been clearer by now!

Utilities

I mentioned last time that there was a lack of clarity about future plans to upgrade the existing sewage works on the edge of The Coombes. BPC has had a meeting with the Black & Veatch, the principle contractors responsible for carrying out upgrades at treatment works on behalf of Thames Water. It was confirmed that, thanks to new technology, it will be possible to provide the additional capacity required and to ensure adequate discharge standards all within the confines of the current site. This is now being pursued with some urgency.

Transport

The proposed transport plans for the Garrison development remain a great concern – it is obvious that the development will generate additional traffic and that the existing road network is clearly inadequate. The commitment to build the Arborfield bypass and the Shinfield relief road further north along the A327 is certainly a big step in the right direction.

BPC have met with the i-Transport who are the consultants working for Crest. We know that they are carrying out a thorough analysis and have been collecting data of local traffic flows. We have advised them of the most congested areas characterised by peak time queues, so they will have no excuse for not knowing the problems. However we are still in the dark as to what will

actually be proposed when the planning application is finally submitted.

My hope is that a scheme will be devised that will place the main access point of the development directly on to the A327, so that as much traffic as possible will be encouraged to make use of the new bypass in preference to adding yet more traffic on residential roads through Barkham

Place Name

Thought is being given to a new name for the development. BPC has submitted some suggestions to Crest. We feel strongly that it should be a name with some local association rather than a pretentious name made up for purely marketing purposes. Langley Common is an obvious choice or may be a variant of Barkham, e.g. Barkham Common. Kedgham Coppice has also been suggested, which was a landscape feature before the Garrison was established. Hazebrouck, the name of the barracks has been discounted as nobody can spell it correctly! It is anticipated that Crest will prepare a short list in due course, which will be submitted for public consultation.

Laurence Heath
Vice Chairman
Barkham Parish Council

Join us at the WI

There has been a local Women’s Institute (WI) group serving Barkham and Arborfield for nearly 95 years.

Two local Barkham residents, Mary Lane and Pam Stubbs have recently been appointed President and Treasurer, respectively, of the Arborfield and Newland WI and they are encouraging more people to join.

‘It would be good to see even more members as we look forward to celebrating our 95th anniversary later this year’, says Mary.

Pam adds: ‘We have meetings at 2.00 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Arborfield Village Hall and all are welcome’.

The group has an extensive programme of speakers, holds outings to places of interest and has a thriving craft group. Take a first step towards joining by contacting Mary on 976 0577

Wokingham Choral Society

Come and Sing! Wokingham Choral Society is having an open evening on Thursday 11 September at Emmbrook Senior School, Wokingham at 7.30pm. All voice parts welcome.

We look forward to meeting you! For details see www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk

Date for your diary: WCS will be commemorating the start of WW1 with a performance of Howard Goodall’s *Eternal Light* and John Rutter’s *Mass for the Children*. Saturday 8 November 2014 7.30pm at The Great Hall, University of Reading. Further details in the next Newsletter.



Borough Councillor's report

Arborfield Garrison development

It is now confirmed that the army will vacate the garrison by the end of 2015. At the same time RAF Lyneham is scheduled to open as the new training establishment. It aims to have facilities for 1750 apprentices and staff in place by that date, sadly this ends over 100 years of the army's association with Barkham and Arborfield.

As most of you will know the Arborfield Garrison Land Owners Consortium (AGLC) who plan to take over the development of the land vacated by the army, has withdrawn the outline planning application submitted early last year. This was following a detailed review of the constructive responses to the consultations which included comments from 640 residents and discussions with the planning department, Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) now believe they 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 application expected to be submitted in autumn 2014. In addition to AGLC submission it would appear that the other parties re-

sponsible for the delivery of the additional houses required on the SDL are also to submit a planning applications this autumn. Both developers have expressed a desire for a very high quality low density development based on "garden village" principles.

The plan will deliver the Nine Mile Ride extension immediately development commences, which will be the new access to the new district centre from Finchampstead. Hogwood Industrial Estate will be expanded which will create more employment opportunities locally.

Continuing its commitment to local consultation, where any changes to the Master Plan or other aspects of the application are submitted further consultations will take place on the new application.

Just to recap - the scope of the planned development for the Arborfield Garrison (of which over 60% is within the parish of Barkham) here are the key aspects of the development:

- 3500 new homes.
- a new 1,200 place secondary school
- a new two-form entry primary school
- 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 and a relief road at Arborfield
- a new cycle, footway and bridleway network through

the site and enhancements to local bus services

- 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.
- 40% of all the land will become public open space for leisure and sport use by residents.

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

New Secondary School in the south of the Borough

WBC accepts it has to address the need for a secondary school of about 1200 pupils in the south of the Borough to serve the children of Barkham and the surrounding area.

One of the major challenges for a new school is finding a site; The school is needed by 2017 at the latest and as such the council officers and developers are working to deliver outline planning consent for a school along with the rest of the SDL development at Arborfield Garrison site by early 2015, It is important any location for a new school meets the requirements with regards to accessibility and must provide an excellent environment which meets the full requirements of

educational needs academically at the same time offers a full range of sports facilities.

The plan is to deliver this new school by September 2016

It is also important that any new school has the capacity to grow to support future requirements in the south of the borough.

Investing in the borough

Wokingham Borough Council faces continued financial pressures following expected ongoing reductions in government funding. Despite being the lowest funded unitary authority in the country we have already been working hard to put these priorities into practice. We have invested £26 million in our schools, have opened a new country park in Barkham, a new library in Finchampsted, a new mobile children's centre, extra care housing at Alexandra Place and Beeches Manor not to mention the plans to build 6 major roads to ease congestion around the borough and to regenerate Wokingham Town centre. Over the last four years the council has made savings and efficiencies of £16.5million and plans to save in excess of £20million over the next three years to balance its books at the same time maintaining the services valued by you the residents.

This leads me onto the Wokingham Town Regeneration, the area in and around Wokingham town is set to grow by 4,000 homes, that's around 10,000 new residents who will be living there 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

There is no doubt we need to ensure that the town centre reflects the aspiration of the residents of Wokingham and the wider borough and at the same time 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

To prove we listen to residents the planning application which was submitted has been withdrawn to enable more work to be done on the design taking into account comments from residents and business owners in and around the town, it is expected this will come back in the summer and again will have further consultation once the new plans are in the public domain

If you have any question or I can help with any issues relating to the Wokingham borough please do not hesitate to contact me

Thank you

John Kaiser
Barkham ward
Wokingham Borough Council
john.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk
07714192352



As I mentioned in the last issue we have now moved to Waterford House in Wokingham – next (almost) to Argos in the town centre. To find us, stand in front of Argos and we are 'uphill' to the right. If you are coming down, or up, Denmark Street look out for our bright yellow post cover. Just go through the archway and you will find us. In order to gain access you will need to press a button on the post in front of the entrance. The nearest car park is the multi storey accessed from Elms Road

Once again the new numbers of people coming to us over the past year has increased slightly. Overall we saw 4,577 new people last year. Of these new people, or clients as we call them, 74 came from Barkham, which is an increase of 3 on the year before. It is worth noting that we only count a client once no matter how many times they come to us during the year. A couple of interesting facts from our data – the age range that has the most clients in is age 45 – 49. Most clients are female (60%).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for the generous grant last year and hope that they continue with the same generosity this year.

WOKINGHAM
2nd floor, Waterford House,
Erfstadt Court RG40 1AP
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



sided, a few children with their parents were seen arriving. However we did manage to distribute the tokens - 1100 altogether and the fifty or so children spent some time collecting them and exchanging them for the eggs.

Again we held a raffle for the large egg and two chocolate rabbits and these were one by George Ellerby, (big egg) and Amanda Osborne and Neil Streamer (chocolate rabbits). Luckily the rain held off until we had cleared up the area but we had not got home before the heavens opened and we were well and truly soaked.

Our next social event is on Saturday 13th September at 7pm in

SOCIAL MATTERS

it does not seem many weeks since I was writing the report for the last newsletter and yet again it is a cold and overcast day.

We were looking forward to the children's Easter Egg Hunt – quite late this year. The weather had been glorious for quite a



few weeks and those of us with gardens had spent many hours pruning and planting as well as mowing the lawn. However nature was not going to let us have our own way – yet again. We woke up a few days earlier to hear that the forecast was not good – rain to arrive over the holiday period and gosh it was correct.

Having met at The Junipers we decided not to lay out anything until at least we had a participant and a few minutes before the deadline, as the rain had sub-

the Village Hall. This will be a family Beetle Drive and tickets will be £6.00 per adult and £4.00 for children still at primary school and this will include a ploughman's supper. Family tickets (two adults and two children) will be on sale at £18.00. There will also be an early payment discount of 50p a ticket or £1.00 on a family one if ordered and paid for by Sunday 31st August.

For those who have not played beetle before it is quite simple. Four people sit round a table and

each has a sheet in front of them. They take it in turns to shake the dice and draw whatever number comes up on it. You need to throw



a 6 to draw the body, 5 for the head and the other numbers are for the legs etc. All the information is on the sheet but you cannot add the limbs until you have the body and the eyes etc until the head has been drawn. The first person in the room to complete their beetle calls out 'Beetle' and everybody stops. Everyone then adds up their score and enters the total on their sheet. Many games can be played and we will have a prize for the adult with the highest total

at the end of the evening and also one for the highest scoring child.

We look forward to seeing you there and at the following event

which will be the Quiz Night on Saturday November 22nd – more details will be in the next newsletter.

Your committee wish you all a glorious summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

Please either ring me now on 977 1579 or email social@barkham.org so that I can reserve your tickets for you.

Judith Collins
Social Secretary.



Arborfield Local History Society

Our recent meetings have included Janet Firth from Barkham giving an illustrated talk on "The Parish of Barkham (the Archaeological Aspect)" in March and our AGM in April. Di Thorne has now kindly agreed to take over the role of Chairman allowing Barry Salter to step down. Barry was responsible for setting up the Society some 12 years ago and has remained as Chairman ever since. Much of our success is down to him and we thank him for his sterling efforts.

After the AGM, we had the first half of a DVD of "Wokingham Past and Present" which compared a fascinating selection of photographs, some a hundred years old with more recent images. The remainder will be shown at a later date.

We have finalised our meetings for the coming year which are as follows:-

June 2nd Barnes Wallis's Remarkable Career – Inventor, aircraft and airship designer and bouncing bomb fame – Hugh Granger

July 7th Madame Tussaud is buried in Wargrave? – how myths can be perpetrated – Peter Delaney

July 19th Garden Party – Ridgefield Farm by kind permission of Margaret Edwards. Members only. Tickets £4.00 will be on sale at the next meeting.

August 4th A Stroll in the Park: History of English Royal Parks – Peter Halman

September 1st Visit to Silchester Roman Remains and Church

October 6th Thames Valley Buses in the 1960s – final part of his history - Paul Lacey

November 3rd Family History and Genealogy - tracing back from recent ancestors - Jameson Wooders

December 1st Christmas Dinner - venue to be finalised

January 5th The GWR comes to the Thames Valley – John Chapman

February 2nd Berkshire Folk Tales – David England

March 2nd The Thames from the Cotswolds to the sea – Richard Poad

We hope that there is something included for everyone's tastes - please let us know if you have any specific ideas for future speakers.

We have had to cancel the planned boat trip to Maple Durham House as the costs were excessive - £25 including admission, guided tour and cream tea. However, if anyone is interested, they are advertising 2 for 1 deal on specific dates. See the Travelzoo Berkshire website for details. (<http://www.travelzoo.com/uk/local-deals/Berkshire/deals>)

A reminder that Membership for the coming year is now due for those who have not already done so. Our treasurer will happily take your monies at the next meeting and the costs are unchanged from last year. If you wish to attend a meeting without joining the society, just turn up and £2 on the night is all it takes. You will be most welcome.

The latest news can be found on our website www.arborfieldhistory.org

Ray Hill
976 0784
rayhill@aol.com

programme will also include the ever popular 'New World Symphony' by Dvorak and Weber's 'Der Freischutz' overture.

Our Spring Concert 'A Night at the Opera' with Yateley Choral Society proved to be a very successful and enjoyable evening, with an audience of nearly 400 people at Yateley Manor School. The photos show us rehearsing and in the performance.



In May we held our annual String Workshop when string players of all ages from around the area got together for an afternoon to play works from the string orchestra repertoire, which they may otherwise not have an opportunity to play. As usual, it was a most enjoyable afternoon.

Our Summer Concert will be at our usual venue – The Old Gym at Wellington College – on Saturday 12th July at 8pm. This will be part of the Crowthorne Carnival Week's festivities and will include the 'Warsaw Concerto' by Richard Addinsell (written for the 1941



British film 'Dangerous Moonlight') as well as Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 1, where the piano soloist for both will be Daniel King Smith. Some of you may remember Daniel played the Gershwin Piano Concerto with us 3 years ago. The

Tickets will be available from Traveltime in Crowthorne High Street, and Bookends in Peach Street Wokingham or from members of the orchestra (£10 in advance or £12 on the door). Tickets can also be purchased on-line via the orchestra's website.

We welcome anyone who would like to join the orchestra, subject to vacancies. We are a friendly bunch and have members of all ages and from all walks of life, so 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. Our rehearsals are on Monday evenings 7.45-10pm in term time, usually at Our Lady's Prep School in The Avenue, Crowthorne but please check our website which has lots more information about rehears-

als, workshops and concerts and also contact details: www.crowthorneorchestra.com

Chris Gadsby

Lunch-time Music at Arborfield Garrison

REME Corps and Garrison Church of St. Eligius

Bringing music to you!

The monthly free Lunch-time Concerts at the REME¹ Corps and Garrison Church of St Eligius, Arborfield Garrison, commenced in October 2011. The concerts take place on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 12.30 pm. The concerts last for 30 minutes.

Each concert is followed by a Buffet Lunch prepared by a retired Army Chef.

The aim of the Lunch-time Concerts is to provide good quality music for people not only in the Garrison but in the surrounding areas. The lunch provides an opportunity for socialising, to meet with the performer(s) and friends or to make new friends. The proceeds from a retiring collection are for the REME Benevolent Fund and the military church community.

The Church is an ecumenical one and seats about 140 people comfortably. It is a very light, warm and welcoming building, with equally welcoming people! There is easy access for wheelchair users. Also, there are toilet facilities, including wheelchair access.

The range of concerts varies widely which is much appreciated by the audience. To date they include the REME Band, organ recitals, wind ensembles, a string ensemble, a choir and instrumental soloists amongst others.

¹Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Current Programme of Concerts

19th June 2014 David Durham, Baritone Robin Rubenstein, Piano

17th July 2014 Harry White, Violin Guy Murgatroyd, Piano

21st August 2014 Tom Balch, Violin Claire Tester, Piano

18th September 2014 Students Farnborough 6th Form College

To book your Lunch, please, contact Rita Le Var (Tel. 01252 372320, E-mail: rita_le_var@ntl-world.com)

The Church Address and Telephone Number

REME Corps and Garrison Church of St Eligius, Arborfield, Tope Road, Arborfield, Reading, Berkshire RG2 9NB.

Tel. (0118) 976 3420
(Answerphone for messages)

Location of the Church

Take Langley Common Road from Barkham towards Arborfield, then first left into Biggs Lane. At the next roundabout turn right into Princess Marina Drive. Take the first turn right into Baird Road. The Church Car park is on the left. The Church is across the road.

Rita Le Var
Organist & Concert Organiser

INCONSIDERATE PARKING AT THE LILACS JUNCTION

Have you been affected by inconsiderate parking in The Lilacs at the junction with Bearwood Road?

Do you think that this is an issue?

Do you worry that there might be an accident there?

Would you like to see The Highway Code being enforced by the council?

What is your view on having double yellow lines at the junction?

Have you been concerned for the safety of you and your passengers when entering or leaving The Lilacs?

Are you worried that emergency service vehicles might be held up by the cars parked for a stretch of The Lilacs on either side of the road?

What is YOUR view?

Please add your voice to the discussion forum on the Barkham Residents Association website.

A Concerned Resident

Visit <http://barkham.org.uk> and select the 'forum' option from the menu at the top of the page. Anyone can read the forum but you will need to register in order to be able to add your comments – click on the create

an account option at the top of the forum page to register, For more details about the forum see page 5 of the Spring 2014 Barkham newsletter (also available for download on the website if you've misplaced your copy!)

Loddon Valley Ramblers' Walks

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, including some longer ones, visit Loddon Valley Ramblers Website: www.lvra.org.uk

Thursday 19th June: Circular walk along the Kennet & Avon Canal then open country near Police College. Should be an arresting walk! 5½ miles. 10.00 after parking at Theale canal CP (RG7 4AJ). Leader - Stephen S - 07776 148720

Wednesday 25th June: Evening stroll past Ludgrove School then through Gorrick Plantation 3½ miles 18.30 after parking at The White Horse pub car park on the Easthampstead Road, after the level crossing if you are leaving Wokingham (RG40 3AF) Leader David T – 07899 938397 or 0118 9784364

Thursday 10th July: Circular walk to west of Arborfield over farmland on both sides of River Loddon. 4 miles 10.30 after road side parking in closed end of Cutbush Lane, Shinfield near Shinfield Grange (RG2 9AG). Leader – Ralph L 0118 9691228

Sunday 20th July: Circular walk along three rivers, two fords and a castle 5 miles 10.30 after parking carefully at the roadside in Farley Hill near the church (RG7 1UN). Leader - Vlad P 07778 852870

Thursday 31st July: Circular walk around forests and country lanes in Arborfield and Farley Hill, open views at Chill Hill 6 miles 10.00 in Car Park at Arborfield Pavilion - Swallowfield Road - Arborfield - permission has been granted. Registered assistance dogs only, please! Leaders – Silvia & Ricardo Sussmann 01189761737 or 07846434861 (only on day of walk)

Sunday 10th August: Circular walk along Silchester fortifications 5 miles 10.00 from Silchester Roman Town CP (RG7 2HP) Registered assistance dogs only, please! Leader - Caroline L 0118 9781336

Sunday 24th August: Circular walk along River Loddon to Dinton Pastures then back via Hurst 5 ½ miles 10.30 from Car Park at Polehampton Crescent Twyford (RG10 9RP). Leader – John W 0118 9320127



St James' Church

HBC 2014 - A fantastic week of fun for children!

It's that time of the year again, when preparations are well under way for our 'Holiday Bible Club'. For over 50 years Arborfield and Barkham churches have been running this activity week for children aged 5-14 in the first full week of the summer holidays that includes sports, crafts, music and teaching from the Bible. Last year we welcomed almost 350 children over the course of the week and we hope to even exceed that number this year. As well at the main programme for 5s-14s, there is also a programme for under 5s and their parents/carers that runs in the morning.

This year HBC runs from Monday 28th July – Friday 1st August and we are thankful to The Coombes School that once again we can be based on their sports field. Our theme this year is 'Outrageous!' and is based on Jesus famous parable of the prodigal son. Each morning we will hear a bit more of the story and find out what it all has to say to us today as we also enjoy the drama and fun and games in our big marquee. Then in the afternoon we offer a whole range of sporting and craft activities, or the chance to relax in our 'Chill Out Zone'. And as well as our regular daily activities, there will be our special afternoon of inflatables and fairground games.

Booking into HBC is very simple. Simply visit our website www.abch.org.uk which has full details and prices (HBC is very reasonable). You can book places direct from there or you can call the church office on 0118 976 0285. We look forward to seeing you!

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Arborfield and Barkham Branch

Commemorating 100 years since WW1 1914
and 70 years since D-Day 1944

PLEASE KEEP THIS DATE FREE!

Saturday 14th June 2014 11a.m. - 4.30 p.m

Table Top Sale and Various Attractions including display of Photography and Information relating to the above events.

The Coombes Primary School Children's Choir will entertain

Army and Police Vehicles Barbeque RBL Motorcycles Branch

Secret Auction and Raffle Children's Play Area

Dance with Band and Finger Buffet 8.00 p.m. 'til 12.00

To be held in aid of The Poppy Appeal

Any volunteers to help on the day would be very much appreciated. Ring John Cornish (Chairman) on 976 0432. I will be holding a Cake Sale in aid of the above event and would be very grateful for any contributions to sell on the day. If you can help in any way please ring me on 976 0432.

Many thanks

Lorna Cornish

Arborfield Gardening Association

Hello Everyone!

Our Spring Show on 10th April was a wonderful success – so many magnificent entries, expertly judged by Alan Goad of Henry Street Garden Centre. Patsy Townsend won the Spring Challenge cup, which was presented to her by our President, Angela Hands, who also gave the vote of thanks to Alan for his interesting & informative talk on "Garden Innovations". Now we know not to waste our money seeding grass in the spring, unless we can be around to water it every day (if necessary!) be patient until autumn !

A photograph album, which had been given to us by the Arborfield Garrison, was displayed, as some faces may have been familiar to the AGA Members. It contained pictures from some years ago, of the Arborfield Flower Club, when they held their meetings at the Garrison. It has now been handed to the Arborfield History Society.

We were fortunate to have a sunny, wind-free day on 3rd May for our Plant Sale. It was a great chance to buy indoor & outdoor plants, grown by experienced & professional gardeners, at very competitive prices. We made a wonderful £268:06 all thanks to the amazing energy & expertise of the Committee Members & so many others who came to help & provide a wonderful selection of plants and of course our thanks go to you too, as members of the community who came along to buy !!

If you didn't make it, not to worry, there will be another opportunity

to help or buy plants on 14th June, when the British Legion have asked us to have a stall at their special event.



Our fun Plant Swop on Thursday 8th May, attended by 21 members, was our last meeting in the Village Hall for the summer. We are sharing coach trips during the summer months with several local horticultural associations, to such wonderful gardens as Ramster Gardens, the Hidden Gardens of London, Woburn Abbey, Fittleworth House, Wisley, Hyde Hall, Gilbert White House & Gardens (with the Oates Mu-



seum) & Stourhead. These are day-long trips, with the exception of Fittleworth. However, we have also organised local visits in

the evenings to some interesting & beautiful gardens: Farley Hill Place, a Japanese Garden, the Harris Gardens at the University of

Reading & a wonderful example of what you can achieve in the smallest of gardens in Arborfield.

Our next meeting on Thursday 12th June is a visit to Farley Hill Place Gardens at Church Rd, Farley Hill, RG7 1TZ. It is a private viewing, which includes wine & nibbles, so the cost is £7, in aid of the Air Ambulance. It's a 4-acre cottage garden & includes a walled garden, herbaceous

Our Summer Garden Party follows in July. Pimms & soft drinks, salad lunches, followed by strawberries & cream are on the menu.

AGA's special trip to Wisley will be held on Thursday 14th August, in order that we can see the fields of poppies sown for the Centennial. We will need to book early for this with the RHS, so please let me know (see below) as soon as possible, or contact Jean Eley, on 0118 976 1929 (e-mail: eleyjc@yahoo.com) if you wish to come along. We have arranged a coach, which is partly paid for by the donation to the AGA funds from the Village Fete, so it's a really cheap day out at £10 - entrance is free, as AGA is an Affiliated Member of the RHS. However, a conducted tour is available at an additional charge of £3 & wheelchairs will be available.

All our events are advertised at various popular locations throughout the local area. So keep your eyes open & do come along if any appeal. We will be very happy to welcome you

Catherine Breen
Chair

Further information can be obtained by ringing 0118 976 1848, or e-mail:

catherinebreen@ymail.com

Photos:

Margaret Edwards, Committee Member, helping Alan Goad judge the Spring Show

Plant Sale outside of Arborfield Village Hall on Saturday 3rd May

plants, vegetables & flowers for cutting. It's owned by Margaret Finch, friend of AGA & a wonderful flower-arranger

The Armed Man Chorus ▪ Berkshire Youth Orchestra
Coombes School Choir ▪ Berkshire Maestros Percussion

Present



THE ARMED MAN - A MASS FOR PEACE
Composer: Karl Jenkins

Reading Hexagon 23 November 2014

Host: BBC's Henry Kelly

Tickets available from Reading Hexagon Box Office: 0118 9371234

Tickets: Adult £20 Under 16: £16

(Ticket cost includes Hexagon booking fee)



All proceeds to

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singhealthy choirs

this for the last 6 years and all my choirs are made up of people who have had little or no choir experience in the past, who don't read music and for whom choir membership was something they felt was unavailable to them. The Armed Man Chorus was created on the same principles and I am both excited and proud of how far the singers have come and how much they are committing to this performance. I hope people will come and enjoy an exciting concert of music and at the same time be helping to raise money for a wonderful charity with strong local connections to Wokingham"

The Armed Man Concert is not only an opportunity for you to enjoy great music, but it is also an opportunity to support the charity we are performing for



www.reverserett.org.uk

Rett Syndrome is a neurological disorder that strikes little girls around the time of their first birthday and ends their parents' hopes and dreams for their future. Rett Syndrome affects nearly every aspect of these girls' lives; taking away their ability to walk, talk and use their hands. Many girls have problems with breathing and eating. Many have seizures.

It's hard to imagine as an able-bodied person what it would be like to lose the ability to walk, or even stand and sit unsupported. For thousands of girls and their families worldwide, this isn't some horrible momentary imagining, this is their reality - the reality of Rett Syndrome.

Put yourself in their shoes. Follow them through their day. Watching

everyone else's children playing at the park. Spoon-feeding their twelve year old daughter for hours every day and just hoping that she can swallow. Lifting an 8-stone teenager in and out of a wheelchair when she should be climbing through the window at 2am. Sitting by the hospital bed that lives in her bedroom, making decisions that no parent should ever have to make.

But this is not a hopeless situation. There is no treatment for Rett Syndrome but Rett Syndrome has been proven to be curable in the lab. Scientists are working today to make this a reality for our girls. Funding for this work comes largely from the blood, sweat and tears of families who want something better for their children and the people who see that and want to be part of something that will make such a difference to so many lives.

Treatments and cures are possible in our children's lifetimes. Imagine that.

Dorian Edwards said; "I had no hesitation in proposing our choirs support the Reverse Rett charity for research has shown that girls with Rett do not have brain damage. They know and understand much more than their bodies allow them to show - but they are locked in, trapped by a body that cannot obey signals from their brain. Rett Syndrome is considered a rare illness, yet there are five cases within the Wokingham district. If this information touches you, as it did me, I hope you will decide to support our concert..

Many of us enjoy singing be it in the car, along with the radio or even in the bath or shower. For some people they look to join a choir and extend their musical experience further, but in most choirs there is a requirement to either sing an audition piece or to be able to read music. Imagine then that you were given the opportunity to sing a modern classic work in a leading concert venue, along with a full orchestra and 1000 audience members. Is it that hard to imagine?

For 150 people from across our area this opportunity is a reality and under the direction of a local Barkham resident a choir is hard at work on rehearsals for a concert in Reading Hexagon on 23 November 2014. The concert

is of The Armed Man - A Mass for Peace by Welsh composer Karl Jenkins and it is widely considered one of the best modern choral works for the last 20 years.

The choir consists of people who simply wanted to sing, regardless of the experience or musical knowledge and for whom membership of the chorus was unrestricted by auditions or music reading ability. The only criterion for membership was that you enjoyed singing and were willing to give of your best in the performance of the concert work. Musical Director Dorian Edwards said; "I believe that anyone who wants the chance to sing good music should be given that opportunity. At singhealthy choirs we have been doing just

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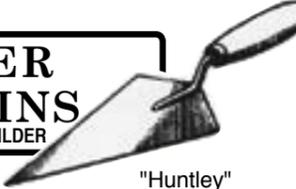
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Incentive for greener home heating

Rural homeowners living off the gas network have long had to pay extra for oil, LPG or electric heating. The Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is here to encourage these households to consider lower carbon alternatives when replacing an old boiler.

The RHI aims to even out the relative cost of installing and running a new renewable heating system instead of one using fossil fuel. With the RHI you receive a payment for every unit of renewable heat it is estimated your system will generate. Supported heaters include biomass or pellet boilers, air, ground or water source heat pumps, and solar thermal panels.

The RHI is open to homeowners, private landlords, social landlords and self-builders. If you installed a renewable heat system between 15 July 2009 and 8 April 2014 you may also be eligible. Application for the RHI is by a form on the [Ofgem website](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk). You can also get free advice from the Energy Saving Advice Service on 0300 123 1234.



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2. *Mairi's Wedding (other spellings available)*
3. A Nose
4. Anthony Head
5. Neil Kinnock
6. Hair
7. Elbow
8. Skull
9. PT Barnum
10. New York

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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

Barkham Diary

4-Jun-14	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
10-Jun-14	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
10-Jun-14	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
11-Jun-14	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
11-Jun-14	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
23-Jun-14	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
24-Jun-14	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
28-Jun-14	Refuse Lorry	Junipers	8-11am
2-Jul-14	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
8-Jul-14	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
8-Jul-14	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
9-Jul-14	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
22-Jul-14	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
26-Jul-14	Refuse Lorry	Junipers	8-11am
28-Jul-14	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
12-Aug-14	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
13-Aug-14	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
23-Aug-14	Refuse Lorry	Junipers	8-11am
3-Sep-14	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
5-Sep-14	Copy deadline for Autumn Newsletter		
9-Sep-14	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
9-Sep-14	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
10-Sep-14	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
13-Sep-14	BVRA Beetle Drive	BVH	7.30pm
22-Sep-14	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
23-Sep-14	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
27-Sep-14	Refuse Lorry	Junipers	8-11am

AVH is Arborfield Village Hall
CRH is California Ratepayers Hall

BVH is Barkham Village Hall
FMH is Finchampstead Memorial Hall

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