



£1, free to Members

# Barkham Newsletter

Issue 141 Autumn 2022

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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

Facebook: <http://gid.uk/BVRAF>

We are holding two social events this Autumn

## SKITTLES EVENING

Saturday 24th September

7:00pm for 7:30 - 10:30pm

Adults £10, Primary School Children £5

Ploughman's Supper included



## QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 19th November

7:00pm for 7:30pm

Tickets £12

including Fish & Chip Supper

Tickets for both events available from Gill Powell

Email: [social@barkham.org.uk](mailto:social@barkham.org.uk) or Tel: 9783373

## LICENCED BAR

So you don't need to bring a bottle!

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In accordance with its constitution the BVRA will hold its AGM at 7:30pm on Thursday 10th November in Barkham Village Hall.

All residents of Barkham are welcome to attend.

Nominations for any post should reach the Chair by 20th October.

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### Chair Chat

As we celebrate 35 years of the BVRA it is both poignant and sad to have lost one of the BVRA's longest serving committee members - Stewart Richardson. Stewart died suddenly at home of a heart attack on 4 July.

Many of you will know Stewart or have had an acquaintance with him. A stalwart of the local community and a truly dedicated committee member having held many roles over a 20-year ten-

ure. The committee and many Barkham residents will miss him as a friend and colleague. There is a full tribute to Stewart on page 9.

Collecting subs at the door continues to be the annual challenge with many residents not having cash to hand, not in (in some cases ever!), promising to set up direct debits – or return the subs envelope - but not doing so!

Of all the households that have paid this year the proportions are changing in favour of direct debit payment method – approximately two thirds to one third now. Thank you – this is by far the easiest way to pay your sub.

It is thanks to the diligence of our great team of distributors that we are able to deliver the newsletter every quarter. So, we were very pleased to thank many of them personally at the annual distributor party in August. The weather was perfect and everyone enjoyed a delicious BBQ in the gardens

of the village hall. A selection of photos on page 13 brings this very social occasion to life!

The committee continues to be challenged in filling all of the roles available. I'd like to thank them all for their hard work and efforts and of course to the Social Committee who continue to put on some great events for us all to enjoy.

But it's fair to say that there seems to be a general volunteering malaise across many sectors at the moment. We are therefore looking at whether there are smarter ways of doing things in the future and what we might stop doing, start doing or continue doing. We plan to conduct a resident survey in the Autumn as you are the BVRA's customers – to find out what you value most - and get your feedback and suggestions.

Bev Dipper  
Acting Chair

### Dev Watch Editor

#### Planning and Development in the Village

With the sad loss of Stewart Richardson, we are seeking a replacement to continue his good work in keeping Barkham residents informed of planning and development proposals, and how they might impact the quality of life in Barkham. The service is a proven asset to residents in alerting them to key issues and how to respond.

If you might be interested in this role then please contact the Acting Chair, Bev Dipper, chairman@barkham.org.uk for further information. If we do not find someone to undertake this role, then we will struggle to continue this very important service to Barkham residents.

### Barkham Village Hall Charity

Requires a New

## Booking Secretary & Treasurer

**These roles could be single or combined**

If you are community minded and enjoy dealing with people, the Booking Secretary position would suit you.

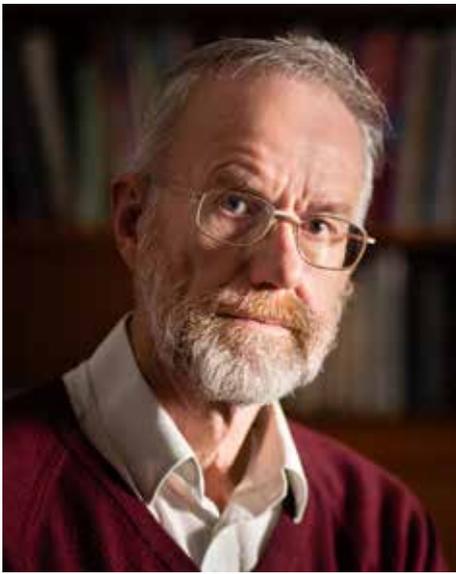
The Treasurer position is not onerous, but would require a knowledge of accounts, spreadsheets and IT etc.

To find out more details please

Contact: Derek Oxbrough

[doxbrough@hotmail.com](mailto:doxbrough@hotmail.com)

Tel: 01189760578



## Editorial

Welcome to the Autumn edition of this newsletter. I hope you have been coping well during this long, hot and dry summer. Perhaps by the time you read this we will have had some rain but it's going to take a great deal to recover from this drought.

The planning article produced by Graeme Dexter of the Parish Council will, in future, be published in their Village Info magazine. Instead, starting with this edition, the Council is reporting on more general issues that affect our residents. I hope you find it interesting.

There are two new regular articles in this edition. Paul Steel who has lived in the village for many years starts a series about the Coombes, see Page 14. In addition I am starting a series about what happened in the Village 35 years ago, when the BVRA started. In keeping with that theme, the quiz is about other major events that took place in 1987!

Inspired by John Kaiser's article in the previous edition, Jenny Butler has written a piece on

Page 8 about her involvement in the Wokingham litter picking scheme.

Since the previous edition we have held a couple of social events: the Platinum Jubilee celebration and the Newsletter Distributors' party. See the reports on Page 12-13

## Contributions

We welcome contributions to this newsletter either on a one-off basis, occasional or regular. Please send your contribution to the Newsletter Editor at [newsletter@barkham.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@barkham.org.uk) by the deadline, which for the next edition is 11th November.

## Advertising

The newsletter is produced quarterly. The first two quarters of the year (Spring and Summer) are sent free of charge to 850 households in Barkham parish, and the other two to the households who are paid-up BVRA members, which is currently just over 660.

We offer three sizes of adverts all of which include membership of the BVRA. All sizes are in mm and the format is landscape apart from full page which is portrait. The prices are shown below and cover a whole year's advertising in our four editions.

Credit Card	64 x 54	£20.00
Quarter Page	124 x 105	£50.00
Half Page	190 x 130	£100.00
Full Page	270 x 190	£200.00

Please contact the Newsletter Editor to discuss your needs and supply your copy to [newsletter@barkham.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@barkham.org.uk) by the deadline, which for the next edition is 11th November for distribution in early December.

## BVRA 2021/22 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Acting Chairman: Bev Dipper	989 3290	<a href="mailto:chairman@barkham.org.uk">chairman@barkham.org.uk</a>
Secretary: vacant		<a href="mailto:secretary@barkham.org.uk">secretary@barkham.org.uk</a>
Treasurer: Alison Goudge	989 2287	<a href="mailto:treasurer@barkham.org.uk">treasurer@barkham.org.uk</a>
Social: (contact) Gill Powell	978 3373	<a href="mailto:social@barkham.org.uk">social@barkham.org.uk</a>
Membership: Bev Dipper	989 3290	<a href="mailto:membership@barkham.org.uk">membership@barkham.org.uk</a>
Newsletter: Alan Edwards		<a href="mailto:newsletter@barkham.org.uk">newsletter@barkham.org.uk</a>
Web Site: Dave Clements	989 2198	<a href="mailto:webmaster@barkham.org.uk">webmaster@barkham.org.uk</a>
Development Watch: vacant		<a href="mailto:development@barkham.org.uk">development@barkham.org.uk</a>



## **An Update from Barkham Parish Council**

Firstly, Barkham Parish Council would like to express its sadness of the news that Stewart Richardson, a long-standing member of the BVRA Committee has passed away. Stewart gave so much of his time to the BVRA, and keeping residents aware of development issues in the parish. Our condolences go to his family and friends. He will be missed by us all.

### **Changes to Barkham Parish Council's input to the magazine**

The parish council is proposing changes to its regular contribution to the Barkham Village Residents Association Newsletter. The regular planning article will in future be published in the Village Info magazine which is distributed free of charge to all households in Barkham, including Arborfield Green, to ensure maximum exposure of key planning issues. This will be replaced by a regular 'Update from Barkham Parish Council' which could include interim planning updates if the two publications appear at different times.

### **Planning**

Hopefully by now you will have seen the article in the Jul/Aug 2022 edition of Village Info – Local Plan Update – which speculates how the change of leadership of Wokingham Borough Council following the recent local elections

may affect the Local Plan. There is concern that new homes across the Borough may be redistributed and that further delays could allow developers, on appeal, to be granted approval for additional sites. Both of these scenarios would have serious implications for Barkham as discussed in the article.

With this in mind, Barkham Parish Council has already written to the new leadership expressing these views and supporting the goal of reducing the number of new houses. A letter has also been sent to Greg Clark who has recently been appointed Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in a similar vein. With the formation of a new government in Westminster after 05 Sep 2022, we may have to resend this letter if there is another Secretary of State! Both these letters can be found on the Barkham Parish Council website.

Volunteers from the Parish Council and local community turned up to help plant the trees along with Wokingham Borough Council Contractors. It is hoped that the trees will add to the character of the area and encourage biodiversity.

### **Annual litter pick resumes in Barkham**

After a two-year break due to Covid, the annual litter pick in Barkham resumed this year. The event took place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022, and volunteers met at the Barkham Village Hall to be assigned a road or area to clear of litter.

Several groups of volunteers turned up to litter pick around the area of Barkham and whilst there were less volunteers than in previous years, there was also less litter to be collected on the roads that were cleaned. A total of 27



### **Tree Planting at Barkham Fields**

As part of Wokingham Borough Councils Tree Project which aims to plant 250,000 trees, 147 trees were planted on Barkham Fields (The Junipers), adjacent to the playing pitches, around the 2 Oak trees, on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

bags of litter were collected, along with some larger fly tipped items such as wire fencing, a liquid carrier, hub caps and pipes.

Volunteers were rewarded with bacon butties, tea, coffee, biscuits and cake upon their return to the Village Hall. Thanks go to the

Barkham Village Hall and to all the volunteers who turned up to help on the day.



### Family Fun Day which celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee

In celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Barkham Parish Council with Barkham Village Residents Association held a family fun day on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022, to mark the occasion.

The day was a great success, with those attending expressing their appreciation for the event. Attendees were treated to

performances by the Black Swan Hand Bell Group and the Breakaway Brass Band. There were fun and games to be had at the various stalls, and the sports day games were enjoyed by those who took part, especially Cllr Heyliger in the adults Egg and Spoon Race!

Thanks go to the BVRA, Barkham Ladies, Barkham Village Hall, The Black Swan Hand Bell Ringers, the Breakaway Brass Band, Cathy Whittington, the stall holders and the residents who attended, who all made the day successful! Thank you all.

### Parish Councillor Vacancies

The Parish Council is the first tier of Local Government representing the local community, delivering services to meet local needs wherever possible, and improving quality of life and community well-being.

The Parish Council currently has two Councillor vacancies for co-option. Would you like to join the Parish Council and help make decisions about how the Parish is run? Please contact the Clerk for more information, email [clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk) or phone 0118 976 2089.

### Development Watch Needs You!

Our Dev Watch service sends emails to over 1000 local residents, keeping them informed of local planning issues. We have been able to send out 3 alerts recently - thanks to information provided by residents:

- The date for the Instalcom appeal - The Instalcom premises on Wood Lane is significantly affecting traffic in the School Lane / Langley Common Road area.
- A proposed development for 375 homes by Berkeley Homes on Blagrove Lane - with a proposed entrance on Barkham Rd this will impact Barkham residents.
- Wokingham Borough's success in defending appeals by landowners in the Coombes - helping to preserve the character of the Coombes.

Our thanks go to the residents who alerted us. We can all be the eyes and ears of Barkham and the BVRA welcomes all communications from residents on planning and development activity. Please let us know by emailing [development@barkham.org.uk](mailto:development@barkham.org.uk)

All Dev Watch alerts can be accessed on the BVRA website, [www.barkham.org.uk/development-watch](http://www.barkham.org.uk/development-watch) and if you would like to subscribe to receive email alerts you can sign up on the website homepage.

### Where in Barkham?

Answer on p23





## Energy in Crisis

The average energy bills in the UK, per household, are expected to rise by over £1,500 this year. The financial impact on the poor and vulnerable will be crippling, and the number of those in the UK in fuel poverty will increase. This will have a ripple effect on the health, nutrition, and wellbeing of people across the UK as some will have to face the stark choice between eating or heating their homes.

But the idea that we cannot afford to tackle the climate crisis in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis is not true in fact the two issues can go hand in hand. The truth is that there are significant things that we can do to tackle these crises in tandem. And it is becoming obvious we cannot afford to delay action on the climate any longer.

There is a myth that going green will cost us more – that a green lifestyle is always more expensive, and that it will cost you more.

It is true some solutions do cost more upfront than the average person can pay but once in place would lead to significant savings – ground-source heat pumps for example. If people can be helped with the upfront

costs, the ‘climate solutions’ will be adopted faster, and the savings will help with the cost-of-living crisis.

To take another example, a comprehensive home insulation plan funded by the moving away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy will make us less dependent on the rocketing cost of fossil fuels on the international market. We are not as dependent on Russian oil and gas as other countries, but we are still vulnerable to the financial shocks of the increase of fossil fuels. Most forms of renewable energy can be delivered locally in many places around the UK – solar farms, wind, and tidal energy in the North Sea for example. It is also an emerging industry which will create skilled well-paid jobs a lot of which could be in areas which historically have been areas of high unemployment and low wages. Phasing out fossil fuels is important if we are to keep warming as close to 1.5 degrees as possible and moving away from fossil fuels will reduce both the cost of living and carbon emissions.

Finally, to some, access to green spaces may seem like a luxury when the nation is battling a cost-of-living crisis. However, we also know that nature has huge benefits for our mental health and wellbeing which was even more important during the Covid pandemic. Both local and central government need to work to restore and protect nature so that everyone, rich or poor, can access nature close to home. That will create more jobs in the green sector and increase our carbon storage capacity.

All these things will help with the so-called levelling up agenda allowing as I say for well-paid skilled jobs and all the housing not being concentrated in the South destroying all the green spaces and concreting over all areas of natural beauty.

Going green will not just help us to avoid catastrophic climate change – I think it can and will save money and create a fairer and better future for everyone.

The intergovernmental panel on climate change report released in April 2022 said that limiting warming to 1.5 degrees requires global greenhouse gas emissions to peak before 2025 at the latest and to be reduced by 43% by 2030; the clock is ticking and we can’t afford to wait until the cost of living crisis is over. We must act now to find solutions for both. The burden cannot be placed on those who have to decide between eating or heating and cannot be delayed for our children to deal with as by that time it will be too late. The government both national and local must lead the way and use its legislative and tax powers, and budgets, to make it easier and cheaper for ordinary people to do the right thing for the environment. After all we only have one world and we have to look after it.

John Kaiser  
Member for Barkham Ward  
Wokingham Borough Council  
john.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk  
07714192352



## The most valuable thing in the world?

What kind of gift do you give to a new Queen? What would you describe as the most valuable thing in the world?

We've thought a lot about the Queen in this Platinum Jubilee year. And I was reminded of one more story about her, as we prepared for the annual Year 6 leavers' service at the Coombes School.

During her Coronation Service in Westminster Abbey, just after the Queen had made her Coronation oath, the then Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland stepped forward and presented her with a Bible.

'We present you with this Book,' he said, 'the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is Wisdom; This is the royal Law; These are the lively Oracles of God.'

That's quite a claim! 'The most valuable thing that this world affords': not money, or land, or titles. Not health, or long life. Not a happy family or good friends. But a book. And not just any book, but the Bible.

So there are two things I'll remember about this year's leavers' service at the Coombes. One was the heat. Nearly 40 degrees – it was sweltering. But the other was the privilege of giving each of the children who were leaving a personally-inscribed Bible

of their own as a gift from our churches. And being able to tell them that they were being given the best gift that, all those years ago, the Queen had been given too.

It is an extraordinary thing to say. But the Bible itself isn't shy about saying something similar. It is, it claims, the very word of God himself. 'If you want to know God, read me!' it's saying. That was certainly the way Jesus saw the Bible too. Which is why that book has played such a central role in the life of the church down through the centuries, and is still at the centre of everything we do at Barkham Church today.

Most of us have Bibles somewhere, lurking on a shelf. Might it be that they're worth another look?

Maybe you're not so sure. But if you won't let me persuade you, how about the comedian Lee Mack?

A few years ago now, he was the guest on 'Desert Island Discs'. It got to the bit at the end of the programme when he was told he'd be given a copy of the Bible and the Complete Works of Shakespeare to take with him to his island. 'I'm glad you get the Bible,' he said, 'because I'd read the Bible.'

And then he went on: 'I think it's quite odd that people like myself, in their forties [NB It was a few years ago], are quite happy to dismiss the Bible, but I've never read it. I always think that if an alien came down and you were the only person they met, and they said, "What's life about? What's Earth about? Tell us everything," and you said, "Well, there's a book here that purports to tell you everything. Some people believe it to be true; some people

don't believe it's true" and they said "Wow, what's it like?" and you go, "I don't know, I've never read it," it would be an odd thing wouldn't it?'

Don't you think?

So why not pick up a copy and see? Or even come along and join us at Barkham one Sunday? Join us in asking questions and listening to the book that claims to be the most valuable thing in the world. As ever, you'd be very welcome indeed!

Associate Minister  
Barkham Church  
[www.abch.org.uk](http://www.abch.org.uk)

## Farley Hill Bowls Club News

We are now well into the bowling season and playing in our club competitions. Our club only plays friendly matches against other clubs on Sat. and Sun. afternoons and Wed. evenings and new members are always warmly welcomed. We don't select players by ability. If you put your name down on our website you will play.

It is still not too late to join our club at a much reduced rate, or for anyone who would just like to have a go at this sport to arrange this with our Club Secretary. We are situated at the Victory Hall, Church Road, Farley Hill RG7 1TR, not far from Arborfield and Eversley.

For more information please visit our website - [www.farley-hillbowlsclub.org.uk](http://www.farley-hillbowlsclub.org.uk) or contact the Club Secretary Bill Dowling on 01344 772130 or at [secretary@farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk](mailto:secretary@farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk)



## Litter Picking

After reading the previous newsletter, which was very interesting and had a two-page article by Councillor John Kaiser on litter and its effects, I thought I'd write an article about being a 'litter picker' locally.

I joined Wokingham Borough Council's Adopt a street scheme just over a year ago.

The council provides volunteers with a litter picker (helping hand), green Adopt a Street bags and high visibility jackets. The idea is to keep the area green and litter free.

As I do a daily walk anyway, one day a week, I do the litter pick, often by myself and sometimes with my good friend Madeleine. We usually do the same circular walk each time we do the litter pick, it's about 2 miles. By the end of the walk, we've usually collected two sacks of litter which will nearly always include drink tins, wine bottles, tissues, sweet wrappers, cigarette packets, plastic bottles, receipts and numerous other items! The Adopt a Street scheme sacks can be placed outside on refuse collection days and are collected along with other rubbish and recycling.

We often have people coming up to us and asking about it, so this is my opportunity to let Barkham residents know what we are doing. Further, doing this with a child occasionally will help to educate the next generation. If you are interested in becoming a litter picker, then please contact WBC using the link below for more details.

Jenny Butler

<https://bit.ly/3c1jQtJ>



## The Quiz

With the BVRA being 35 years old this year, the questions are based on what other important events took place in 1987!

1. Who was famously kidnapped in Beirut on 20<sup>th</sup> January and held hostage for nearly five years?
2. What was the name of the ferry that capsized on 6<sup>th</sup> March just outside the port of Zeebrugge, resulting in 193 lives lost?
3. Which long-running cartoon series was first broadcast on television on 19<sup>th</sup> April?
4. Who was the manager of the football team that won the FA Cup?
5. In which city did Mattias Rust land a small Cessna airplane on 28<sup>th</sup> May to demonstrate the poor quality of air defences?
6. Who won the Gentleman's Singles at Wimbledon?
7. What was the name of the gunman who shot and killed 16 people in Hungerford on 19<sup>th</sup> August?
8. Who was the television weather presenter who famously reassured the nation that there was not going to be a storm on the night of 15<sup>th</sup> October?
9. In which town in Northern Ireland was a bomb detonated on 8<sup>th</sup> November, Remembrance Sunday, killing 12 and injuring many more.
10. On 18<sup>th</sup> November, in which underground station was there a fire that resulted in the deaths of 31 people.

It turns out that a great deal of newsworthy events took place in 1987, I hope you enjoy pondering them, and no Googling! Answers on p23

# Tribute to Stewart Richardson

As many of you are aware Stewart was a very active member of the Barkham community and a key committee member of the Barkham Village Residents Association (BVRA) for over 20 years. In 2001 he saw an article in the BVRA Newsletter seeking a Membership Secretary. Despite his heavy work commitments, he volunteered and carried out that role for 5 years.

When the BVRA's Newsletter Editor resigned in 2007 Stewart switched over to that role which he carried out for 11 years. When, in 2012, the Chairman of the BVRA resigned and moved away from the village Stewart agreed to be Acting Chairman, in addition to his role as Newsletter Editor, until a new chairman could be found. In fact, this 'Acting' role lasted for seven years! Stewart and his wife, Louise, supported many of the BVRA's social events and since photography was one of his hobbies, he became responsible for many of the photos in the Newsletter.

The Chairman had traditionally organised the BVRA's *Carols In*



*The Park* open-air carol concert in December each year. Stewart enthusiastically took that on that role too, liaising with Berkshire Youth Orchestra and acting as compere at the event – aka "Mr Megaphone"! He also helped with the Easter Egg Hunt.

In 2018 he retired from the Newsletter Editor and Chairman roles, only to take on the Development Watch role. This involved working with the Barkham Parish Council to track and investigate planning applications and alert Barkham

residents so that they could send comments to the Wokingham Borough Council planning department. Stewart brought his management and computer skills to bear in all of his many roles.

Stewart and Louise loved their garden. He was proud of his collection of cannas and had promised to write an article about them for the Newsletter. Sadly, this never came to fruition. They also enjoyed rambling and meeting up with friends in London for theatre outings. They loved their holidays and made exotic long-haul trips as well as to European destinations.

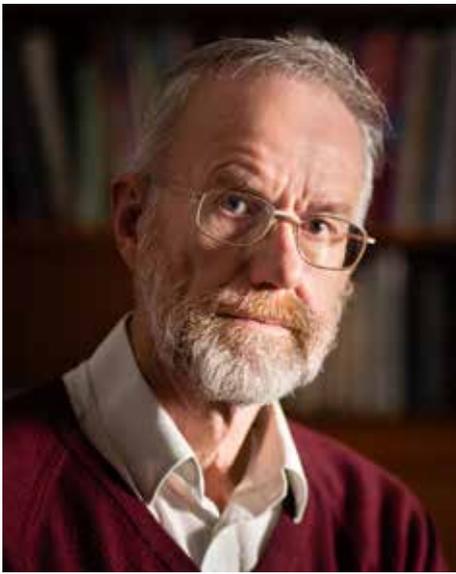
Stewart loved quizzes and he, Louise and their neighbours had a strong team in the BVRA annual quiz for many years. It is no surprise then that it was Stewart who introduced and produced the quiz in the BVRA's Newsletter each quarter right up to the end. In recent years Louise suffered from dementia and Stewart became her carer.

Stewart was active in the BVRA committee for 22 years in total. Local residents will always be grateful for his contribution to village life. He will be much missed. He really was a pillar of the local community.

Ian Overton



Editor: The funeral was attended by all the members of the current committee as well as former committee members including Digby Carter, who was our chairman for 19 years before he moved away.



### Alan's Patch

In the Spring edition I commented that we have had little rain in April followed by a downpour in early May. Gardeners were already complaining about it being a dry Spring! Since then, it's rained a couple of times in June but since the beginning of July virtually nothing. Records are being broken and hosepipe bans being imposed, drawing comparisons with 1976 for those of us old enough to remember. Unlike 1976, some might say that we don't even have a functioning government to be able to appoint a Minister of Rain!

Despite the drought we are currently experiencing it's been a very good year for growing. The grass in my field was the tallest it's ever been, about five feet tall in places. The grass was tinder dry so with the risk of fire in mind, I brought forward the annual mowing from early September to the middle of July. The tractor and mower that I normally hire were out of action so they provided a larger set up and that was much more fun to drive and I completed the task more quickly. It even had a hydraulic bucket at the front which I used to move some fallen timber!

Most things have grown well. There seem to be plenty of potatoes, the foliage has now died back. I'm particularly pleased with the way the seed-sown shallots are progressing. The pea netting worked well and kept the pigeons away. The various beans have enjoyed the hot weather. I've been freezing surplus broad, French and runner beans.



Despite the drought I have watered very little. The deep-rooted plants such as carrots and parsnips and even Swiss Chard can manage perfectly well without any help. Recently, I have started watering some of the leafy and shallow rooted crops such lettuce, sweet corn, Autumn raspberries and French beans.



I collect rain from the greenhouse roof and the new automatic drip-feed watering system inside works pretty well but given the intensity of the heat it needed to be supplemented by occasional manual watering. Of course, the collection tanks have now run dry so I've had to top up with mains water.

the best I've ever grown, so hopefully there will be a good crop in due course. Cucumbers are only just starting to crop as I had problems getting the plants started and needed a second batch. Earlier, I had good crops of radishes, carrots and cabbage.

The biggest disaster so far was a visit from the badgers which demolished half my sweet corn plants! I can't see where they got in but I have created some bar-

In the greenhouse I'm getting a great crop of tomatoes. The aubergine and chilli plants are



riers that have so far protected them from further attack. Another keen gardener in the village has suffered the same fate!

It's looking like a great year for apples and pears. The apples are ripening very early. Even some of the main crop are ready to eat. Pictured are some pickings from my early tree, Discovery.

I often moan about the gooseberry sawfly however since the crop was picked in June I've had very little damage. Perhaps this is because the deterrent of broad beans growing alongside them worked or, more likely, the drought has been a problem for the sawfly, perhaps making the leaves a bit tough to eat.

My peach tree, now about four years old is starting to produce a decent crop.





## Social Matters

It seems like not time at all since the last social report, when the gardens were looking fresh, green and colourful, and we were hoping for a nice Summer. Well, we've had more sunny and very, very hot days than we really wanted or expected, and now, as we cope with record temperatures, and watch our plants shrivel up in these dry conditions you must be hoping, like me, for some rain very soon to save our gardens. Going to the coast has been the best place to be, with a dip in the sea!

Since the last newsletter there have been two events, the first being the Jubilee Fun Day on June 4th at the Village Hall. This was jointly organised by the BVRA

and the Barkham Parish Council. After a slightly damp start the day was warm and sunny, and many people and families came and joined in the fun to listen to

the Breakaway Brass Band, see displays, events and children's games and races. There were refreshments supplied by the Barkham Ladies, with tea, cof-



fee, soft drinks and a wonderful selection of cakes and cookies available all day. The Ladies were kept very busy indeed! The whole event was a great success, and the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations did bring people together it seems.



The second event was the Annual Distributors' BBQ, when the BVRA provided a BBQ and drinks evening on Sat 6th August at the village hall. It was a wonderful Summer's evening with 42 people enjoying the chicken, burgers and sausages, all cooked by our great chefs - Jim, Simon and Peter - we thank them very much. This is the annual event to say 'thank you very much' to all the distributors who deliver the Newsletters 4 times a year, as they do a sterling job.

We were all outside until well after sunset and so thankful that this year's BBQ had been wonderfully sunny and warm, unlike last year's deluge when we all had to be inside!

Our next planned event is the Family Skittles Evening on Saturday September 24th at the

village hall. It is 7.00 for 7.30pm and includes a ploughman's supper, and there will be a licensed bar, so you don't need to bring your own drinks. Tickets are £10 for adults, £5 for primary school-aged children and can be obtained, preferably, by emailing Gill Powell at [social@barkham.org.uk](mailto:social@barkham.org.uk) or by telephone on 0118 978 3373.

The Annual Quiz Evening, always a very popular event, is on November 19th at the Village Hall at 7.00 for 7.30pm. This includes a fish and chip supper, and a licensed bar, and the cost is £12 per person. Tickets are again available from Gill Powell at [social@barkham.org.uk](mailto:social@barkham.org.uk) or telephone 0118 9783373. Tables will be for a maximum of 6 people, so arrange your own teams, or if you just turn up on the night you can join a team when you arrive.



The popular 'Carols in the Park' is on Friday 16th December when the Breakaway Brass Band will be leading us for the carol singing. We meet at the junction of the Woodlands and the Junipers and make our way towards the edge of the park where mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies will be available. It's a lovely way to enjoy the start of the Festive Season for families, adults and children alike. Carol sheets will be provided and best of all this a free event!

Please make a note of the dates, and look out for posters around the village and also check out the BVRA website.

Other events have been planned for 2023, and hopefully will include Skittles in the Spring, Easter Egg Hunt in April, the Quiz in the Autumn and Carols in the Park in December.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Social Events, as they are put on for your enjoyment, and are always great fun. And they are a way of meeting people if you are new to the area.

Shirley Warner  
Social Committee Member

# Wild about The Coombes

This is the first of a series of regular articles about The Coombes, an area of woodland spreading between the parishes of Barkham and Arborfield. As you may have read in the 'BVRA – 35 years and still counting...' article in the last Newsletter, it was the threat of a major development within the Coombes in the 1980s that prompted a campaign of resistance that in turn led to the formation of our BVRA. As the introductory article, I thought I should just set the scene. So to get your bearings, I shall cover the rights of way surrounding and through the Coombes. Map 1 below is taken from the Coombes Circular Walks

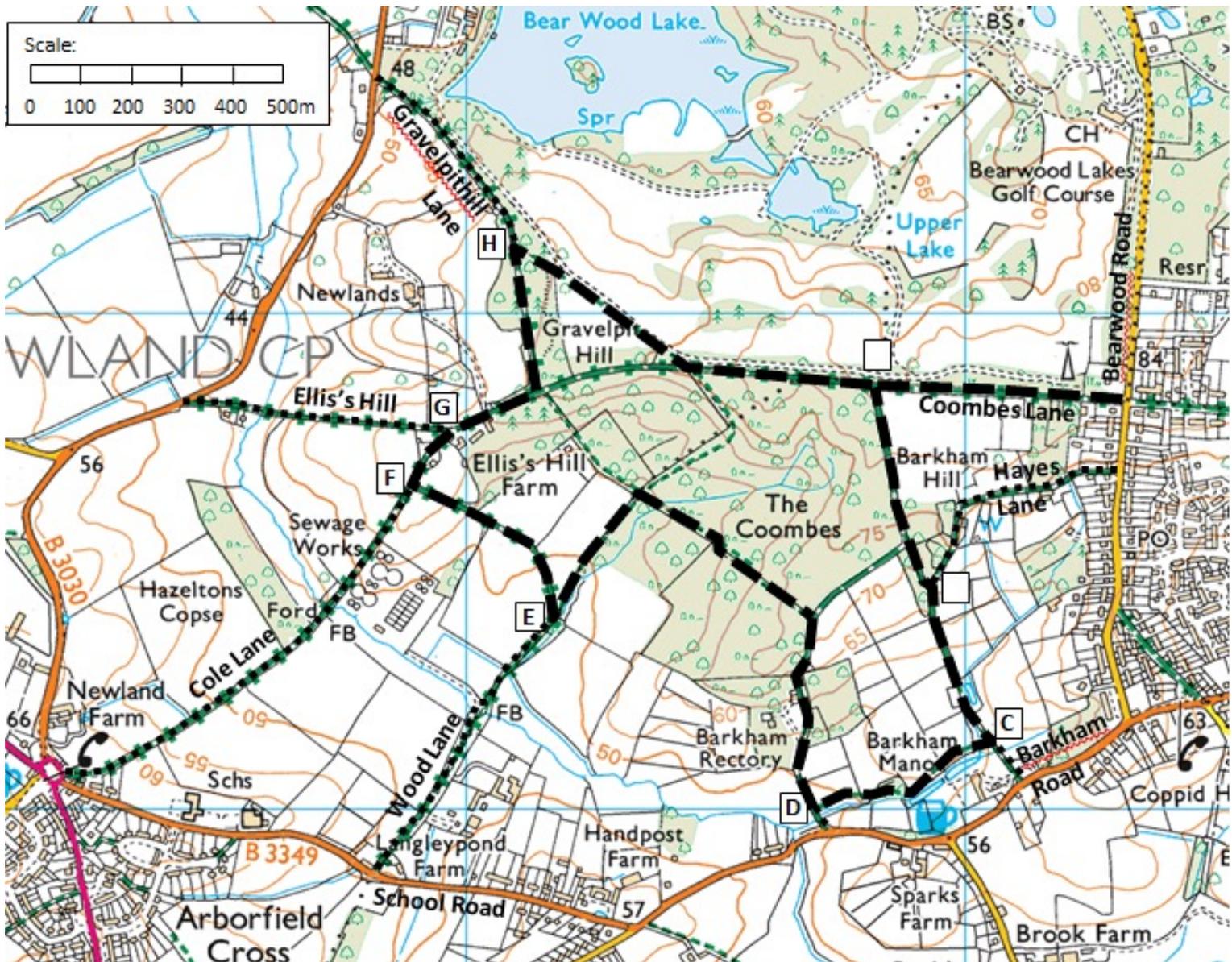
sheet that can be downloaded from the Barkham Parish Council website at <https://bit.ly/3SYRKQq>

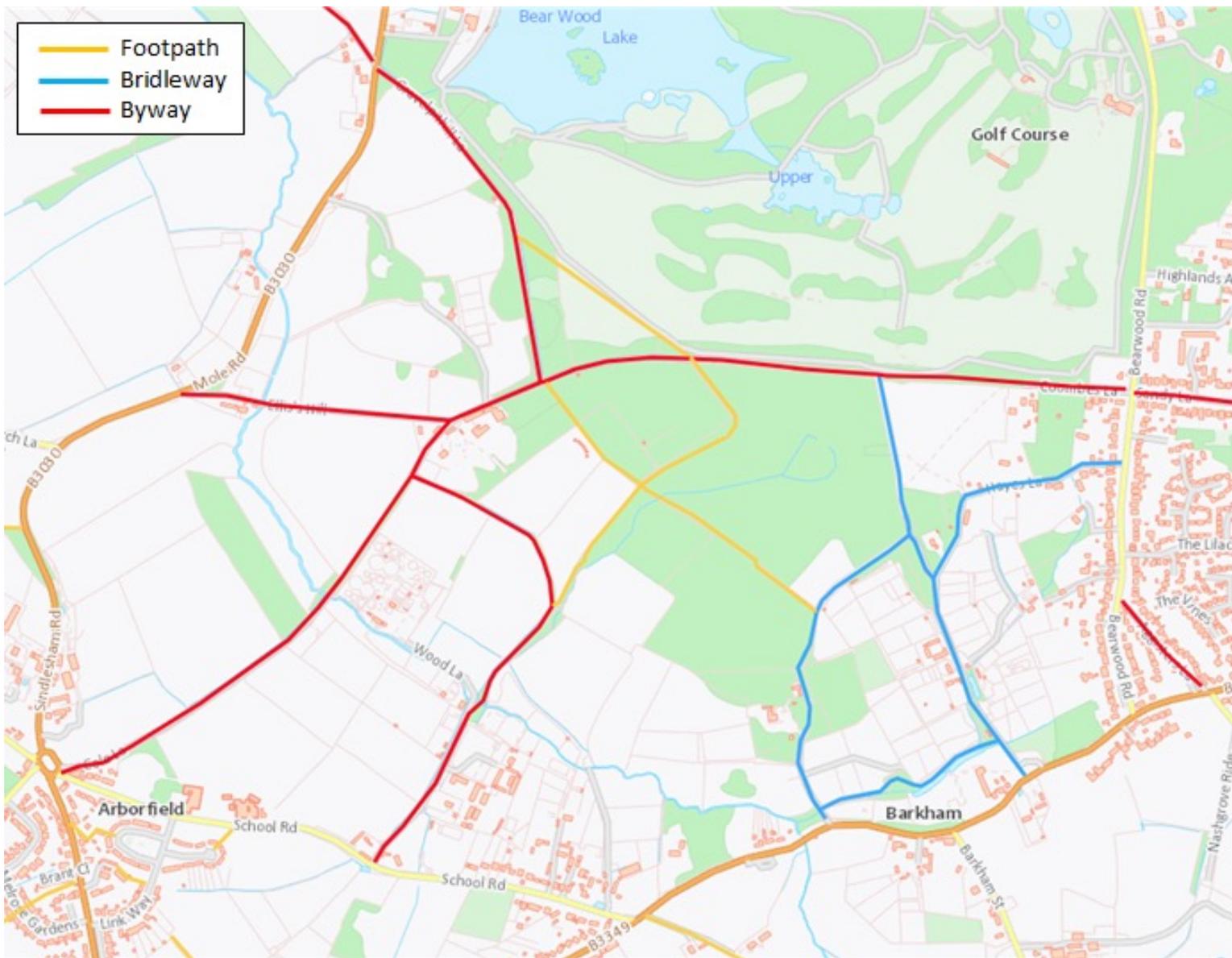


The Coombes lies within the surrounding public highways of Bearwood Road, Barkham Road, School Road and the B3030, which comprises Sindlesham Road and Mole Road. Between these roads is a network of other public rights of way that access and pass through the Coombes,

many of which are highlighted with black dotted lines on the Coombes Circular Walks map.

Map 2 (right) showing these rights of way, covers the same area and is taken from the Wokingham Borough Council 'My Nearest' interactive map. The general public are only entitled to use the footpaths, shown in orange, as pedestrians, meaning on foot, mobility scooters or wheelchairs. The bridleways, in blue, may be used in the same way as footpaths and also used for cycling and horse riding. The byways, in red, may be used with any kind of transport.





There was a massive increase in people using the Coombes for exercise during the COVID-19 lock-downs. While unable to pursue their usual activities outside the home, many sought places to stretch their legs and get some fresh air. Being accessible from so many directions, the Coombes was an obvious place to explore, and I noticed quite a few copies of the Coombes Circular Walks being clutched by other walkers during that period.

As the lock-down continued, it was also noticeable how many

young puppies were being brought to the Coombes for their exercise and early training. For them, at least, the amenity value of the Coombes was not going to be a short-lived experience.

It is often imagined that the Coombes is a publicly owned space. In fact it is all privately owned. The Council's main responsibilities for it are to make sure that planning restrictions are adhered to and that the public rights of way remain passable and safe.

So that is a brief introduction to the Coombes. I have a whole variety of topics up my sleeve to share with you in future editions of the Newsletter. These include its history, planned and unplanned occurrences, the wildlife and ecosystem, official recognitions and protections, and its impact on climate change.

I am passionate about the place and the wildlife that inhabits it. And like those campaigners in the 1980s, I get wildly incensed by things that threaten its future. I am wild about the Coombes!

Paul Steel

## Thefts of high value keyless vehicles

To help prevent thefts and ensure your car or van is not an appealing target for a thief, we are asking you to please be extra vigilant and consider your vehicle security.

- Fit a steering wheel stop lock as a physical deterrent. Some models can link to pedals and gear sticks.
- Ensure your vehicle is securely locked - electronic devices can be used to jam the electronic signal from your key fob to lock your vehicle. Always manually check your vehicle has locked before walking away. Scan the immediate area for anyone hanging around. If you feel their presence is suspicious, make a note of their description and report it on [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk), call 101 or 999 if you believe a crime is in progress.
- Keep your key fob safe – and away from windows and doors when at home. Turn off the fob's wireless signal (check your vehicle manual to see if this is possible or contact your vehicle manufacturer) Use a signal-blocking pouch/case or a secure metal container to store your fob and any spare fobs.
- Look out for your neighbours when they are not home. If you see or hear anything suspicious around houses with keyless vehicles in your area then please let us know on [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk) or by calling 101 or 999 if you believe a crime is in progress.

Whilst driving in the UK you are not required to have your driving documents with you, so there is no reason to leave your registration document (log-book), insurance, MOT or Driving Licence in your vehicle. If stolen, they could potentially be used to transfer ownership of your car or for identity theft. For further information and advice, please visit [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)



### Contact us

Email: You can contact your local neighbourhood team via [WokinghamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:WokinghamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk) – please note this email address cannot be used to report crimes or for any urgent matters.

Facebook: TVP Bracknell & Wokingham

Twitter: @TVP\_Wokingham

I'm pleased to say that the Ladies group has continued to have their usual monthly meetings with some very interesting speakers and social gatherings.

In June Alan Goold from Henry Street Garden Centre visited us and brought a large range of materials, composts, garden implements and power tools with him to explain how 'Going Green' can be reasonably easily achieved at home, and how his garden centre is also doing its bit towards this goal.

But before he started his demonstration, he told us how the Garden Centre and Plant Nursery had been founded near Woking by his great grandfather, Henry Street, in the early 1900s. Henry had 3 daughters and the eldest, Molly and her husband Reg Goold worked alongside him, and then eventually things were taken over their son, Henry. This Henry's four sons then joined the business, and Mark, Alan, Peter and Tim still run the Garden Centre and Nursery today, along with some of the next generation.

A truly local family business where you can find all your gardening needs and also enjoy tea, cakes and meals in their restaurant while you are there.

Our special event to report on is the Jubilee Fun Day on June 4th held at the Village Hall. The ladies

provided the refreshments stall for the event which was jointly run by the BVRA and Barkham Parish Council. So many different lovely cakes had been made by the ladies, and the stall looked very patriotic with banners and Union Jack flags!

After a slightly damp start, the weather changed to a wonderful sunny, dry warm day, and the ladies were kept busy all the time serving coffees, teas, soft drinks and cakes.

Much fun was had with all the displays, stalls, bands playing, and children's games and races taking place on the field and in the halls. The event was deemed a great success with many visitors and families joining in.

Our July meeting was about 'Awesome Oak Trees' when speaker Ailsa Claybourne gave a great illustrated talk on our wonderful national trees, the Oaks. We were shown photos of really ancient trees, hundreds of years old, which still exist today in this country, and even some of our members have extremely old trees in their own gardens we discovered.

August saw us hold our Summer event of the year - our Annual BBQ - when we invited the husbands, partners and friends along too. The weather was so kind, and we enjoyed a wonderful warm evening on the patio and grassed area, where we stayed till long after a beautiful sunset, and it got dark!

33 people tucked into burgers, chicken and sausages so well cooked by our chefs, Jim and Laurence, and a delicious selection of salads prepared by some

of the ladies. Many thanks to our chefs and ladies.

Future speakers are planned and booked for September, October and November with topics on 'Volunteering in Nepal', 'the Life and Times of the Royal Albert Hall', and the 'Museum of Rural Life'. And then we will end the year with our very own Christmas Party and Secret Santa in December,

We have had some new ladies join the group recently, so if you are new to the area or now wish

to think about joining the Ladies Group then please contact Shirley Warner for more information on 0118 9789124 or by email at [shirleyannwarner@gmail.com](mailto:shirleyannwarner@gmail.com)

We meet at the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month, 7.30-7.45, and enjoy friendship and a varied programme of speakers and events, and we would warmly welcome new members.

Shirley Warner  
Chairperson



## Finchampstead Flower Club

FFC is for people who love flowers. We meet once a month to watch a demonstrator develop arrangements or for a workshop on arranging flowers ourselves. We also have a number of social events. In the last three months we have visited a Gertrude Jekyll Garden and Blenheim Flower Show, held a strawberry tea, met for a shared lunch in a member's garden and planned for a Falklands Memorial event.

We continue to meet in California Hall at 8pm on the fourth Monday of each month except for November 13th, which is our special Open Evening at Finchampstead Memorial Hall, with Annette Urquhart on "Cinnamon and Spice". This is a popular event so be sure to get your tickets in October. However, before that you can watch Morgan Douglas Nuth on "Magical Botanicals" in September and Sally Hardy on "You've seen it all before" in October. Some members also enter a flower arranging competition each month (this is voluntary and provides lots of manageable ideas for displays at home). This year the competition is based upon Beatles songs so we look forward to Norwegian Wood and Yesterday.

Please phone the chair, Lis Barrett, 01189892092 if you would like to attend at any time, or just turn up after 7.30pm on the night; your first visit is free. You can follow our activities on Facebook <https://bit.ly/3dHl0uN>

Kriss Turner



# 35 Years Ago

In the previous edition we celebrated the formation of the BVRA 35 years ago and I reported that since then we have published a newsletter four times a year ever since. That makes 140 editions! Now in Edition 141 I am starting a new series reminding us of what happened 35 years ago, as reported in this newsletter.

As we have been reporting elsewhere in this edition, our highly esteemed colleague, Stewart Richardson, died recently and, thanks to his family, the BVRA has inherited a complete collection of back editions that he had meticulously collected and stored!

I hope you will find it interesting to find out or be reminded of some

of the key events as reported back then, starting with Edition 1.

The original few editions were printed using a typewriter, then photocopied and hand stapled. Takes you back a bit, eh?

As you can see a key topic was the Appeal due to be held about the potential major development in the Coombes.

Alan Edwards



## BARKHAM VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1987

NUMBER 1

### CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

The launch of this newsletter, brings to all residents within the Parish of Barkham, the identity of the newly formed Barkham Village Residents Association. As Chairman, I would like to express a warm welcome, to all residents, whether new or old, and to inform you that the existence of the Association is here to represent your views and interests. Through organized events and common interests, our aim will be to encourage and develop a healthy community spirit.

The existence of the Association, can only be maintained by a supportive membership of the residents - would encourage every attached membership it to any committee member, who will form Membership Secretary. household will be well.

Keeping in touch with all will be the key to the success of the newsletter, so it is hoped that you will be on a quarterly basis to start with, with the newsletter being published in February. We will provide a well balanced newsletter, there must be something of interest to everyone, so the editors will be pleased to receive any articles from organisations or individuals considered for publication.

In this first newsletter there are details of our efforts to prevent the proposed development of the "Coombes", information about the Barkham Wives Group, proposed events to be organized by the Association and a list of committee members. Also attached is a membership application form and details of the proposed "Childrens Christmas Party".

May I take this opportunity on behalf

of the committee and myself of wishing everybody a Merry Christmas and Successful New Year.

John Adams.

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### PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

The main item under discussion at the moment is the application to build on the Coombes. We have a very good idea how the Appeal procedure operates and we are actively working on our Sub-committee mission.

**PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT**  
The main item under discussion at the moment is the application to build on the Coombes. We have a very good idea how the Appeal procedure operates and we are actively working on our Sub-committee mission to the D.O.E. should the application be taken to appeal. Please ensure that all of your opinions are included by contacting the relevant person.

... will be ... the Coombes application go to appeal to show that Barkham has a real sense of being a community (as shown by our fight against being joined with Arbofield and our raising money for our village hall).

Should you have friends who live outside Barkham who would like to contribute to our efforts, give Pam Edwards (780673) their names, addresses and phone numbers.

We intend to conduct a house by house survey of peoples' opinions on the development so please expect a knock on your door. We will need hard facts to

CHAIRMAN: J. D. ADAMS - SECRETARY: F. R. G. WILLIAMS - TREASURER: S. MALHOTRA

# CROWTHORNE Symphony ORCHESTRA

What an amazing evening our Summer Concert was for everyone - the Tchaikovsky Pathétique Symphony stirs up all sorts of emotions and got a very warm reception (with loud cheers!) from the audience, while several players admitted to having a tear in the eye by the end. As our Musical Director Robert Roscoe said in

Crowthorne and the programme of British music includes Benjamin Britten's popular 'Four Sea Interludes' from his opera 'Peter Grimes' and 'The Sea' by Frank Bridge. This piece by Bridge had a great influence on Britten who first heard it at the age of 10; Bridge was later to become Britten's composition teacher. Also in



his introduction, it was a concert of two distinct halves - the first being tuneful and entertaining with Humperdinck's popular Hansel & Gretel Overture, followed by the Gounod Ballet Music from Faust. These had been programmed by Robert as less challenging to play which allowed us to spend the majority of rehearsals concentrating on the Tchaikovsky, which certainly paid off. It was an extraordinary experience to be part of, and one that we will remember for a very long time.

The provisional programmes for next season have been announced and look very exciting, with music by Beethoven, Dvořák, Sibelius and many others. Our Autumn Concert is on Saturday 26th November 7.30pm at The Old Gym, Wellington College,

the concert is Vaughan-Williams' Symphony No.2 'The London'. V-W never intended to write a symphony but was encouraged to do so by his composer friend, George Butterworth who was killed in WW1 and to whom the symphony is dedicated.

The orchestra is proud of its friendly reputation and welcomes new members, subject to vacancies - if you are interested in joining us, please get in touch. Weekly rehearsals are on Mondays in term time from 7.45-10pm at Oaklands Junior School, Butler Road, Crowthorne and resume on Sept 12th.

[www.crowthorneorchestra.com](http://www.crowthorneorchestra.com)

Chris Gadsby



## Wokingham Choral Society

Calling all singers! Wokingham Choral Society will begin its 71st season in September, when we will be rehearsing Brahms' beautiful and unusual German Requiem for our concert on November 19th. We shall be having a 'taster' Come and Sing rehearsal on Thursday 15th September at 7.30 at the Emmbrook Senior School, Wokingham, and invite budding singers to join us for the evening. Singing together in a large group is a thrilling experience and has been shown to improve both physical and emotional well-being, as attested by the 2.8 million Britons who now sing in a choir! So, if you would like to know more about our Come and Sing evening or our exciting programme for 2022-2023, please find more details at [www.wokingham-choral-society.org](http://www.wokingham-choral-society.org) You will be assured of a very warm welcome!





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**Charities, community groups:** do you need extra help now we're coming out of the pandemic? Your group has done so much to support your local community and maybe now you need some assistance. If you're part of a local group in Wokingham Borough or Bracknell Forest, you can get free help with funding, recruiting volunteers, growth of your group and recruiting new Committee Members or trustees. We also run a wide range of training in both areas, suitable for your volunteers and employees.

inVOLve Community Services are there for any not-for-personal-profit organisation that needs those sorts of support. Contact us without obligation via 01344 304 404, [reception@involve.community](mailto:reception@involve.community) or look at <https://involve.community/>



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time you reviewed  
your Will?

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-  <https://calendly.com/trickers/meet>
-  [www.soteriaplanning.uk](http://www.soteriaplanning.uk)



## Volunteer

We have now resumed our core service of matching children with volunteers at mainstream leisure activities and are in the process of planning our next Volunteer Induction Training.

Do you want to help children with additional needs and disabilities in your local community? Make a difference to a child's life by volunteering with us and helping our children to be included and make friends.

### Volunteer Your Time

Everyone has their own reasons for wanting to donate their time. It could be to give back to the local community, gain valuable experience, learn new skills or the desire to make a difference to a child's life. Whatever your motivation, you will be part of a friendly team, you will make a difference and have fun at the same time!

We'd love to hear from you! Here are the ways you can contact us:

Opening times: Monday -Thursday 9am-5pm and Friday 9am-4.30pm.

**Telephone:** 0118 969 6369

**Email:** [info@me2club.org.uk](mailto:info@me2club.org.uk)

**Address:** Me2 Club, Unit 9, Indigo House, Fishponds Road, Wokingham, RG41 2GY

Go to our website to start your volunteer application form. [www.me2club.org.uk](http://www.me2club.org.uk)





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# Barkham Diary

07/09/22	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.30pm
13/09/22	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
14/09/22	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
24/09/22	BVRA Skittles Evening	BVH	7.00pm
26/09/22	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	8.00pm
05/10/22	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.30pm
11/10/22	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
12/10/22	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
24/10/22	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	8.00pm
02/11/22	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.30pm
08/11/22	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
09/11/22	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
10/11/22	BVRA AGM	BVH	8.00pm
11/11/22	Copy deadline for Winter Newsletter		
19/11/22	BVRA Quiz Night	BVH	7.30pm
28/11/22	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	8.00pm
07/12/22	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.30pm
13/12/22	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
14/12/22	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
16/12/22	BVRA Carols in the Park	Junipers	7.00pm
<b>Weekly Events</b>			
Mondays	Pilates Class	BVH	11.30am
Mondays	Dog Training	BVH	6.30pm
Tuesdays	Dinton walking group	Dinton	10.00am
Tues-Fri	Barkham Pre-School	BVH	9.00am
Thursdays	Pilates Class	BVH	6.15pm
	BVH is Barkham Village Hall		
	CRH is California Ratepayers Hall		
	AVH is Arborfield Village Hall		
	FMH is Finchampstead Memorial Hall		

- Quiz Answers
1. Terry Waite
  2. Herald of Free Enterprise
  3. The Simpsons. In 1987 it was broadcast in USA as a 'short' within another programme before gaining its own series in 1989
  4. John Sillitt
  5. Red Square, Moscow
  6. Pat Cash
  7. Michael Ryan
  8. Michael Fish
  9. Eniskillen
  10. Kings Cross

Where in Barkham?  
On Barkham Road, as you walk on the pavement down the hill to the Bull. The sign is hanging on the tall brick wall.



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<https://twohootscheese.co.uk/>

Wokingham Music Club brings great music to Wokingham every month. Some dates include:

**Curved Air - 9th September**

**Simply Dan play the music of Steely Dan – 10th September**

**Marky Dawson presents - Piano Heroes - Friday, September 30**

**Never 42 - Friday, October 21**

**Los Pacaminos - Friday, October 28**

**Totally Blondie in concert - Friday, November 4**

Tickets are now on sale for all confirmed dates, a full list can be found on our website [www.wokinghammusicclub.co.uk](http://www.wokinghammusicclub.co.uk) To sign up for our newsletter just drop a line to [info@wokinghammusicclub.co.uk](mailto:info@wokinghammusicclub.co.uk). Tickets for shows can be booked at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/wokinghammusicclub](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wokinghammusicclub)

**Venues:** The Whitty Theatre, Emmbrook Sports & Social, The Royal British Legion Club, Winnersh.

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The BVRA has recently updated its privacy policy to ensure compliance with GDPR. You can review this at the bottom of the home page on the website. As part of this for those members who have provided their email address please be advised that it will only be used for BVRA communications of interest or to receipt your annual subscription.

You can amend your mailing preferences or opt out any time by clicking on the link at the bottom of any of our emails or emailing [webmaster@barkham.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@barkham.org.uk)

The views expressed in this newsletter, unless signed by a BVRA committee member, are not necessarily those of the Barkham Village Residents Association  
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