



£1, free to Members

# Barkham Newsletter

Issue 112 Summer 2015  
from the Barkham Village Residents Association  
<http://www.barkham.org.uk>

**HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB 2015**

**EPIC**  
explorers



The churches of  
Arborfield, Barkham & Christ Church  
Wokingham invite you to a week of games, talks,  
crafts, sports for 5-14 year-olds  
**MON 27 – FRI 31 JULY, 10AM-3PM**  
**COOMBES CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ARBORFIELD**  
For more info and to book places visit  
**WWW.ABCH.ORG.UK** or call **0118 976 0285**

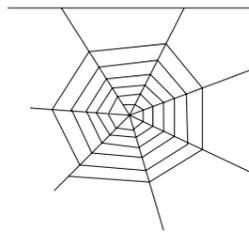
**Summer Dance – now rescheduled for  
3 October – see page 10**

**Have you paid your 2015 BVRA subscription?  
If not, please pay you distributor as soon as possible. The  
autumn and winter issues are delivered to paid up  
members only**

**In  
this  
issue...**

Diary	2	Borough Councillor	7	Gardening	14
Quiz	2	Church	8	Music	15
Editorial	3	Mum's Drug Appeal	9	Ramblers	16
Parich Council	4	Social	10	Local History	16
Planning Update	6	The Life of George Robins	12		

# Barkham Diary



9-Jun-15	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
10-Jun-15	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
22-Jun-15	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
23-Jun-15	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
1-Jul-15	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
8-Jul-15	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
14-Jul-15	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
14-Jul-15	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
27-Jul-15	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
28-Jul-15	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
11-Aug-15	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
12-Aug-15	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
2-Sep-15	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
4-Sep-15	Copy deadline for Autumn Newsletter		
8-Sep-15	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
8-Sep-15	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
9-Sep-15	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
22-Sep-15	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
3-Oct-15	Autumn Dance	BVH	
31-Oct-15	Children's Halloween Event		
21-Nov-15	Quiz Night	BVH	
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

## The Quiz

Given the recent birth of a princess, a "Right Royal" theme this time!

1. Who played Queen Elizabeth 1 in Blackadder?
2. In which city was Martin Luther King shot and killed?
3. Who had hits with "When Doves Cry" and "1999"?
4. Which book by William Goldman was made into a film directed by Rob Reiner and featured Peter Falk reading a fantasy story to his grandson?
5. Which football team are nicknamed "The Royals"?
6. Who was the (now retired) bass player in Queen?
7. Who played the lead in the 1991 film "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" and what was the song from the film that stayed at number 1 for what seemed like forever (actually 16 weeks, a record)?
8. Whose daughters are Goneril, Regan and Cordelia?
9. In which classic sitcom would you find siblings Denise and Anthony?
10. And finally, which playing card would you most associate with Princess Diana?

Answers on page 18

## Barkham web site

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our website [www.barkham.org.uk](http://www.barkham.org.uk) 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

## 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](mailto:clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk)

## 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.

I'm pleased to say that we have a new Development Watch Coordinator. This role has been vacant for some time since David French moved out of the area, so welcome and thanks to Lindsay Brown. Lindsay is a qualified Town Planner so she brings knowledge and experience to the role, as well as a wish to be involved in the local community.

We're still looking for a new Chairman so don't be shy (!) – if you feel it's a role you would be interested in taking on do contact me, or any member of the committee for more details.

This edition has a very interesting article about the life of George Robins who died earlier this year at the age of 98. It is believed he

was Barkham's oldest resident and he lived in the same cottage at the junction of Barkham and Bearwood Roads for his whole life. Thanks to Julia Tredwell and George's family for telling his story.

We also have a piece from local resident Thelma Reeves who tells of the struggle to get the drug on the NHS to treat her son's genetic disorder and the petition they presented to Downing Street.

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

The quiz this time has a "Royal" theme but as usual the theme is liberally interpreted!

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

Stewart Richardson  
Editor

## Wokingham Choral Society

Wokingham Choral Society invite you to a "come and sing" evening in September. We meet every Thursday during term time at Emmbrook Senior School in Wokingham from 7.30pm to 9.45pm. Further details of this open evening can be found on [www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk](http://www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk). We look forward to seeing you.

Alison Sears



Thank you to Marion Heath and Judith Collins for providing the refreshments again which were very welcome by the litter pickers.

### Arborfield Garrison SDL Update

The MOD (Crest Nicholson) Planning Application for 2000 houses and the application for the new secondary school were both granted planning permission at the Planning Committee on the 25<sup>th</sup> March. There is no date yet for the Hogwood Farm planning application for the remaining 1500 houses, this could possibly be the end of September. Do you have any suggestions for a name for this development? Bearing in mind that the bulk of the houses will be in Barkham, please let us have any ideas, we do not want to see this development known as Arborfield.

See the more detailed report from Laurence Heath, the vice Chairman of the Parish Council.

### Vacancy For a new Councillor

The Parish Council currently has two vacancies, are you interested in what goes on in your area? The Council meets on the second Tuesday of the month at Barkham Village Hall at 8.00 p.m. If you would like to find out more please

contact the Clerk. We would be delighted to hear from you. You do not need any experience just an interest in what goes on in Barkham.

### Looking for a day out or taking up a new sport?

The Barkham Parish Council web site has lots of ideas for a day out this summer go to the Local Information tab and the Places to Visit! Or if you want to try out a new sport go to the Local Directory page there are a huge number here of almost any sport you can think of and more! If you know somewhere local to visit we have missed or a local organisation to add to our directory just let us know and we will share it with everyone.

### Need a helping hand?

Again the Barkham Parish Council web site has listed the contact details for many types of organisations that can give you a helping hand if you need it. Just search in the Local Directory page.

### 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 Clerk for £8.50 each, or they are on sale at Henry Street Garden Centre and Barkham Post Office.

Judith Neuhofer – Clerk to Barkham Parish Council

## Barkham Sporting Endeavour Fund



Barkham Parish Council invite any young person who is under 18, are Barkham residents and who participate in a sport at national level to apply for a grant, towards the cost of their travel and training.

Please send your details to:-

clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk

or telephone 0118 9772857

Closing date for applications is 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015

### FARLEY HILL BOWLS CLUB

Our green is now in action for the outdoor bowling season until early September. You will find our Green and our Clubhouse, the Victory Hall, in Church Road Farley Hill RG7 1TR.

Our annual subscription is only £55, and our match fees are £3 at Home and £2.50 Away.

You are welcome to come along and check out our club facilities, and watch any of our Home matches, on Wednesday evenings and Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Please check on our website for the exact dates of all our home fixtures.

If you missed our OPEN DAY on Sunday 3rd May, the best opportunity to try your hand at bowls for the first time is on a Tuesday or Thursday evening, between 5.30pm to around 8.00pm, from May to August. These two evenings are scheduled on demand for coaching and practice sessions.

### News from Your Parish Council

Keep up to date with all the local news and information at our website.

### The Annual Litter Pick

The annual Parish Clean Up took place on 29<sup>th</sup> March. The weather was not as good as other years but we still had 30 residents turn out to help, a big thank you if you came to help us. The advertising on the notice boards made a big difference. A huge amount of rubbish was collected, 28 sacks of recycling, 62 sacks of general rubbish, hub caps, tyres, fence posts and weights from an exercise bench. Also a pack of 12 lagers was found along the Barkham Road, all unopened but sadly out of date. We think this is a record amount of rubbish. It is very noticeable that a lot of what we are picking up is thrown from passing cars such as coffee cups and wrappers from fast food.



Trinity CONCERT BAND

# Summer Concert

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 7:30pm

The Dam Busters March  
Summertime (Gershwin)  
Dances with Wolves  
In the Miller Mood  
Crimson Tide  
plus many more!

Trinity Church  
Chalfont Close, Lower Earley  
Tickets: £10 in advance, £12 on the door  
Available online or from the Box Office: 0845 226 3047  
Under 16's go free when accompanied by a paying adult

www.trinityband.co.uk

Registered Charity Number: 08993383



## Planning Update

Crest Nicholson's outline planning application was approved at WBC's Planning Committee on 25 March. The planning application for the new secondary school was also approved at the same committee meeting. Meanwhile the MFT application for the southern part of the site is expected to go to the Planning Committee in September: there appears to be no big issue causing the delay, rather a matter of resolving a number of small ones.

Crest Nicholson have also revealed an initial concept for the first phase of building. This will be the "Lakeside" neighbourhood, located on the east side of the existing lake off Biggs Lane. Building is expected to commence around Christmas this year with the first residents moving in by summer 2016.

Crest Nicholson indicated that they will carry out a public consultation before finalising a name for the development. They do appreciate that this matter needs to be resolved for their own commercial purposes. However they have not confirmed when or how they will do this: my expectation is that they will propose a short list of preferred names that hopefully will have some local association.

### Arborfield and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan Greenways Project

Since I became involved in the greenways project, it has become

very clear that a great many residents are keen to use local footpaths and bridleways. The best known routes, not surprisingly, are the best used. However there seems to be a lack of awareness of other routes.

Did you know that you can walk all the way from Barkham to California Country Park? There are footpaths all the way, mainly using cross country footpaths, with just a couple of stretches on pavements alongside the main roads. The Leopard Bus can bring you back to Barkham, though not on Sundays.

Did you know that you can walk all the way to Sindlesham across country? A visit to the cricket ground in Sadlers Lane or a walk to the Walter Arms are feasible.

Did you know that you can walk all the way through The Coombes from Coombes Lane to Arborfield Cross? Come back on the Leopard Bus if you don't feel like walking both ways!

Did you know that there are many circular walks within the parish especially within The Coombes? Though parts of these routes are well used, their full potential is not well appreciated.

The focus of the Greenways Group so far has been on developing a comprehensive plan: As many of these ideas will be relatively long term projects, it was felt that some attention should be given to ideas that can be made ready more quickly. In particular it should be an aim to make better use of the various footpaths and bridleways that are already in existence.

Specifically we are investigating ways in which we can improve signposting and to prepare local maps that can be downloaded from websites. To make this

happen we will have to find a modest amount of expenditure, which it is hoped can be covered by development funds. Also we will need to co-operate with WBC on various matters. I hope to give you an update on this project in due course.

For readers who fancy a little exploration, here are some directions for the route to California Country Park:

### Walking to California

Starting from the bottom end of Sandy Lane, turn right along Barkham Road, heading down the hill.

A short distance along, a footpath is signposted to the left. Follow this path which will bring you to Edney's Hill.

Cross Edney's Hill and follow another signposted path across the fields which will eventually reach Barkham Church.

Continue left around the outside of the churchyard and you will reach a path heading south along the edge of the field. This is a new path and will take you towards Rooks Nest Country Park.

Enter the park through a gateway. At this point the path becomes gravel with some boardwalk sections across wetter areas.

After a short distance you will reach a T-junction with another pathway. Turn right and follow the path all the way to the car park.

Go through the car park and turn left along Barkham Ride. There is a new pavement along this stretch of road.

Reaching the built up area, cross Barkham Ride and follow a signposted bridleway.

Continue along this bridleway and when it eventually turns right, there is an entrance to California Park.

Continue through the park to Nine Mile Ride, where there is a bus stop, if returning on the Leopard bus.

The total one way distance from Sandy Lane to Nine Mile Ride is approximately 2 miles.

Laurence Heath  
Vice Chairman  
Barkham Parish Council



## Borough Councillor's end of term report

My commitment is wholeheartedly to a good quality of life for all residents and having served in the privilege position as the elected member for Barkham for the last 4 years on Wokingham borough council. I have strived to ensure the delivery and quality of services meet and where possible exceed the best possible standards as well as reflecting what residents want. At the same time ensuring we do not destroy what we have and enjoy, living as we do in what is a great place, Barkham.

So it is with great pleasure I can report I have been elected by you the residents of Barkham to serve on the borough council representing the electorate for another 4 years, which I intend to do to the best of my ability.

I felt it was important to explain in my end of term report the budget constraints the borough council has been put under and cover off what is the latest news with regards the Garrison development. The other important issue is what's going on with the roads around the borough, something which touches us all almost every day and has a major impact on our lives.

### Garrison Development (Arborfield)

The MOD (Crest Nicholson) Planning Application for up to 2000

houses, over 75% of which falls in Barkham and the one submitted by the council for the new secondary school both of which have been approved, the garrison in outline and a full application for a state of the art secondary school which is on target to open in September 2016. Part of the plan will be additional greenways and the housing development will cover less than 50% of the available land meaning over 50% will be green spaces.

The secondary school is very important to me as I have been fighting for this for many years both as a parish and borough councillor and will mean children in our area starting secondary school after next will no longer be required to be bussed or travel around the borough to go to school.

The decision in principle to develop the garrison and surrounding land was made many years ago, before I was elected to represent Barkham and there was always the question would the army actually move as it had been mooted many times over the last 20 to 30 years, now this is certain I have been working with residents, officers of the council and developers to ensure what is delivered is of good quality and the infrastructure provided brings improvements to not only new residents but all existing people living around the development.

The first application for the garrison site was submitted and was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant at the request of the council because of it did not reach the standards expected and I was actively involved in getting the plan thrown out.

### No rise in council tax

Wokingham remains the lowest

funded unitary authority in England with regards to the level of government grant it receives and despite the on-going austerity programme, on (February 19th); full council was asked to agree a council tax freeze for 2015/16. It was agreed, voted for by me and the rest of my Conservative colleagues. The council has seen a 10.5% reduction in the government settlement funding assessment - equating to £2.9 million in real terms when compared with last year. I have been fighting along with other members of the council for greater efficiencies to enable the cost burden on residents to be held at its current level for at least the next 12 months

Even so the council is set to continue investing, with £95.8 million in capital projects next year, to support its priorities including new schools, roads and housing and despite the financial pressures we continue to focus on maintaining good quality services.

### Included in the investments planned for 2015-20

New schools including a first class secondary school in Barkham on the Arborfield garrison site in the south of the borough, planned to be delivered in 2016, new primary schools in the strategic development locations

Five new roads including Arborfield Relief Road, North Wokingham Distributor Road, South Wokingham Distributor Road, Shinfield Eastern Relief Road, Nine Mile Ride extension and the Winnersh Relief Road.

### Roads

Wokingham borough has the highest ratio of car ownership in the country - only 9% of local households are without one, in addition car ownership in the Borough is also one of the highest

nationally for households having two or more cars.

Wokingham borough's road network has the unique problem of serving this high level of car ownership, which means it's trickier to maintain and upgrade without causing problems and congestion, that said the level of car ownership is central to the council policies on infrastructure.

Investment in the borough's highways infrastructure and maintenance between 2015-2018 will, in addition to the major roads a program to replace the borough's worn out streetlights, four additional footbridges over the Waterloo railway line and a replacement railway bridge (Guildford and Waterloo lines) on the A321 Finchampstead Road, the extension to Nine Mile Ride and a new relief road at Arborfield, in addition to junction upgrades and new junctions and road improvements such as the new station link road and changes to Barkham bridge, where required.

There is also planned investment in future and current cycle networks as part of the development of greenways (a network of quiet community and leisure routes for pedestrian's, cyclists and horse riders) and public rights of ways. We have plans for 2 new park and rides with future plans for additional locations, and will be looking to extend the destinations served by these park and rides.

We will also be investing heavily on measures to keep traffic moving to negate as much as possible the effects of these works on road users whether vehicles, bicycles or pedestrian.

So far we have secured over £40m in government grants to enable to deliver the infrastructure the borough needs, this is in addition

to the tens of millions of pounds from developers building new homes in the borough.

Barkham much like other areas in Wokingham and the rest of the southeast suffers from traffic congestion and this is not helped by the amount of utilities work which requires road works. In 2013/14 over 9,000 notifiable pieces of work were carried out on Wokingham's roads by utility companies and the Council. In order to try to co-ordinate these works a system exists whereby works promoters have to inform the Council what they are going to do and when. This is done within a relatively strict set of rules and there are penalties for not adhering to these rules.

To strengthen the powers which the council has to control such works the council since January have implemented a new permit system, It will not just tell us that works are going ahead but will mean utilities companies have to ask the council for permission to carry out those works. In addition if they wish to vary the time that they are on site they will incur a cost – thus encouraging them to plan properly in the first place.

Again thank you for the support I have received over the past 4 years and it has been a privilege to represent you all and now having been re-elected I look forward to the task ahead and although we are making progress at the Borough council we still have a long way to go and with many challenges in front of us all.

Thank you  
John Kaiser  
Ward Member  
Wokingham Borough Council  
[John.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:John.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk)



### For every child in Barkham – Holiday Bible Club

Over more than 50 years now, Holiday Bible Club (HBC) has marked the start of the summer holiday for thousands of local children aged 0-14.

And what better way to begin the summer holidays?! HBC is a five-day club run by the churches of Arborfield, Barkham and Christ Church Wokingham. It offers crafts, sports, music, games, drama, the chance to make new friends, great weather (maybe!), and – of course – the opportunity to find out more about who Jesus is, why he came, what he did, and why any of that even matters 2,000 years later! Particular highlights include the afternoon of inflatables and fairground games, getting soaked in the water sports on the final afternoon, and watching unlucky leaders endure being flanned and the legend that is the 'gunge tank' at the end of every day.

Last year around 350 children came along. The good news is that 2015 looks set to be another amazing year. Dates are Mon 27 – Fri 31 July, and BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN! See [www.abch.org.uk](http://www.abch.org.uk) for more information and to book places. For anything else, call the Church Office on 0118 976 0285. We would love to see you there!

## Local mum's campaign for a life changing drug for her son

I am campaigning for the NHS to fund a "life-changing" drug for my 10-year-old son suffering from a rare genetic disorder.

He is William Reeves, of Hayes Lane, Barkham and has Morquio Syndrome, a metabolic disorder which mainly affects his growth. There are just 78 sufferers of the syndrome in England. Now 10 and just 2ft 5ins tall, I am the rest of William's family are desperate for access to Vimizim, the only enzyme replacement therapy drug to address the cause of Morquio.

Not currently funded by the NHS, Vimizim is only available to those lucky enough to get on a clinical trial, William was not so fortunate. However even that lifeline may be cut off due to NHS bureaucracy. To get this drug would be life-changing, He hasn't grown since he was about three. Life expectancy with this condition on average is 25, we need action now.

William, who is a pupil at St Teresa's Catholic Primary School in Wokingham, was diagnosed when he was three after I noticed he was not developing as fast as his older sister Jessica, 12, had or other children his age.

I was always being told to go away but after some time I thought enough so I went along to the doctors and asked to be referred to a private consultant. Again I was told I was being emotional but this time I refused to leave..

Eventually William was diagnosed at Great Ormond Street Hospital where we met another boy suffering from the same

syndrome. He has been fortunate enough to get on a trial for Vimizim.

He (the other little boy) is doing very well,. He has grown and looks like a 10-year-old. We are desperate for him to get the drug so he can enjoy a better life. He is marvellous; he is so confident and very special.

### The campaign

William joined campaigners to deliver a letter to Prime Minister David Cameron on Wednesday, March 11. The protest was led by a number of charities campaigning for access to the drugs children desperately need. Charities included the MPS Society, Tuberos Sclerosis Association, Action Duchenne, Harrison's Fund and others.

NHS England was forced to scrap its drugs commissioning process in December because of the threat of legal challenge that it was discriminatory. Until a new process is in place, campaigners are demanding NHS England provide interim funding to access the drugs.

Greg Mulholland MP, who is leading the cross-party multi-organisation campaign, questioned Mr Cameron at Prime Minister's Question Time before dropping off a letter with William at 10 Downing Street to add further pressure on Mr Cameron.

It remains uncertain when a new commissioning process will be put in place.

Mr Mulholland said: "These children and their families have been let down and fobbed off by NHS England for too long and just aren't getting answers from NHS England. We will keep up the pressure until we get the interim funding these children desperately need."

### How you can help

A total of 52 MPs have signed a parliamentary motion backing the campaign. You can show support for William and the campaign by writing to your local MP. Our local MP John Redwood is on the case but the more people who are aware and raise the issue with their MP the better.

Thelma Reeves





### Social Matters

They say that time goes quickly the older one gets and I am beginning to find that it is true.

It does not seem all that long ago that about 70 people met in the Village hall for a family evening of playing skittles. Teams of six were made up—some people had never met others in their team and after two rounds they participated in a buffet supper put together by the social committee. After another round The Hoofers were declared the winners. The team consisted of Cathy and Dan Daly, Wendy and Russ Freeman and Ann and Jon Tupman who were presented with their medals and a packet each of Skittles. I am sure that everyone had an enjoyable time and we look forward to repeating the evening again next year. How about you entering a team?

On the afternoon of Easter Sunday over 1100 tokens were scattered in certain areas of The Junipers Play area and our thanks to the council who had cut the grass and removed some of the undergrowth a few days earlier. Luckily this year we were fortunate with the weather so that nearly 90 children gathered to collect them and then exchanged them for small chocolate Easter eggs. It is amazing how quickly this can be done. We also held a raffle for a giant egg which was won by Joan Thubron and two chocolate rabbits in which Megan Carson and Ruby Burges were the

lucky winners. I hope that they all enjoyed eating them.

We had hoped to be holding a summer dance during June but due to certain circumstances this has to be postponed. This has now been rescheduled for Saturday 3 October. More details will appear on the website and in the next edition of the newsletter but please contact me for more information or to reserve tickets.

If there is an event that you would like to see happen please contact me, or one of the committee. We are always open to suggestions.

Judith Collins  
social@barkham.org.uk





**GEORGE ALFRED ROBINS** passed away on Monday 23rd February at the age of 98. He was born at 3 Coppid Hill Cottages, on the corner of Barkham Road and Bearwood Road, where he spent his whole life. George is likely to have been the oldest Barkham resident and we are thankful that he has been able to share his life with us so that there is a record of how Barkham was at the beginning of the 20th century. For this we are very grateful.

He was the youngest of 7 children, 6 boys and a girl, born to William and Jane Robins on the 3rd June 1916. His father and grandfather came out from London and both worked for Daultons and then went on to work in the local brickworks surrounding Wokingham. After retiring George's grandfather went on to work for the re-mount depot at Arborfield. George's mother as well as bringing up 7 children, helped with the births of and the laying out following the deaths of people living locally. His father drove a pony and trap and would fetch the midwife who lived in a cottage opposite Wokingham Hospital. George's

mother's parents ran The Raglan pub in Denmark Street.

George can remember the cottages being lit with paraffin lamps and candles. He could not remember when gas and electricity was installed but he did enjoy central heating in his old age. The water pump was across the Barkham Road and so was their original garden, Barkham Road being a track running between.

George attended Arborfield School and played football for the school team, he left school at 14. He said that the surrounding countryside was a boy's paradise as well as enjoying football he used to enjoy a good paper-chase, and climbing a big holly tree in Aggisters Lane. In a field close to Barkham Church he and his friends built a tree house the tree was recorded as a veteran oak in 2010 but blew down in a storm in February 2014. George also enjoyed catching rabbits using ferrets and his dog called Toots who was a dab hand at catching the rabbits. One day the dog caught a rabbit and brought it back to George's mother who was on her way to the village shop. She popped the rabbit in her

basket and it promptly jumped out again only to be caught by the dog and brought back again this time dead.

George began his working life at 'Fords the Corn Merchants' in Peach Street then Sale Tilney an agricultural engineering company. He then went on to work at C F Taylor Industrial, in Molly Millars Lane, as a fork lift driver. After being made redundant he went to work at The Guide Dog Centre as a groundsman where he carried on working after his retirement. George tells the story about dogs who the Guide Dog Centre was unable to train and who would eventually be rejected by the organisation and adopted by others. George found a way to quieten these dogs if they became aggressive and that was by feeding them horse hoof trimmings which he got from the Blacksmith at the original Bull at Barkham pub. He said that there was a mineral in the hoof which helped to calm the dogs and it worked because George was the only person who could get near these dogs.

At the outbreak of World War 2 George enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC) branch in Reading and was sent first to Sheffield and then Slough (next to the Mars factory) for training. George then served in Egypt or, as George put it, 'Chasing Rommel'. His military time was spent in the RASC driving all types of Military vehicles; George had many stories to tell and enjoyed his time in the army. A memory he always cherished was when he was demobbed and returned to his home his dog who was still alive but very elderly tottered out of his basket to greet George.

After leaving the army George met his wife Ruth, a local girl who

was in service at Barkham Rectory with The Reverend Ditchfield. Ruth was the daughter of a baker and she became a very good cook and cake maker. They married at St James Church in August 1947. They had three sons David, Peter and Simon.

His enthusiasm for the game of football never faded and it was football that was to change his fortunes when in the 1960s he won the pools and bought a black and white TV, a second hand black Ford Popular car and the black coal hole attached to the cottage was turned into a bathroom.

George told me that he had met royalty on two separate occasions. The first time was when a horse race was being run at Arborfield Garrison and the then Prince of Wales fell off his horse right in front of him. The second time he was visiting Sandhurst and was walking with a colleague through a workshop area where there were two men and a lady leaning over an engine with their heads under the bonnet of a truck. George commented to his colleague that the lady had nice legs and his colleague said you do know who that is, don't you. It was Princess Elizabeth during the time she was working at Sandhurst during WW2.

George also remembered watching the stonemason cut the words "Post Office" across the building in Broad Street and the then owner of Broad Street who had straw and sawdust laid along the entire length of the road to stop the noise of the cart wheels because his wife was seriously ill and he didn't want the noise from the cart wheels to keep her awake.

George loved his garden and up until about five years ago grew

flowers and vegetables he also grew onions and once won a prize at the Arborfield Gardening show for the largest onions and had his photo in the local paper. George's other speciality was hanging baskets; a magnificent sight which everyone admired. His "green fingers" drew all sorts of local residents to buy his bedding plants and when he was unable to garden any more he would sit in the sunshine and enjoy watching the birds.

George and his brother David were pigeon fanciers with the Wokingham Club and they were very successful both locally and internationally. On Sunday afternoons it was a regular sight for the neighbours to see the pigeons flying around.

George remembered when the council houses were built the other side of Barkham Bridge in 1921, now known as Bridge Cottages. Mr Maurice Cox lived in number 1 and Mr Batt who was the blacksmith lived in number 6.

In 1997 Ruth died at home, after a short illness through which George cared for her with the kindness and support of Ann, his sister-in-law who was also his next door neighbour. Ann was there to help him through this sad time and when life became bearable again he would spend his time in the garden and greenhouse growing fruit and vegetables. He had just as much pleasure growing his fruit and vegetables as he did giving them away to friends and family that popped into see him. I would often come home from work to find a box of vegetables and during strawberry season large punnets which were very delicious.

Ann has also been there for George as he got older and would buy his paper each day, cook his lunches and sit and have a cup of coffee as a daily ritual. They both enjoyed each other's company and have been a great support for each other over the years.

We got to know George and Ruth when the hedge between us died. We would talk in the garden when they fed the chickens and slowly got to know them both. When Ruth died we would visit George and sit in the kitchen or in the garden when the sun was out because he loved to sit and watch the birds and they returned this love by nesting all over his garden and enjoying the treats he put out for them.

It is wonderful that George was able to remain at home until the last few days of his life and still be able to get out in to the garden when the weather improved, he was saddened that he was unable to continue to grow his tomatoes and that the greenhouse had overgrown but he had wonderful memories which kept him going. If he was sitting in the garden when I got home from work then he would wave when he spotted me so his eyesight remained good up to the end.

George was a very special gentleman and his family and friends are going to miss him very much. George has made a very huge impression on a lot of people especially myself and I thank him for all those wonderful chats we had and all the wonderful things he was able to tell me about his life and how full it had been.

Rest in Peace George.  
Julia Tredwell  
Bearwood Road

## Arborfield Gardening Association

Hello Everyone !

AGA continues to flourish, with some well-attended meetings & excellent speakers .....

Patricia Elkington came to our March meeting to talk about the National Gardens Scheme. Patricia has assessed gardens for suitability to be included in the National Gardens Scheme & opens her own garden for the scheme at Little Court in Winchester. Her intriguing topic, "The Secret Gardens of Hampshire" was most amusing & very well received. Another fun mini competition of animal pictures was won by Patsy Townsend.

In April Marcus Dancer, a Nurseryman from Fordingbridge, visited us to talk to about his specialist area of Clematis. He had brought an amazing selection of clematis for demonstration, which we were later able to purchase at enticingly low prices. Marcus also judged our Spring Show – the Spring Challenge Cup being won by Patsy Townsend.

Marcus is aware of the confusion that can exist regarding the various types of clematis and the difficulty in deciding which clematis will succeed in particular locations, so he divided his talk into the different clematis groups, tempting us with enlarged photographs of the plants in flower. Some plants require burying to 3 or 4 inches beneath the level they are in the purchased pot, to prevent clematis rot, others do not. He advised us how to treat clematis rot and gave us a simple guide on how to prune clematis if the label was lost: generally any

clematis that flower on the previous year's growth before June, should not be pruned; clematis that flower on the current year's growth from June onwards, should be hard pruned immediately after flowering. Propagate plants from cuttings of the current year's growth. More specific information can be found on his website : [www.clematisplants.co.uk](http://www.clematisplants.co.uk) – scroll down through the list of suppliers to "Clematis Catalogue from Marcus Dancer in Hampshire". There you will also find a list of Farmers Markets & plant shows he attends & where you can pick up any plants you have ordered from him - Alton Farmers' Market being the closest to our area. His phone number (01425 652747) & address can also be found there.

May was a busy month, with our very popular Plant Sale, where some good quality indoor & outdoor plants, produced by professional gardeners, were on sale at competitive prices. But not to worry – there will be another opportunity to buy plants you can be assured will grow well in this area, on our stall at the Arborfield Summer Fair in Arborfield Park on Saturday 6th June.

Our summer outdoor visits begin with June's meeting on 11th - an afternoon visit (2pm) to the Living Rain Forest, Hampstead Norreys, RG18 0GN. This will include a guided tour & cost £8:95 per person (less if there are 16 or more of us). By car, the Living Rainforest is approximately 30 minutes from Reading. You can follow brown tourist information signs from the A34 / M4 Junction 13 intersection, which is about 10 minutes away. There is a bus ser-

vice from Newbury to the nearby village of Hampstead Norreys.

July's visit on 9th will be at our usual time of 7:30pm & is a visit to the Conservation Lake at Theale. Catherine McEwan will be our guide & there is no charge for this event. The Theale Gravel Pits are situated astride the M4 between junctions 11 and 12 and south of the A4 in Reading. Three complexes of various sized gravel pits are spread out across the Theale flood plain. It is one of Berkshire's finest and most important birdwatching areas. Parking is limited, but the Fox and Hounds Pub allow parking as long as there is room for customers, so car sharing is appreciated. Meals are available, but anyone wanting a drink beforehand should be aware they don't open till 5.30pm. The postcode for the pub is RG7 4BE, phone number 01189 302295, [www.foxandhoundstheale.co.uk](http://www.foxandhoundstheale.co.uk).

Our meetings return to Arborfield Village Hall on 10th September, when Dr Pat Morris will be giving a delightful talk on the life of Hedgehogs - did you know we have a National Hedgehog week? It's the 26th October – 1st November (see the RHS "Wild About Gardens" – [www.wildaboutgardensweek.org.uk](http://www.wildaboutgardensweek.org.uk))

Hopefully before then we will see you all around our stall at the Arborfield Village Fete in Arborfield Park on Saturday 6th June.

Happy gardening!  
Catherine Breen, Chair

For further information, e-mail [catherinebreen@ymail.com](mailto:catherinebreen@ymail.com), or telephone 0118 976 1848

## CROWTHORNE Symphony ORCHESTRA

Our Summer Concert includes one of the most popular pieces written by Sibelius. "Finlandia" continues our celebration of 150 years since the composer's birth. The virtuosic Violin Concerto No.1 by Paganini is also on the programme and will feature the gifted young Brazilian violinist, Leon Keuffer as soloist. When the concerto was premiered, Paganini himself was soloist. The audience were astonished at the technical skill involved in performing the concerto. Later it was revealed that Paganini cheated a bit, using surreptitious wizardry to achieve what was thought to be impossible. He tuned his violin a semitone higher than normal and wrote the violin part in a different key from the orchestral part so it sounded in the same key but made it possible to achieve effects impossible with the normal tuning! Later the concerto was re-written in a different key which made it possible to play without such underhand tricks

but it remains a very demanding piece for the soloist.

Shostakovich wrote his Symphony No 5 during the 'Great Terror' of Stalin's Russia and like many of his fellow countrymen he lived in fear of his life if he failed to toe the official line. This symphony has become one of his most popular works and he succeeded in appearing to write a pro-government work whilst in reality he was hiding within the music feelings of grief and fear and 'forced' exultation. It has come to light in recent years that it also has references to a failed love affair! It is a most exciting piece of music both to play and to listen to and will involve probably the largest number of musicians the CSO has ever had on the stage of The Old Gym. We will even need to have an extension to the stage to fit everyone on!

The concert is at The Old Gym, Wellington College, on Saturday

11th July starting at 8pm. Tickets are on sale at Bookends in Wokingham and at Traveltime in Crowthorne at £10 or on the door at £12 (subject to seats being available). They can also be purchased on-line via our website for a small booking fee. As usual children of 16 years and under are free.

The photo I have included this time was taken at our annual String Workshop held in May when members of the orchestra as well as guests spent an enjoyable afternoon working on the "Serenade for Strings" by Dvorak. The orchestra has a regular membership of around 60 people, rehearsing on Monday evenings in term-time from 7.45–10pm at Oaklands Junior School in Butler Road Crowthorne. We welcome new players subject to vacancies. [www.crowthorneorchestra.com](http://www.crowthorneorchestra.com)

Chris Gadsby



## Loddon Valley Ramblers' Walks

For more walks, including some longer ones, visit Loddon Valley Ramblers Website: [www.lvra.org.uk](http://www.lvra.org.uk)

Thursday 18th June: A varied walk embracing the wide open spaces of Bramshill Forest, the fascinating remains of an Iron Age fort and the elegant 18th century landscape of Easthampstead Park 6¼ miles 10.30 from public CP at Great Hollands Recreation Ground, South Road, (opposite Easthampstead Park Cemetery Crematorium) RG40 3EE Leader Nick J 07785 257992 or 0118 932 8758

Tuesday 30th June: Evening stroll from Knowl Hill through Ashley Hill and Warren Row, followed by optional visit to pub afterwards. Please contact walk leader if interested in dining, so table can be booked. 3½ miles 18.30 from Lay by on A4 at Knowl Hill, outside former Seven Stars PH RG10 9UR Leader Jo F 07979 595043.

Sunday 5th July: A gentle walk from Moss End across fields & lanes North of Bracknell 5½ miles 10.00 from CP Frost Folly car park Wellers lane behind Moss End RG42 6EN Leader Cathy O'N 07940 801261.

Thursday 9th July: A nearly flat leisurely walk around commons and farmland to include Pinkneys Green and Maidenhead Thicket 5½ miles 10.30 from NT free car park on Pinkneys Drive SL6 6QF Leader Ray S 07761 251217.

Thursday 16th July: Follow the green lanes and byways of Hurst - flat with some stiles, which could be circumvented 5 miles 10.30 from Wheelwright Arms, Davis Street, Hurst (if eating there afterwards) or verges around the pub or park at Dinton Pastures (4 hours for £2) RG10 0TR. Leader Ellen H 0118 934 1084 or 07715 553979.

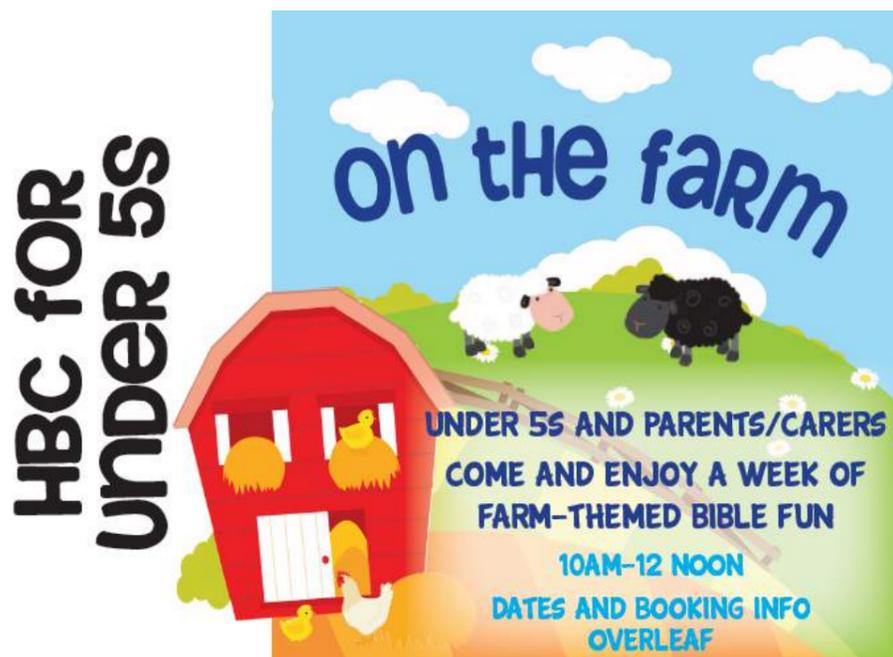
Thursday 23rd July: Circular walk through Pindar's Wood, Greys Court & Earl's Wood, Rotherfield Greys, North of Henley 5 miles 10.30 after parking at St Nicholas Church, Rotherfield Greys OR in Maltsters Pub CP, ONLY if taking refreshment there afterwards. RG9 4QD Registered assistance dogs only, please! Leader Barbara C 0118 940 3158.

Sunday 2nd August: Join us for a walk through rural scenery in the parishes of Swallowfield and Finchampstead 5 miles 10.30 from entrance to King George's Field, Castle Rd, Farley Hill RG7 1UL. Leader Marianne M 07748 786905.

Wednesday 12th August: Join us for an evening stroll around Finchampstead followed by optional visit to pub afterwards. 3½ miles 18.45 to choose food 19.00 to start walk from The Tally Ho pub, Fleet Hill, Eversley RG27 0RR Please park in rear section of CP, down side of pub Leaders Graham S & Karen D 0118 977 6586 or 07966 002016 Please advise leaders by Sunday night, 9th August if intending to eat after walk.

Sunday 23rd August: A leisurely walk along quiet lanes and woods in Farley Hill, open views in Chill Hill, along three rivers 5 miles 10.00 after parking carefully at the roadside in Farley Hill near the church RG7 1UN. Leaders Silvia & Ricardo S 0118 976 1737 or 07846 434861.

Sunday 30th August: Circular walk through undulating rich farmland between Arborfield Cross & Farley Hill 5¼ miles 10.30 from free CP on Swallowfield Rd, Arborfield Cross RG2 9QD Leader Peter D 0118 377 4820.



## Arborfield Local History Society

Our AGM is done and dusted and our subscriptions have mostly been paid. Sadly we have had to bid farewell to three Committee members but I'm pleased to report that three other Society members have stepped up to join us. Now happily our Committee is complete and all key positions are filled.

In July our monthly meeting on Monday 6th will include a talk by Kevin Little entitled "The History of Smelly Alley, Reading". I'm sure most of you will know exactly where that is: if not, please just ask.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors to our regular meetings, all we ask is a nominal £2-00 per head but why not consider joining our Society where annual membership starts at £5-00. Monday, August 3rd is the date arranged for our coach trip to Bletchley Park - home of the Codebreakers, which is open to both members at a cost of £24.00 and non-members at £26.00. There is a café on site but if the weather is kind, a picnic in the grounds could be in order. The coach will leave from the Arborfield British Legion where there is plenty of parking available. To book your place please contact Barry Salter on 0118 9760070 before the 17th July or come and book at the ALHS meeting on Monday 6th July (after 7.30pm). More details will appear on our posters around the village.

The months of June and July bring their historical anniversaries..... June 16th will be the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Women's Institute and the 18th marks 200 years since the Battle of Waterloo took place. More recently, just ten years ago on

July 10th 2005 there were a series of four explosions on London's transport system which killed 56 people including 4 suicide bombers. On a different note, July 5th 1865 marks the date, 150 years ago, that The Salvation Army was founded by William Booth in London's East End. The Booth family were a fundamental part of the Salvation Army and four of William's grandchildren are buried locally in the churchyard of St James, Finchampstead.

Now for a snippet of local history. We have recently been contacted by a splendid gentleman who told us about his ancestors who lived for a while in Arborfield. It is always such a delight to learn more about the people who lived here before us. In this case the people in question were Thomas and Sarah Webb. Thomas and his wife Sarah were married in 1785 and arrived in Arborfield, with their four children, in about 1794. Thomas was a papermaker and with his partner John Love owned Arborfield paper mill until 1810 when their partnership was dissolved.

During their time in our village, Thomas and Sarah had two more children, William who was baptised in December 1794 and Lettice in June 1797, both at St Bartholomew's Church (the old church - now in ruins). On the day that William Webb was born, 1st December 1794 at 10.45am, there occurred "the greatest flood ever remembered on the river Loddon". For more information and some images of Arborfield Mill and the old church please go to our website

Diana Thorne (Chairman)  
[www.arborfieldhistory.org.uk](http://www.arborfieldhistory.org.uk)

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Things are changing. They always do!

We are changing our name and logo. From later this year we will be dropping the 'Bureau' part of our name and we will become 'Citizens Advice'. Our new logo looks like this:



We are also trying to change the way we work and improving peoples' access to us. We are trying hard (along with the other 5 CABs in Berkshire) to find funding for more Berkshire wide services, such as email, web chat, more outreaches and more home visiting. The only problem here is that this type of funding is often targeted at city centres where there are high levels of deprivation, and not the 'leafy lanes' of Wokingham. Before you write to me I know that not all the lanes in Wokingham are 'leafy', and that there are real pockets of severe deprivation around here. Believe me, we have the evidence!

We have just finished another year in March. In the last year we helped 4,429 unique clients (we only count a person once during the year, no matter how many times they visit or contact us) with 7,753 new problems. We helped people with debts totalling over £5.25 million and sent 128 detailed evidence reports (details of issues where we think that laws or practices are unfair - based on client evidence).

From Barkham we saw 77 unique clients (there were 74 last year) that had 142 problems that they needed help with. This support for them cost the bureau £3,619 with the Borough Council contributing £2,895. The remaining £724 we cover by a grant from Barkham Parish Council and by fundraising.

John Ferguson  
CEO Wokingham CAB.

To contact us for help:

WOKINGHAM  
2nd floor, Waterford House,  
Erfstadt Court RG40 1AP  
[public@wokingham-cab.org.uk](mailto:public@wokingham-cab.org.uk)  
[www.wokingham-cab.org.uk](http://www.wokingham-cab.org.uk)

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See [www.superhomes.org.uk/research2014](http://www.superhomes.org.uk/research2014)



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- The Quiz - answers
1. Miranda Richardson
  2. Memphis
  3. Prince
  4. The Princess Bride
  5. Reading FC
  6. John Deacon
  7. (a) Kevin Costner (b) you  
(Everything I do) I do it for
  8. King Lear
  9. The Royle Family
  10. Queen of Hearts ("a queen of people's hearts" as she said in the (in)famous 1991 Panorama interview)



**Barkham Strollers**

Introducing a "new" venture, 14 strollers, being members and husbands of Barkham Ladies along with 2 dogs, set off on 14th April for a 5 mile village walk. Whilst being a fundraising opportunity, several volunteers for this event had not walked our local paths and enjoyed the physical and vocal aspects involved!

Our route made its way from Ye Olde Leathern Bottel up Limmer Hill, through the Coombes, along Langley Common Road through farmland footpaths, passing Barkham Village Hall and Church, then returning to our local for lunch.

There remains enthusiasm for more summer walks to include lunch. Our next is planned in June from Henley.

Marilyn New

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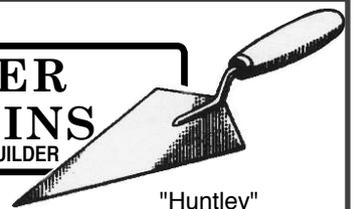
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