



Barkham Newsletter

£2, free to Members

Issue 151 Spring 2025

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

MEMBERSHIP subscriptions are now due, see Page 5



Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday 20th April

3pm at the Junipers, Elizabeth Park

Tickets £1 per child - Raffle for the large egg £1



Skittles Evening

Saturday 17th May

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

Barkham Village Hall

Supper included - LICENSED BAR

Tickets: £15 from Gill Powell

Social@barkham.org.uk or Tel: 9783373

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- *Maintaining the Coombes Woodland*

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Editorial



Welcome to the Spring issue of our magazine! What a grey, cold, damp winter we have had, with sunny days a rarity! However we are lucky so far to not have been severely affected by the storms that other areas of the country have suffered.

Still with the meteorological theme, to put it mildly, there is plenty going on on the planning front to keep Dennis busy! See Page 3 opposite.

At a higher level there are plans for changes to the organisation of local government. See the article by Borough Councillor, Adrian Betteridge, on Page 7.

Coombes Woodland Committee (CWC) is starting to get active and recently undertook its first organised activity with a team of volunteers, collecting rubbish from a small area. See Pages 11 and 13 to find out more about this group and to discover what they found!

And *Wild about Coombes* on Page 10 is about a tree that fell in the woods blocking a footpath.

Some good news is that the **Leopard 3 Bus service** that runs through the village is being improved, see Page 6 for more details.



On our Facebook discussion page there have been comments about dog poo being left on the paths and garden verges in Elizabeth Park. This is very disappointing. It's bad enough finding dog poo in bags hanging from hedgerow branches in the Coombes!

On a lighter note, I am making the *Neighbours* puzzle more regular. I hope you have a bit of fun with it, before resorting to Google Maps, which, incidentally, recently celebrated its 20th anniversary!

Finally, the **solar farm** is coming. We can expect some disruption but let's hope not too much! Here is the first sign.....



Annual Litter Pick

The annual litter pick, organised by Barkham Parish Council, will be on Sunday 23rd March between 10am and 12 noon. Please do help if you can. Meet at Barkham Village Hall. Equipment will be supplied and refreshments will be provided at the Village Hall afterwards. See Page 5 for more details.

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Email Updates

As well as our newsletter we are increasingly using email to keep in touch with members. It is important we are kept up to date with your details. If your details have changed or you aren't getting emails from us, use our member details form on the website https://barkham.org.uk/member_details to advise us.



We will confirm any request you send to us. Also to ensure you receive our emails please add barkham.org.uk to your safe senders list. If you are unsure how to do this, please email webmaster@barkham.org.uk for advice.

DevWatch Update



At the time of writing we have not heard any more about the draft Local Plan which sits with the Government for approval.

But what has happened is that the respective developers for both the Barkham Square and Hall's Farm sites (both sites are, of course, included for residential development in the draft Local Plan) put in a Scoping Application to the Borough Council. This is a process seeking to influence the Borough Council on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment that would be required as part of the planning application. Barkham Parish Council have responded, in respect of the Barkham Square land, expressing concerns that

- The number of dwellings being put at 660 compared with the 600 mentioned in the draft Local Plan, and
- The sustainability of local services, including public transport, medical facilities, demands on the inadequate road network, and the increased loading onto the Arborfield Sewage Treatment Plant.

The Borough Council have now responded to the application with a detailed Opinion which can be

seen [here](#)

<https://bit.ly/4hHmXnf>



So we may not be too far away from a formal planning application being submitted on the Barkham Square land.

Otherwise there is some good – and some bad - news.

On the positive side:

- A further application to extend the Leathern Bottel on Barkham Road coupled with a substantial roadway to the back boundary of that land has been refused
- An application for 60 houses at 24 Barkham Ride, and the application for 95 houses off School Road Arborfield have also been refused

But will any of those refusals be appealed ?

- The Borough Council still have in mind putting an application later this year for planning consent to use the land at Mortimer Lodge and Brook Farms for amenity land (or SANGS – Strategic Alternative Natural Greenspace)
- The appeal against the Borough Council's refusal to grant consent for three additional houses just by Barkham Manor has been rejected

But on the negative side:

- Predictably the big application for 350 houses on the Evendons Lane/Blagrove Lane site which was refused by the Borough has been appealed. There is great

concern on the part of many local residents who are appealing for funds to help them oppose the appeal. The site lies just outside Barkham Parish but its residents would be adversely affected. See Evendons Area Residents Association campaign <https://bit.ly/4hGVYbl>



- Planning Consent for the application for 50 houses on the adjoining Langley Common Road by the Arborfield Green roundabout has been granted subject to a planning agreement being entered into first

BUT none of these sites were included for development in the draft Local Plan.

An application had been made last year for 9 mobile homes at Bluebells Farm (application 240788). This was refused by the Borough - but is now under appeal. This appeal is to be conducted at a hearing.

Since the Winter edition of our Newsletter the "Save Our Loddon Valley at Hall's Farm" group have made the point that the draft Local Plan proposes a total of 3,930 houses at Hall's Farm. The figure that I used in the last newsletter of 2,700 homes is the figure proposed in the Plan for new homes to be built in the period to 2040.

Dennis Eyriey
BVRA Development Watch



Update from Barkham Parish Council

Planning

The application for development of Land Adjacent to Blagrove Lane Wokingham has gone to appeal.

A scoping opinion application was submitted by Crest for land at Barkham Square, on which the council submitted a response, which can be seen on the WBC Planning portal.

A scoping opinion application has also been submitted for Hall Farm/Loddon Valley Development in Arborfield. As it is not in the parish, BPC did not respond, but Arborfield and Newland Parish Council has responded.

The application for 95 houses to the north of School Road was refused by WBC. The Council now awaits to see if it will be taken to appeal.

The outline application for 50 houses on land off of Langley Common Road was approved by WBC.

Community Governance Review

Wokingham Borough Council is undertaking a Community Governance Review of all the towns and parishes within the area to enable the Council to consider if any changes are needed to the current arrangements.

The council is conducting the first stage of the Review process and is inviting residents and interested organisations to submit their views on existing arrangements, together with any proposals for change.

The Borough Council has published its Terms of Reference for the Review and a copy can be viewed and downloaded from the Council's website or obtained by contacting the Electoral Services team as shown below. Should you wish to submit a written representation regarding this review please complete the online submission form which also allows you to upload any supporting papers. Alternatively, you can email communitygovernancereview@wokingham.gov.uk or post it to : Community Governance Review Electoral & Democratic Services Shute End, PO Box 69, RG40 8EY.

Precept

The Parish Council is delighted to inform residents that, after setting its budget and calculating the precept, the council has not increased its precept this year, and has

managed to slightly decrease the amount each household will pay to the Parish Council by 0.65%.

Medical Centre

BPC has been informed that there are plans to include a new medical facility in the Arborfield Green development, as was promised at the application stage of the development. According to the information the council has been given, the medical facility is planned to be incorporated into the new Community Centre.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Purchases

The parish council is delighted to inform the residents that, using CIL funds, it has purchased an 8 acre meadow in the Coombes that is adjacent to the land purchased jointly in 2023. The purchase of the meadow completed on 12th December 2024. The parish council is now considering what the best use of the land is to ensure it remains accessible and enjoyable to all.

CIL funds have been used to purchase a new Defibrillator which is located at Arborfield Green Community Centre. **Ed:** an article about defibrillators will appear in a future issue.

CIL has also been used to fund projects through external organisations. The Parish Council has agreed to grant CIL Funds to Pinnacle to update the signage for the community Centre in Arborfield Green, and to purchase some benches and information plaques to be placed in some of the green spaces in the development.

The Village Hall has applied for CIL funds to support its solar panel project. The applications was for 50% of the cost of the project, and the Parish Council has agreed to fund the requested amount.

Future CIL projects being considered include wildflower planting and pedestrian crossings at Hazebrouck Meadows and Farley Hill School.

What is CIL?

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a planning charge, introduced by the Planning Act 2008 as a tool for local authorities in England and Wales to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area. A portion of the CIL received by Wokingham is passed to the parish council, Barkham receives 25% of the levy, as it has a Neighbourhood Plan in place. Barkham Parish Council decides how to spend this part of the levy, being mindful that it has a duty to spend CIL income on providing, improving, replacing,

operating or maintaining infrastructure that supports the development of the parish council area or anything else concerned with addressing the demands that development places on the area.

If residents have any suggestions on what the Parish Council can spend its CIL money on, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Annual Litter Pick

Every year, in conjunction with the Great British Tidy Up, the Parish Council arranges a litter pick to help tidy up the roads of Barkham and Arborfield Green. This year's litter pick is scheduled to be held on Sunday 23rd March between 10am and 12 noon. The meeting place is the Barkham Village Hall. Volunteers are asked to register with the parish council at 10am, where they will be allocated a street to litter pick. Then, upon completion, volunteers are asked to return to the hall to report any issues or fly tipping and to sign out. Refreshments will be provided at the Village Hall.

History Books

The "Barkham A History" book can be obtained from the Clerk at £8.50 each or from Henry Street Garden Centre. These will make ideal presents for anyone who is new to the area and does not already own one.



BVRA Membership for 2025

Firstly, a huge thank you to all those residents who have already paid their fees for 2025 either by Direct Debit or other methods.

We are pleased to be able to say that we have been able to keep the membership fee unchanged at £3 per year.

As per last year our distributors will no longer be collecting cash at the door, however there are still multiple ways to make your payment. They are:

- By Direct Debit (our preferred method): these can be set up by following the link below <https://barkham.org.uk/bvra/bvra-membership>



All direct debits are fully covered under the UK Direct Debit scheme. For added reassurance, we have taken over 1,700 direct debits in the six years since we offered this payment method without a single issue.

- To pay by an alternative method you will need to quote your property reference to ensure your membership is recorded correctly. Where we hold email details, the property reference and details on how to pay were emailed to you at the start of February. If you don't have the details, or need them re-sending, please email us at membership@barkham.org.uk with your name and address. We will reply with our details including your individual property reference.
- Bank Transfer using our account details and your unique property reference
- Cash or cheque placed in an envelope labelled with your unique property reference, name and where possible email address. Please deliver to Simon and Louise Goldring, 6 Almond Close, Barkham.

Receipts are emailed to acknowledge all payments. Please pay promptly as, again this year, only households who have paid their membership will receive the next three issues. If you have any queries about membership please do not hesitate to contact us at membership@barkham.org.uk.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our team of distributors and wholesalers who continue to ensure you receive your newsletter. We currently have vacancies for some new distributors to join the team, and we are always looking for new volunteers. If you are able to help, please do not hesitate to contact us, as above.

Thank You

The BVRA Membership Team

Tough Times, but Good Things are Happening



It's a tough time for local government, with services such as social care and special needs education taking up an ever-increasing share of a budget which is dwindling in real terms. But that's not to say that we are standing still. Recent months have seen progress with a number of things that will make our area stronger and better for the future.

The local campaign to reduce the speed limit on Bearwood Road is coming to fruition, with a draft 'Traffic Regulation Order' having been published to extend the 30mph limit up the hill from Barkham. This will make the road safer for everyone who uses it. We are lucky to have a Parish Council with a keen interest in road safety, helping progress some new pedestrian crossings on busy roads amongst other things. There's a lot more to do on this topic and it's something I am very focused on.

In Arborfield Green work is well underway on the new Sainsbury supermarket which should open its doors this year. It is the first part of what will be a new hub for that community and the surrounding area which will be built over the next three years, including, I hope, some form of GP surgery. The public tennis courts in Arborfield Green will be refurbished this year and new

allotments are on the verge of opening.

The Leopard 3 bus route which runs between Reading and Wokingham via Barkham is getting a multi-year subsidy to double its frequency from hourly to half-hourly from the summer (hopefully May). If this attracts more custom I hope that the frequency and operating hours could be extended further in future. The bus company is looking at how it can cope better with the high demand of the school run also.

A lot of these changes are possible thanks to contributions secured by the council from developers. By planning strategically for the level of development the government requires of us we are able to maximise the benefit to communities, as well as make sure development happens sustainably. Our ability to do so will be enhanced significantly by the new Local Plan for development which, by the time you read this, will have been submitted for its review by the government inspector.

As your councillor, I work hard to try and improve our area, whilst doing my bit to ensure the council can deliver the statutory services people rely on, plus of course responding to your individual queries.

You can contact me at adrian.betteridge@wokingham.gov.uk or 07985 088298.

Councillor Adrian Betteridge



Bus Service Improved

Starting in May the frequency of the Leopard 3 Bus Service between Bracknell and Reading, passing through Barkham and Arborfield, is being increased from hourly to half-hourly, Monday to Saturday. Check out the timetable [here](https://www.reading-buses.co.uk/services/)

<https://www.reading-buses.co.uk/services/>



HELP NEEDED! Membership Admin

We are looking for someone to help with the administration of BVRA membership.

Key points are:

- Maintain the contact database
- Manage the payment of subscriptions mainly through the Direct Debit scheme
- Provide distribution lists for each quarterly magazine distribution
- Attend committee meetings

If you feel you could help then please contact chairman@barkham.org.uk

All Change (again) for Local Government?

Residents may have heard of further changes in the wind for the structure of local government. There are 2 things which could impact our area in the near and longer term.

A review across Wokingham Borough will consider the boundaries and functioning of local Parishes. In most areas this might be just a bit of tidying up where communities have grown across historical boundaries. In the case of the Arborfield Garrison development, much but not all of which is in Barkham Parish, the question is a bit more involved. You can read about the review and respond to the consultation via [this link](#).

https://bit.ly/4gOgvZL_



At the macro scale, the new Westminster government wants to change fundamentally the shape of local government. They want every part of England to have a regional 'Strategic Authority', with its own mayor to whom Westminster can delegate strategic

decisions and funding for development. Some regions already have such an arrangement, and the government wants to extend this to all. This could be an area as large as Berkshire or even Berkshire combined with one or more neighbouring counties.

Within each mayoral area, all councils will become 'Unitary Authorities' similar to the current Wokingham Borough Council. Councils may change size – in Wokingham's case potentially merging with one or more neighbouring unitary authorities. There are no decisions as yet and the timeframe for any changes in our area hasn't been published, but options are being explored. You can read the government's full thinking [here](#):

<https://bit.ly/4gL2Cfm>



I'd be happy to hear your thoughts directly on either of these issues.

You can email me at adrian.betteridge@wokingham.gov.uk

Councillor Adrian Betteridge

The Quiz

Recently the planets have been in alignment across the sky so this time the quiz is loosely about the night sky - the planets and their moons.

1. Which planet has two moons?
2. Who wrote a suite of music about the planets?
3. Who discovered Uranus in his back garden in Bath in 1781?
4. What do the rock band Queen and thermometers have in common?
5. Who discovered the four largest moons of Jupiter?
6. By combining the letters of a planet with one extra letter what word means scarcity?
7. Which planet or moon has the fewest letters?
8. Which album, released in 1973, is one of only four to have sold over 45 million copies?
9. Which planet has a day that is longer than its year?
10. Which planet has a connection with Slough?

Answers on Page 19

Where in Barkham?

Where would find this fine example of modern art?



Neighbours

The Democratic Republic of Congo has land borders with 12 countries. Can you name them?



Secure your vehicle

Having your car broken into and losing your things to thieves can be very distressing. Here are a few steps you can take to help keep your vehicle, and what's in it, safe.

Lock your vehicle

Locking your vehicle, even when filling up or parked on your drive, greatly reduces the possibility of it being targeted by an opportunist thief. Even if you have electronically locked your vehicle, double-check it and ensure you haven't left any windows or the sunroof open. Many thieves will not hesitate to walk up your driveway and try the door handles to see if your car will open.

If your vehicle has wing mirrors that fold in automatically when locked, make sure you lock it properly. Opportunist thieves and criminal gangs may look for vehicles like these where the wing mirrors are still out because it is clear to them that the vehicle has been left unlocked.

Keep the keys safe

Keep your keys out of view when at home, and away from your front door. It's not uncommon for car keys to be stolen from inside your home by thieves fishing for them with a stick and hook through the letterbox.

Keyless entry

Cars with keyless entry unlock automatically when the key comes within a short distance of the car. This can be from inside a pocket or bag. If you have to push a button on your car key to open your car, you don't have keyless entry.

Keyless car theft or 'relay theft' is when a device is used to fool the car into thinking the key is close by. This unlocks the car and starts the ignition. Thieves only need to be within a few metres of your car key to capture the signal, even if it's inside your home. This means that even if your car and home are secure, thieves can still unlock, start and steal your car.

How to protect your keyless entry car:

- Fit a steering wheel stop lock as a physical deterrent. Some models can link to pedals and gear sticks.
- Consider blocking in your keyless car with another non-keyless entry car if you have one.
- When at home keep your car key (and spares) well away from the car.
- Put the keys in a screened or signal-blocking pouch, such as a Faraday Bag.
- Re-programme your keys if you buy a second-hand car.
- Turn off wireless signals on your fob when it's not being used.

Display and you will pay! Leave it on show, expect it to go!

Please don't tempt thieves - your mobile phone, spare coins, sunglasses, packs of medication or other items that can earn quick cash are irresistible to the opportunist thief. And it should go without saying that wallets, handbags, purses and credit cards should never be left in an unattended vehicle. Even an old coat or a plastic bag left behind can tempt a thief.

If you have seen anything suspicious, have CCTV or Dashcam

footage of suspects, or any information regarding car crime in your neighbourhood, please report this by using the Thames Valley Police on line reporting portal at www.thamesvalley.police.uk or by calling the non-emergency number 101. If a crime is in progress, dial 999.

If you wish to remain anonymous or don't want to speak to the police you can pass any relevant information via the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 free of charge.

You can find out your local neighbourhood policing priorities on our website: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/area/your-area/>



Barkham Village Hall Treasurer

Barkham Village Hall Committee are seeking a Treasurer

Are you a person with financial skills looking for a role where you can support a local charitable organisation? Barkham Village Hall is a popular and well used facility at the heart of the local community, and we are seeking a Treasurer to take over financial transactions, provide reports to the committee, attend committee meetings held every other month, and become part of a supportive and friendly team. The outgoing Treasurer will be available to offer a thorough handover of the role, and the position comes with a small salary.

For further information please contact Chair, Allan Wrobel, on allan.wrobel.bvh@hotmail.com or 07912-656689



St James' Barkham

Learning from St Valentine

Are you a fan of Valentine's Day?

(Well – what else was I going to write about, given that the deadline for submission was 14 February?)

Maybe you love Valentine's Day.

Cards, flowers, chocolates, meals out - you're thrilled by the romance of it all.

Maybe you take a very different view. Perhaps it's the pressure the day brings. Or maybe the commercialism. Or even just the sentimentality. Possibly all three. Whichever it is, you just hate it, though.

But I wonder how many of us know the story behind St Valentine?

Actually, I'm not sure anyone really does in any great detail. There seem to be several legends out there!

According to one of them, Valentine was a Christian priest in Rome

during the third century. Back in those days, apparently, Emperor Claudius II had banned marriages for young men, on the assumption that single men made better soldiers. Valentine disagreed and bravely defied this order by marrying Christian couples in secret. When his actions were discovered, he was arrested and tortured, then finally executed for his faith. And, just before he died, Valentine sent a note to a young girl, signed 'from your Valentine' - the origin of the famous expression that continues to this day. Allegedly...

Another legend has it that Valentine was actually arrested for trying to persuade people that they should follow Jesus. Eventually he was sent to the emperor Claudius. Claudius is supposed to have taken a liking to Valentine until Valentine tried to convince Claudius that he ought to become a Christian too. Claudius refused, commanding that Valentine either renounce his faith or be beaten and beheaded. Valentine refused and was executed outside Rome on 14 February 269. Again ... allegedly.

If either one of those legends is even only half true, though, I've got a lot of time for Valentine. His story is a refreshing reminder that true love isn't just about fleeting emotions or romantic gestures, but instead about commitment, sacrifice, and faithfulness.

And, of course, if we're impressed by Valentine's example, we should

be amazed by the one Valentine so bravely followed. 'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends' - said Jesus (John 15:13). Jesus wasn't just giving us an instruction when he said that. He was also explaining what he says he was about to do for people like us. In love, Jesus gave His life on the cross so we might be forgiven and restored to a relationship with God.

So, as we reflect on what true love really means, let's by all means try to show it to those around us, as we seek to serve them with commitment and faithfulness too. But, at the same time, let's hear Jesus' invitation to receive and rest in his love too.

No matter what our past mistakes may be, or how far we may currently feel from God, remember this: 'God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us' (Romans 5:8).

As ever, if you'd like to think more about these things, you'd be ever so welcome to join us at Barkham Church, any Sunday, at either 10am or 6pm. We'd love to see you there.

(Oh - and I hope you had a happy Valentine's Day.)

David Horrocks

www.abch.org.uk



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 or look at <https://involve.community/>

Wild About the Coombes

Hooray! I've seen a fair number of rabbits since Christmas, and I don't recall seeing any last year, and possibly the year before. They used to have outbreaks of myxomatosis every few years, which set their population back, but you would still see some rabbits, even if they looked seriously unwell. Their numbers would then recover until the next bout.

For the last year or two, I assume that their absence has been down to Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease 2, or RHD2, a particularly severe disease with a mortality rate of 90%+. It is encouraging that enough have survived to be seen again, out of their burrows after hibernating, hopefully with some resistance to the disease and able to rebuild an ongoing presence.

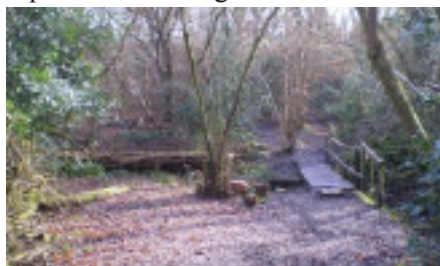
There are two public footpaths that cross the Coombes. Close to where they intersect, there is a bridge over a stream. A couple of weeks before Christmas, a tree decided to take a lie down on top of the bridge, totally blocking the way for walkers. I asked it very politely to move over a bit so that I could pass but it totally ignored me and slumbered on!



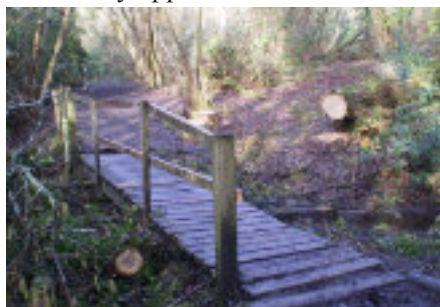
I met two separate people who said that they had reported the tree to the Parish Council. Both had been told that the issue had already been raised with Wokingham Borough Council, which has the responsibility for maintaining public rights of way.

Unusually, there didn't seem to be anything happening about the blockage, so I contacted the Parish Council myself in the New Year. I was assured that they had reported

the matter to the Borough Council and would chase them up about it. A couple of days later a team was there cutting the tree away and making repairs to the bridge.



The cuttings from what had fallen onto the bridge were piled away from the footpath where they will rot down to nourish the woodland and feed its creepy crawlies. Slices from the trunk have been laid at each end of the bridge to help walkers over the muddy approaches to it.



And rather thoughtfully, a series of similar slices have been placed at the end of the boardwalk where the two paths cross each other.



While the bridge remained blocked, a diversion developed where people had walked a little way upstream from the bridge and managed to cross before returning to the official path. It was a bit mucky but this became a well-used bypass. By the time you read this, I suspect that the temporary diversion will barely be noticeable. Nature has a great way of restoring itself.

Joe Wild



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 &
Friday 9am - 4.30pm.

Telephone: 0118 969 6369

Email: info@me2club.org.uk

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

www.me2club.org.uk



Marathon Man!

Long time Barkham resident, Gurprit Singh, is taking on the challenge of running two half-marathons.

Firstly, the Wokingham Half-Marathon on 23rd February and then the Reading Half-Marathon on 23rd March, to raise vital funds and awareness for **Crohn's and Colitis UK**.



These conditions affect half a million people and their families in the UK. Despite progress, much remains to be done in terms of research, support, and finding better treatments. Gurprit has lived in Barkham for 28 years and you can often see him running through the Coombes or Elizabeth Park. Although he enjoys running, at 65, age is catching up and it's getting harder to do these long runs!

Every single contribution, big or small, helps fund critical research and support for those battling these debilitating diseases. You can donate through this [Justgiving link](#)



In January the first working party of volunteers had their first get together in the Coombes Woods. This was kindly organised and hosted by our volunteer leaders Paul Steel and Ray Norton. **Ed:** See the report and photos on Page 13

There seems to be an increasing level of interest from the community in helping maintain this fabulous asset that both *Barkham Parish Council* and *Arborfield and Newland Parish Council* acquired over a year ago, preserving the woods for the benefit of the community for the foreseeable future.

68 Acres is a substantial area to maintain and whilst the *Coombes Woodland Committee* has some funds for essential works we are reliant upon volunteers.

I encourage any individuals or organisations interested in helping to sign up at our website <https://thecoombeswoodlands.com/>

It's a great opportunity to meet new people, to take some exercise and enjoy the great outdoors!

We provide tools and equipment, and we have trained first aiders for each event.

Late in 2024 *Barkham Parish Council* bought an additional eight acres of meadow. We would be interested in ideas from the local community as to how we might make best use of it. If you have any suggestions please contact us using <https://thecoombeswoodlands.com>

Mike Barker, Chairman



Barkham Village Hall Going Green

The BVH team is pleased to announce that this Easter will see the installation of solar panels on the roof of the Hall, co-funded by the Hall and Barkham Parish Council.

The roof is an excellent position for such a site, being both south facing and unshaded.

The 30 Panel Photo Voltaic system will supply 12.6kW of power, that's over 12,000kWh/yr. This is calculated to supply 80% of the Hall's electrical needs, and, during the summery months, feed the national grid.

An extra battery is being installed in anticipation of further work aiming for complete power self-sufficiency.

All exciting developments - Watch this space!

Allan Wrobel (Chair BVH)

Ed: the photo is an example of the technology, not of this installation.

Who Said this?

In 1988, Who said "For generations, we have assumed that the efforts of mankind would leave the fundamental equilibrium of the world's systems and atmosphere stable. But it is possible that with all these enormous changes (population, agricultural, use of fossil fuels) concentrated into such a short period of time, we have unwittingly begun a massive experiment with the system of this planet itself."

Answer Page 19

BVRA Social



Christmas and New Year are just a memory now, and Winter has been quite dreary and dull with too much rain and frequent storms. We've had a few spells of really cold frosty weather too, but thankfully spared snow, and so like me you are probably really looking forward to Spring arriving and some brighter warmer weather!

The *Carols in the Park* took place in December at the Junipers Park on a rather damp and misty evening with about 80 singers joining in, including many children and youngsters. They sang carols while the Breakaway Brass Band played as they made their way along the Junipers from the Woodlands to the hammerhead.

Everyone was treated to mulled wine or soft drinks and mince pies - a lovely celebration of our local community festive spirit in the run up to Christmas.

A bucket collection was made for the Band as a 'thank you' for giving up their spare time to play for us.

Thanks to the BVRA Social team and to Dave whose kitchen was used to make the mulled wine.

And so now to the events for this year commencing with the annual *Children's Easter Egg Hunt* on Easter Sunday, 20th April. This will be held at the Junipers Park at 3pm, and the entrance is £1 per child.

Raffle tickets will be available for the adults to purchase for the Giant Egg and other chocolate prizes, while the children are busy finding their tokens to exchange for little chocolate eggs.

There will be a separate area for the very young children (under 5's) to look for their tokens away from the rush of the older children.

This is always a fun event and seems to be over in a flash as the tokens are found quite quickly!

PLEASE NOTE - please bring cash for this event.

The annual Family *Skittles Evening* is booked for Saturday 17th May at the Village Hall at 7:00 for 7:30pm. There will be a Ploughman's Supper, and a licenced bar. Tickets cost £15 and are available from Gill Powell at social@barkham.org.uk

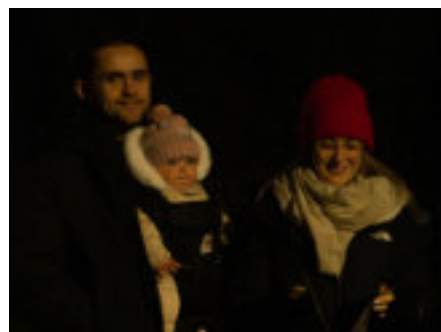
Other events planned are:

- *Quiz Night* - Saturday 18th October
- *Carols in the Park* - 12th December

More details in the next issue.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at these events - it's a great way of meeting people, especially if you are new to the area.

We always need more people join our social team, so please contact Gill Powell if you might be able to help at social@barkham.org.uk



CWC - An Afternoon in the Coombes

Following the purchase of much of the Coombes woodland by Barkham and Arborfield Parish Councils, these councils formed the *Coombes Woodland Committee* to manage the woodland. Much of the heavy work such as felling trees needs to be undertaken by contractors, however recently they have formed a group of volunteers to undertake some of the lighter work needed to maintain the area.

The first event for the volunteers was luckily held on a sunny and dry afternoon in late January. The task was to clear the rubbish remaining on the site where the BMX bike ramps had been.

About ten attended and on this first event they collected a wide range of rubbish from the woods including a trampoline, a car wheel and tyre, a couple of long drainpipes, a large blue tarpaulin, various pieces of carpet, the base of an office chair, the top of a wheelbarrow, and lots of cans, bottles and crisp packets etc. all collected in an hour-and-a-half!

[WBC Countryside Service](#) kindly provided a pickup truck and took our *treasure trove* for disposal.

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



It was nice to meet some new people and we all enjoyed our time getting to know each other and when we finished we were all satisfied with what we had achieved. It was a good excuse to spend some time in the woods!

If you might be interested in joining this team of volunteers then please contact:

clerk@barkhamparish.gov.uk

Alan Edwards



“What You Got?” A Detectorist’s History of Barkham - Part 4



Having read *The History of Barkham* by local authors David French and Janet Firth, and having chatted to Janet on several occasions, (she later confirmed a piece of pottery that Josie found sitting in the flower bed as medieval Surrey Whiteware ... wow!), I know what an amazing history we are surrounded by here in the village. From its Roman occupation around AD43 to the Anglo-Saxon settlements of the early 5th Century, to the Norman Conquest in 1066 and the first mention of Barkham in the Domesday Survey of 1086, from Medieval Barkham through to the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536 and the period of post Medieval Berkshire. It is truly fascinating to learn about the way in which this area has been occupied for so long by so many different groups of people.

Once we discovered the imaginary “Golden Path” running through our garden, Josie and I continued to search the area whenever we got the chance. This is the best way to learn how the detector works as you begin to recognise the difference between the many signals emitted. When we first started on our detecting journey we dug every signal; now we are more discerning and only dig those we believe are pointing to something worthwhile. The reality of metal detecting, however, is that for every good find you will have had to dig some 10-20 holes with nothing but rubbish found ... from bottle tops to ring pulls, pieces of lead and lumps of farm machinery ... they are all metal after all!

One such day spent practising in the garden elicited shouts of glee from Josie and I as we realised that we had found our very own hammered silver penny which we were later able to identify as Edward III (1227-1377), minted in York.



Only a few days later we found a heavily clipped Edward I penny dating from 1279-1307 and minted in Berwick upon Tweed.

Many of these silver coins had the outer edge (illegally) hand-clipped and saved to be melted up into bullion.



We have helped a local landowner look for a missing piece of tractor, we have helped clear a field of dangerous metal items before allowing livestock in and we have helped friends and locals find missing items of jewellery and personal possessions.

Our very own editor, Alan, invited us to have a look in his garden. With not much time to dig unfortunately we didn’t find a huge amount but we were happy with the sweet little George V Farthing dated 1928, below, plus a few bits junk!



We are always on the lookout for more areas to search, so if you have (or know anyone who has) some land and are keen to see what is waiting to be found under your feet, then please do send me an email as we would love to hear from you! We are extremely tidy and respectful of the land and we take all rubbish away with us.

We are also fully insured with the NCMD (National Council for Metal Detecting). I would be more than happy to give a talk about this brilliant hobby to any local groups if interested.

There is nothing quite like being out in our beautiful countryside; one glorious Sunday last summer I spent a joyous (if quite tiring) six hours out on a dig where I topped up my very depleted Vitamin D in the sunshine, gazed at lapwings twisting and turning in the sky as they tried to guard over their chicks floundering in the field among us and marvelled at hares flying through the undergrowth, all the while being carefully monitored by the 5 or 6 red kites soaring above us. What’s not to love?

Gaynor and Josie White
Familywhite25@gmail.com
07985046977



35 Years Ago

By Issue 11, we are starting to take adverts. The first, in Issue 10, was by Peter Robins, our local builder.

In this issue Mike Robinson, the furniture restorer placed his first advert, and continues to advertise to this day! Thank you for your support over 35 years, Mike! In this issue there is mention of

the collapse of the company building the apartments in Barkham Manor, about the Children's party with Uncle Charley and I had forgotten that I wrote a piece about croquet!



BARKHAM VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1990

ISSUE 11

CHAIRMAN

Barkham Manor: The agents acting for Barkham Manor's owners inform us that the building contractors working on the site have got into financial difficulties and are now in Receivership. The apartments that have been finished are still technically on the market, but further development at the Manor will not take place until a new building contractor has been appointed.

let will be published by the end of the year, 1990, and be available through the Association and several outlets. More details will be contained in the next newsletter.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

April



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

I had no idea how eager parents would be to dispose of their children on a January Saturday afternoon!! With several days to go before "Uncle Charley" was due to appear ticket sales were not looking too good. The 'flu virus was subsiding but 63 children made an overnight recovery when they heard of the games, tricks, "Punch and Judy" and tea that we had planned.

Annual Children's Christmas Party



EASTER EGG HUNT DAY 15 APRIL

The special committee is organising children's chocolate egg hunt in a specified area within the village. We propose to place several chocolate eggs along the paths and bridleways and

tramp when ever hopefully will be wearing best bib and tucker!

These new activities which being arranged, are intended to bring the community a variety of events which hopefully cover a wide spectrum of interests with the Parish. In order to cater for a variety of interests, the Association always welcomes the views of any member or parishioner as to the type and venue of event to be organised. If you would like to contact me, John Adams, or Gary Brookes (Chairman of the Social Committee) we would be pleased to discuss with you any event which could be organised for the community.

Richard Noble is currently compiling a brief "History of Barkham". It is hoped that the

still a vacancy on the committee for a Press Officer. This position holds responsibility for liaison with the local press and media in general. We already have been made aware of a few



CROQUET

Looking for a new interest this summer? I wonder what impression this game creates in your mind. Perhaps an old fashioned game played by the Victorians and now rarely played. Perhaps a vicious game in which you put your foot on one ball and smash your opponent's ball into the bushes! Well, both are myths.

Alan's Patch

It's been a grey winter, little sunlight and plenty of wind and rain. At least my irrigation tanks are full! All the winter jobs have been done - washing and fumigating the greenhouse, adding wood chippings to subdue the weeds under the fruit bushes and trees, along the paths between the beds of the vegetable patch and in between the ornamental grasses. I've also spread the rotted compost from the bins.

In the ground from last year are cabbages, carrots, Jerusalem artichokes, leeks and perpetual spinach. I had plenty of Cannellini and Borlotti beans which I store in jars ready for use in casseroles. In the freezer I have compotes of rhubarb, blackberries, raspberries and tayberries along with processed tomatoes, which I use in casseroles, soups etc.

The greenhouse is now back in action. Last week I set up the electric propagator and lights, to extend the daylight making the seeds grow stronger and bushier. In it I've sowed a few seeds - tomatoes and bell peppers plus some Little Gem lettuce which has germinated already. In addition, I've sown some carrot into the soil in the greenhouse.

For the coming season are autumn sown broad beans which, unlike last year, are thriving with the generally mild weather. Some covered by a wire basket. This is a family relic!



My father was a farmer and one of his lines was to grow potatoes. This basket, well over 60 years old, and still in perfect condition, was used to manually collect the potatoes that had been dug out by a tractor-drawn digger. My father would recruit a gang of the women in the village for the week or so that he was harvesting the potatoes and, of course, I was roped in. This was a labour-intensive back-breaking job that I used to hate! It's perhaps bizarre that I should retain this basket that reminds me of hard times!

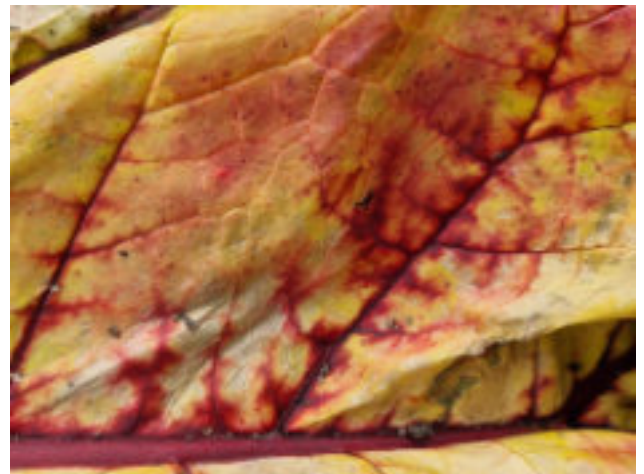
I've just sown the next batch of broad beans which will crop a little later.

I've never managed to produce a really good crop of aubergines. I suspect I would need to heat the greenhouse, and this is something I'm not willing to do. So, that's not on my list of seeds to sow this year.

Last year I moved my fairly new summer raspberries from a poorly chosen site along my boundary fence to a prime location in one of my beds. As you can see, I have erected posts and rail to support them and they have rewarded me by growing extremely well. They are clearly very happy! There is every chance of a bumper crop this summer. Something to look forward to!



Below is a photo of decaying rhubarb leaves last autumn which I find rather attractive. During the winter I dug up a surplus rhubarb plant and have some spare roots. Contact me if you would like to grow some, before I chop it up and compost it!



An unwanted visitor to my garden! I've not had deer in the garden before and I haven't found the gap in my defences yet!



Loddon Valley Ramblers is the local group of the national Ramblers and serves the Wokingham area.

The main aims of the group are:

- Protection and maintenance of public rights of way in Wokingham Borough to the benefit of all who use them
- Provision of group walks for members
- Organising walking holidays and related social activities for members

The group aims to achieve:

- Monitor rights of way in each parish including Barkham by regularly walking the paths and reporting problems (e.g. blockages, overgrowth, fallen trees etc) to Wokingham Borough Council.
- Seek to expand the rights of way network in the Borough, with both a practical and a campaigning aspect - we monitor planning applications and development proposals to identify options for new routes, and seeking to restore “lost” routes to the network.
- Undertaking practical work to improve the network through our group of volunteers, including path maintenance, gate installations, sign installations – we clear overgrown paths, improve path surfaces, install kissing gates to replace stiles and install signs. For example, we installed the gates on the footpath running from near the junction of Barkham Road and School Lane to Barkham Street (near the church). The removal of stiles and their replacement with gates is particular important, as people with restricted mobility find it difficult to negotiate stiles.
- Raise funds for our practical work
- Organising a substantial programme of shorter and longer

walks for our members in Wokingham and the surrounding area, with walks every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday throughout the year. The walks are in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire and Surrey (with a few in Greater London). We are a very friendly group, and these walks fulfil an important social function, alongside the pleasures and benefits of walking.

- Organising four walking holidays/ weekends per year for our members - recent trips have been to Devon, Wales, Cumbria, the Peak District, and we even organise foreign holidays (e.g. walking in the Pyrenees)
- Organising other social events - e.g. quiz nights, barn dances etc.

Recent activities of note include:

- Installing over 50 kissing gates to replace stiles in the past 7 or 8 years - we would like to install 25 more, but the requisite landowner permission is not forthcoming.
- Installing around 10 new public footpath signs across the Borough this summer (to assist Wokingham BC) and putting up roundel signs where required.

- Helping Wokingham Borough Council produce its new online definitive rights of way map, checking and verifying routes, and monitoring the accuracy of the definitive map
- Creating and continuing to maintain the Wokingham Way circular path round Wokingham Borough
- Creating sets of self-guided walks for publication on town and parish Council websites – e.g. for Earley and Woodley.

Loddon Valley Ramblers is run at local level by a small Committee.

To join our group, please join the national Ramblers – see <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/membership>

Once you have joined at national level, you can elect to join our group.

For more information about our group, including our walks, please visit <https://www.lvra.org.uk>

If you encounter any problems with rights of way in Barkham, please contact David Moffett, footpath warden for Barkham at davidrmoffett@yahoo.co.uk

If you encounter problems in other parts of the Borough, please contact our Footpath Officer, Steve Vale at stevevale1@aol.com

The picture below shows a kissing gate on Barkham FP 7, installed by Loddon Valley Ramblers volunteers.



Finchampstead Flower Club

Finchampstead Flower Club (FFC) meet at California Hall on the fourth Monday of the month, 7.30 for 8pm. £6 per visit to include refreshments. Since our Christmas extravaganza we have had a workshop where members were guided through an activity and our AGM, where we enjoyed a shared supper with a quiz. On 24th March our demonstrations will be by Graham King with the title "Inspirational". Graham is always inspirational and we leave with wonderful ideas for both arrangements and related crafts. Why don't you come along to be inspired? Please just turn up or contact the chair, Lis Barrett on 0118 989 2092 or Elisabeth.barrett.email@gmail.com for further information.

April will be another workshop, and May will be our club dinner but pencil in 23rd June and 23rd July for further demonstrations. We look forward to welcoming you. You can also follow our activities on our [website](#) or on [Facebook](#) <https://bit.ly/3X3OkzN> <https://bit.ly/4b0gDVr>



Kriss Turner



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SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK A MEETING WITH ME



We ladies are still meeting each month and had a busy schedule of events for the end of last year and also this New Year.

We enjoyed our annual Christmas Party at the Village Hall on Wednesday 4th December when, as ever, there was a wonderful buffet of varied and delicious food all prepared by the ladies.



We also had mulled wine and mince pies, and then a 'Secret Santa', so we all went home with gift. We had signed a large Christmas card and donated again for the 'Link Visiting Scheme' in lieu of sending cards to each other - this raised over £83 and the charity was so pleased.



Our January, '25 meeting on the 8th was a wonderful delicious lunch at the Bearwood Lakes Golf Club for 17 of our ladies, where

we relaxed afterwards with coffee or tea in the lounge by the open fire!

This brings us to our AGM on 5th February when we reviewed the last year, received the year's accounts, paid our subs again and discussed some of the forthcoming events for the new year.

And this year a 'Big Tea' charity event was held after the business had been completed. Diane, our Programme Secretary had organised this to raise funds for the NHS, especially for the Royal Berks Hospital charity. We enjoyed tea and delicious cakes (made by some of our ladies), took part in a Medical Quiz, and a game of 'Guess the number of Teabags in the Jar'. In all £87.60 was raised - a lovely amount for such a worthy charity.

Diane has once again arranged another year of interesting speakers and topics, including the return of Allan James, who last year brought and played his guitars for us. We enjoyed this so much and are looking forward to another musical evening with Allan. We will be having another Supper and Games/Quiz evening and our usual BBQ, and our first meeting of the year will be speaker, John Watson, talking about Frogmore Paper Mill, the birthplace of Industrial Paper. He will be bringing paper items with him for us to purchase if we wish. We meet every first Wednesday of the month at Barkham Village Hall, starting at 7.45pm. This year we have had three new members join us, and we always warmly welcome new members,

especially if any ladies are new to the area. We enjoy friendship and a very varied programme of speakers and topics, and events with refreshments, so for more information about us and joining the group please contact:

Shirley Warner, Chairperson on 0118 978 9124 or 07949234085

or by email on

shirleyannwarner@gmail.com

Quiz Answers

1. Mars – Deimos and Phobos
2. Gustav Holst
3. William Herschel
4. Mercury
5. Galileo
6. Dearth. Prefix Earth with 'd'
7. IO. One of Jupiter's Galilean moons and it doesn't even have a consonant!
8. *Dark Side of the Moon* by Pink Floyd
9. Venus
10. Mars, the UK home of the Mars bar!

Where in Barkham?

At the junction of Barkham Road and Barkham Street, opposite the Bull where the bus stop was.

Neighbours

1. Angola
 2. Uganda
 3. Central African Republic
 4. Rwanda
 5. Republic of Congo
 6. Zambia
 7. South Sudan
 8. Burundi
 9. Tanzania
- The Democratic Republic of the Congo has nine neighbours

Who said this?

Margaret Thatcher in 1988

CROWTHORNE Symphony ORCHESTRA

The orchestra is in full swing preparing for our Spring Concert at All Saints Church, Wokingham on Saturday March 29th and getting to know some marvellous music, some of it not previously so well known to many of us. Don't be put off if some of the composers sound rather 'modern' and perhaps not the sort of music that might appeal to you. I hope I can persuade you that the programme will be very enjoyable and uplifting!



The main work is the wonderful and not-so-modern, but rather unusual, *Symphony No. 3* by the French composer Camille Saint-Saëns, well known for his 'Carnival of the Animals' which was written the same year as this symphony (1886). The symphony is often called 'the Organ Symphony' as the organ plays a prominent and exciting part, hence it's 'nickname', and it is great to have the opportunity to use the organ at All Saints Church. We are also very pleased to have Reading-based organist David Pether joining us for this work. There is an excellent live recording of a 2013 Prom performance on YouTube which I especially recommend - the orchestra and their conductor, Paavo Järvi, are obviously enjoying it as much as the audience.

Alongside the Saint-Saëns we're presenting works by twentieth century composers based on music composed over 100 years earlier. One of these is by Paul Hindemith (1895-1963) who was a prolific German composer and viola player in the first half of the 20th century. He embraced many of the 'new' ideas developing at the time, but his music is much more accessible than might be expected. We will be playing his most popular composition, *Symphonic Metamorphosis of Themes* by Carl Maria von Weber, written in 1943. In this piece he takes melodies from

several works by Weber and transforms and adapts each of them, creating four very different but linked movements, all with wonderful orchestration. I particularly enjoy the 2nd movement which is adapted from Weber's overture to his incidental music for *Turandot* (not the Puccini one!). This scherzo revolves around a haunting Chinese melody introduced by the flute and then throughout each section of the orchestra. The percussion gets some very exciting passages! Altogether this piece leaves a smile on one's face.

The remaining pieces in our concert are by the great 20th century British composer Benjamin Britten. His "Soirées Musicales" is a suite of movements based on music composed by Rossini and includes many familiar and exuberant tunes and is great fun to play, and I'm sure it will have you tapping your feet and whistling some of the tunes on your way home! Completing the programme is Britten's wonderful *Symphonic Suite* from *Gloriana*.

Tickets are online from our website and under 19s are always free.



The orchestra has more than 60 regular members and rehearses weekly on Mondays in term time from 7.45-10pm at St Crispin's School, Wokingham. If you are interested in joining us, do get in touch. Our website has information about concerts, past and future, so do sign up for the orchestra's eNewsletter if you don't already receive it, as you will find more about us, our concert programmes and workshops, as well as special offers on tickets.

www.crowthorneorchestra.com

Chris Gadsby

Bracknell and Wokingham Choral Societies Concert

Two of Berkshire's best known choirs are combining together to perform Edward Elgar's monumental oratorio, *The Dream of Gerontius*, at Guildford Cathedral on Saturday 22nd March 2025 starting at 6pm. The concert will feature the 180 voices of the massed choir supported by the 60-piece British Sinfonietta Orchestra and the organist Ben Giddens together with three nationally acclaimed

professional singers. The two experienced musical directors, Greg Hallam and George de Voil, have been working extensively with the two choirs to prepare them for this ambitious work which demands both technical mastery as well as great emotional depth. Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* is widely regarded as one of the greatest achievements in British choral music. The oratorio, based on the poem by Cardinal John

Henry Newman, follows the spiritual journey of a dying man, Gerontius, as his soul passes into the afterlife, guided by a Guardian Angel.

As it is 125 years since Elgar wrote this extraordinary work it is appropriate that it is marked by what promises to be an outstanding performance set in the magnificent surroundings of Guildford Cathedral. Clearly a concert not to be missed.

Bracknell & Wokingham Choral Societies present a 125th Anniversary performance of

Elgar's Masterpiece The Dream of Gerontius

22 March 2025 6pm
Guildford Cathedral
Stag Hill, Guildford, GU2 7UP

Jonathan Cooke	Tenor
Felicity Buckland	Mezzo Soprano
Patrick Keefe	Bass
Ben Giddens	Organ
Greg Hallam	Chorus Master

British Sinfonietta directed
By George de Voil

www.bracknellchoral.org.uk
www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk

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BVRA COMMITTEE



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Liaises with Barkham Village
Hall



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Louise Goldring
Distribution Admin
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Newsletter Contributions

We welcome contributions to this newsletter either on a one-off basis, occasional or regular. We are keen to publicise any charity or events that may be of interest to Barkham residents. Please send them to the Newsletter Editor at newsletter@barkham.org.uk by the deadlines shown below.

Issue	Deadline	Distribution
Spring	15 th February	early March
Summer	9 th May	early June
Autumn	8 th August	early September
Winter	14 th November	early December

These are the second Fridays in February, May, August and November

Advertising

The newsletter is produced quarterly. The Spring issue is sent to 800+ households in Barkham, and the other three to the households who are paid-up BVRA members, which is currently 500+.

We offer four sizes of adverts which are shown in mm. The prices below are cover a whole year's advertising in our four issues.

Format	Advert size	Internal Pages	Back Page
Credit Card	60 x 50	£20.00	£30.00
Quarter Page	124 x 104	£50.00	£75.00
Half Page	190 x 130	£100.00	£150.00
Full Page	190 x 270	£200.00	£300.00

Please contact the Newsletter Editor to discuss your needs and supply your copy to newsletter@barkham.org.uk by the deadlines above.

Membership

Membership of the BVRA costs £3 per year and entitles you to receive four issues of this magazine.

To join please make your payment using one of the following ways:

1. By Direct Debit: set up using the link below

<https://barkham.org.uk/bvra/bvra-membership>



All direct debits are fully covered under the UK Direct Debit scheme.

2. By Bank Transfer: email us at membership@barkham.org.uk for details.
3. By cash, drop off your payment at one of our collection points around the village. Contact us at membership@barkham.org.uk for details.

Website



Facebook



BVRA EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt - 20th April @ 15:00
In the Junipers field

Skittles Evening - 17th May @ 19:00
Barkham Village Hall

Quiz Evening - 18th October @ 19:00
Barkham Village Hall

USEFUL CONTACTS

Barkham Parish Council

2nd Tuesday @ 19:30, no meeting in August
Held at Arborfield Green Community Centre
clerk@barkhamparish.gov.uk

St James Church, Barkham

<https://www.abch.org.uk>

Arborfield Gardening Association

Jan Heard
janaheard@btinternet.com

Bearwood Primary School

<https://www.bearwood-pri.wokingham.sch.uk/web/>

The Bull at Barkham

0118 304 2029
<https://bullatbarkham.com/>
Currently closed

The Coombes CE Primary School

<https://www.thecoombes.com>

Crowthorne Orchestra

<https://www.crowthorneorchestra.com/>
secretary@crowthorneorchestra.com

Finchampstead Flower Club

4th Monday @ 20:00
Held at California Ratepayers Hall
<https://bbandoflowers.org.uk/clubs/finchampstead/>

Loddon Valley Ramblers

Walks on Sundays, Tuesdays & Thursdays
<https://www.lvra.org.uk/>

Sing for your Self (term time)

Tuesdays @ 12:30
Arborfield Village Hall
www.singforyourself.co.uk

Trinity Concert Band

<https://www.trinityband.co.uk>

Please contact the editor to add or change the
information on this page newsletter@barkham.org.uk

BARKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Bookings <https://hallbookingonline.com/barkham>

Art Class

Wednesdays @ 19:30
Kay Young - kaycatlady65@gmail.com
Jean Kidwell - jean.kidwell@outlook.com
0118 9629076, 07952 416383

Barkham Ladies Social Club

1st Wednesday @ 19:30
Shirley Warner 0118 978 9124
shirleyannwarner@gmail.com

Barkham Pre-School

Tues-Fri @ 08:30
<https://www.barkhampreschool.net/>
preschoolbarkham@gmail.com

Bonsai Club

2nd Wednesday @ 19:30
www.berkshirebonsai.co.uk

Brownies

Wednesdays @ 17:00 (term time)

Dinton Walking Group Social

2nd Tuesday @ 19:30 (not June or December)
dintonwalkinggrp@yahoo.co.uk

Dog Training

Mondays @ 18:30
Lesley Slade 07885 899073

Home Educational Teens

Tuesday @ 14:00 - 16:00
Paul Bagley
Paulbagley@rocketmail.com

Martial Arts Class

Thursdays @ 19:00
Combat Academy UK
Andy Holmes 07783 206737
<https://facebook.com/CombatAcademyUKBarkham>

Pilates Class

Mondays @ 10:00 and
Thursdays @ 18:00
Vicky's Pilates 07729 783240

Rainbows

Tuesdays @ 16:30 (term time)

Simply Fit

Saturdays @ 08:30
Melissa Buckle
melissa@simplyfitberkshire.co.uk

The Sun Room Band

1st, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays @ 20:00
Keith 07771 974796
keith.hayden.uk@ntlworld.com
www.lemonrock.com/thesunroomband

Sunday Club

Sundays @ 09:00
Julian Bidgood
office@abch.org.uk

U3A Music Groups

Group 1: 2nd & 4th Mondays @ 14:30
Group 2: 1st & 3rd Mondays @ 13:30

Youth Club

Fridays @ 19:00
Rev Iain Lingwood
iain.lingwood@abch.org.uk

Arborfield Tree Care

The Tree Company Others Look ^{UP} To



office@arborfieldtreecare.org 0118 976 1000

Arborfield Log Supplies

The Household Name For Firewood



info@arborfieldlogsupplies.co.uk 0118 976 1156

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woodchiptwo@gmail.com

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*By improving posture, reshape your body
relieve tension and create
a general feeling of well-being.
Pilates is medically recommended
to help relieve back pain and stress*

Call Vicky on 0118 989 2571 or 07729 783240



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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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