



Barkham Newsletter

£2, free to Members

Issue 155 Spring 2026

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

MEMBERSHIP subscriptions are now due, see Page 5

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday 5th April

3pm at the Junipers, Elizabeth Park

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



Skittles Evening

Saturday 9th May

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

Barkham Village Hall

Supper included - LICENSED BAR

Tickets: £15 from Gill Powell

social@barkham.org.uk

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- *Barkham Parish Council*
- *BVRA Membership*

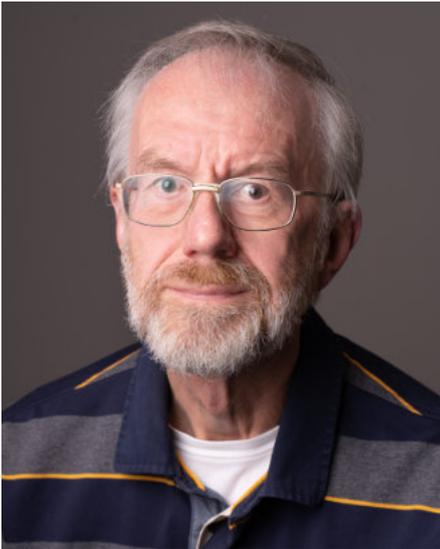
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Editorial



With so much rain over the past few months it's apt that this should be something of a Thames Water special issue with two stories. Firstly, about the new trunk main project running through the heart of the village and, secondly, about the burst main in Bearwood Road in January. See Pages 5 and 11 respectively.



This is the time of year for renewal, as the crocuses show. It's also time to renew your membership of the BVRA! Please see Page 5.

I am pleased to bring a new regular contributor, Derek Oxbrough, our local tree warden. See Page 14.

Members of the Coombes Woodland Committee have been busy, see what they have been up to on Page 15.



The play about resident Pam Stubbs' battle with the Post Office is touring nationally and will conclude its run in Reading in April. See Page 20.



It was sad that the Bull closed again just before Christmas. According to the sign outside, it will re-open soon. I miss the ale which was well kept and the food. I hope it reopens soon.

The *Community Governance Review* (the greatest impact of which, for most of us, is a review of parish boundaries) has resulted in an unsatisfactory outcome. See **Opinion** on Page 3.



Annual Litter Pick

The annual litter pick, organised by Barkham Parish Council, will be held on Sunday 22nd March between 10:00 and 12:00. See Page 5.

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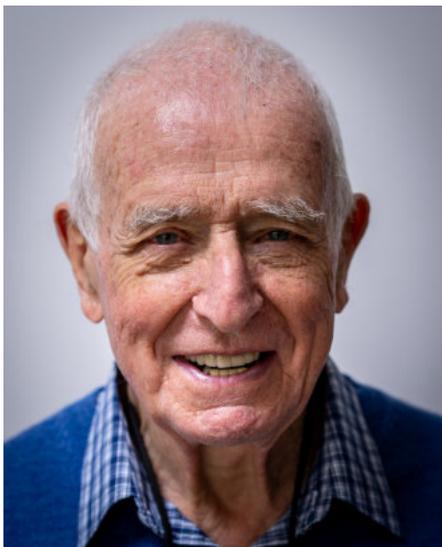
Email Updates

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



What has happened in the three months since our December issue?

Another application - ancillary to and part of the major Hall Farm (Loddon Garden Village) development proposal has been put in by Gleeson Homes (252769) applying for 60 houses on land at Newlands Farm, Mole Road. The Loddon Garden Village proposals are included in the draft Local Plan which has gone through the first stage will be discussed again with the Ministry appointed Inspectors, at the Second Stage Enquiry starting on 17th March.

Will we see the Local Plan being approved in 2026? Its approval will certainly give us greater protection from speculative development applications being made that are not in the Plan.

Decisions are awaited on planning applications that have been made on land between School Road and Langley Common Road for 27 dwellings (252595), and on the application (250733) for up to 135 dwellings on land between the Arborfield by-pass (A327) and Eversley Road Arborfield. Neither of these developments were anticipated in the draft Local Plan.

And a decision is awaited on the Limmer Hill public enquiry appeal that was held on the 17th February on the land behind the Leathern Bottel

for 60 houses - accessed onto Barkham Road through the pub's land - perhaps not an ideal access point.

Crest Nicholson were planning a pre-application public consultation on 25th February for a proposed application for development of some 330 dwellings on the land at Arborfield Studios adding to the Arborfield Green development. This was envisaged in the draft Local Plan. So a formal planning application can be anticipated quite soon.

In the December issue I reported on a pre-application consultation having been made by Bewley Homes envisaging a development of 49 dwellings on the land between Edneys Hill and Barkham Road accessed by a new road following the demolition of 368 Barkham Road. But so far, at the time of writing, no planning application has been submitted. You will recall that an earlier application was made by Bewley Homes on this site for a slightly smaller number of dwellings which was hotly contested by local residents and was refused by the Borough Council - and not appealed.

The long anticipated start of construction of the large solar farm off Barkham Ride has been postponed - probably by some years - due to consent for connection to the national grid having been refused at this time.

By the time you are reading this a section of Bearwood Road will have been closed to allow Thames Water to install a new water main to serve Arborfield Green and its new proposed extension on land lying to its east towards Barkham Square. See Page 7 for more details.

The long standing work to repair the aftermath of the Evendons Lane sink hole may have been completed by the time this Newsletter is published. This will open Evendons Lane and Edneys Hill to through traffic which will not be welcomed by all as it is used as a "cut through".

Opinion

The *Community Governance Review* being conducted by Wokingham Borough Council is nearing completion. One of its purposes is to review parish boundaries, to reflect the effect of housing development on local communities.

This was the ideal opportunity to rationalise the boundaries for the major new development, branded by the builders as Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park, on the site of the old Arborfield REME garrison. It currently lies in four parishes, with each setting its own precept. Some charge their residents significantly more than others, as part of their Council Tax, even though the services provided are much the same.

One option was to create a brand new parish with a new name, which could not include Arborfield in its name, as that would cause confusion with the parish of Arborfield and Newland. Most of the development lies in Barkham so another option was to move it all into Barkham, and until recently this was the expected outcome.

However in its wisdom, as I understand it, WBC has decided to minimise the alterations and has even moved some houses from Barkham into Finchampstead.

As one resident told me, "I live in Barkham but my postal address is Arborfield and now I'm going to be moved into Finchampstead, all very confusing!"

In my opinion it makes no sense to retain this split community. The point about boundary changes is to reflect the community as it changes. And yet the split community is set to continue.

If you are interested in this topic you might like to explore this issue by questioning your Parish and Borough Councillors.



News from Barkham Parish Council

Message from the Chairman

There is a lot happening within Barkham Parish Council at the moment. Work continues jointly with Arborfield and Newlands Parish Council on the Neighbourhood Plan, and we would like to thank Ian Cunningham, Graeme Dexter, local resident Rob Rowe, and others for their contributions on our behalf.

Two of our councillors, Amit Seth and Ian Lawlor, have been busy with community engagement, primarily through visits to local schools and youth organisations. They are currently helping to deliver a much-needed outdoor learning facility for Nine Mile Ride School. This project, jointly funded with Finchampstead Parish Council, will be opened at the beginning of March by our Vice Chair and local celebrity, Pam Stubbs. Many Barkham children attend Nine Mile Ride School, making this a particularly valuable initiative for our community. This is the first of several community projects we have identified, and Amit and Ian are continuing to explore others.

As a Parish Council, we have debated over a couple of meetings whether the Name of the Parish Council is appropriate to the overall community that we serve, given the size of Arborfield Green within the Parish.

The conclusion we have jointly come to is that, the naming is of lesser importance than the contribution that we make to the community, therefore no change. However, our recently formed Communications team will be actively working to ensure that all areas of the Parish feel part of our Parish Community, and I am delighted that we have some excellent expertise to help with this.

Last weekend a Coombes Woodland Committee Member and I met with Simon from Country side services at the Wood Lane entrance to the Coombes Woodland to agree the installation of Bollards to prevent 4x4 access. We have had two incursions to date, but this should help protect the woodlands from future damage.

Finally, the upcoming Thames Water main works will significantly impact our community. I encourage everyone to support valuable local assets - such as our Post Office - over the coming months.

Cllr Mike Barker, Chairman

Planning

Recent applications under consideration by WBC are:

252498 - Hall Farm, Church Lane, Arborfield, RG2 9HX

Application for up to 2,800 residential units, two primary schools, one secondary school, a district centre, a sports hub, healthcare facilities, open space and play areas. The Parish Council objected to this application.

252769 - Land North of Mole Road and Church Lane, Newlands Farm, RG2 9JD

Application for up to 430 dwellings, associated infrastructure, a new pedestrian and cycle link, landscaping, utilities and engineering works. The Parish Council objected to this application.

252595 – Land Rear of Langley Common and South of School Road, Barkham

Application for a phased development of up to 27 dwellings, including one self-build plot, a new access onto School Road, and a new pedestrian/emergency link onto Langley Common Road, with landscaping, infrastructure and overflow parking. The Parish Council objected to this application.

The Council's full responses are available on the WBC Planning Portal.

Limmer Hill Appeal

The Limmer Hill Development Appeal Hearing is scheduled to take place over four days from 17 February.

Residents are encouraged to stay engaged with local planning matters and can view or comment on applications via the WBC Planning Portal: <https://planning.wokingham.gov.uk/FastWebPL/welcome.asp>

Arborfield & Barkham Joint Neighbourhood Plan

Arborfield & Newland and Barkham Parish Councils are continuing to work hard on formulating the content of their joint Neighbourhood Plan. Work is being supported by planning consultants, O'Neill Homer. The Plan will provide a vision of the future for the Parishes and will be informed by the opinions of the community. It will be a valid legal planning document which we hope will add weight to our views and our influence on planning decisions made at Borough level. There are no guarantees, but we must try to preserve our village identity!

The next stage of the process is a public consultation with YOU, the residents!! The following events are scheduled for you to find out more and have your say:

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 7 March 2026 | 2pm-5pm | Farley Hill School |
| 21 March 2026 | 2pm-4pm | Arborfield Village Hall |
| 28 March 2026 | 2pm-4pm | Barkham Village Hall |

A webinar will be scheduled to take place following these in-person events for those unable to attend.

A website is currently being set up which will include lots of information about the joint Neighbourhood Plan. It will also include a survey which we would like you to complete.

Look out for banners/posters/flyers arriving soon!

Thames Water Mains Upgrade

See BVRA article on Page 7.

Community Governance Review Update

A Community Governance Review (CGR) is the process by which the Borough Council reviews parish boundaries to ensure they reflect local communities and support effective governance. Wokingham Borough Council has completed its CGR, with final recommendations approved on 22 January 2026.

The original recommendation was to move nearly 300 homes in the Kingsley Park and Nightingale Fields areas (either side of the Nine Mile Ride Extension) from Finchampstead Parish into Barkham Parish, so that all of Arborfield Green would be governed together. In the final outcome, these homes remain within Finchampstead, meaning Arborfield Green remains split between parishes.

Barkham Parish Council has reviewed the outcome carefully and has raised several process-related concerns with Wokingham Borough Council. These include how community identity was assessed, how different areas of the SDL were considered, and the potential implications for local governance. The Parish Council believes the decision may create challenges for residents and for the long-term management of parish responsibilities.

The Parish Council has asked the Borough Council to respond to these points. There are no immediate changes to local services or council tax, and residents will be kept informed as the matter progresses.

Annual Litter Pick

The annual litter pick has been arranged and will take place on Sunday 22 March 2026, from 10am until 12 noon. This year we have 2 meeting places, one at Barkham Village Hall, Church Lane and one at Arborfield Green Community Centre, Sheerlands Road.

Please come along and lend a hand but remember to wear gloves, strong footwear and suitable clothing. Please bring along your own litter picker and Hi Vis if you have them otherwise, they can be provided while stocks last.

BVRA Membership for 2026

Firstly, a huge thank you to all those residents who have already paid their fees for 2026 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.

Thank You

The BVRA Membership Team

Update from our Borough Councillor



2026 has started with a busy borough council agenda. In January, the council reviewed proposals to change parish boundaries, with some changes being approved between Barkham and Finchampstead and Arborfield & Newland. The major change proposed to incorporate the large Finchwood Park development into Barkham will not happen, though a smaller change to consolidate the Arborfield Green development into Barkham is still possible.

Our roads are showing the impact of a prolonged freeze in January followed by continuous rainfall. I report potholes when I see them and any resident can do the same, just search online for “Wokingham

report pothole” for the online reporting page. All reports get inspected, and serious issues get at least a ‘make-safe’ temporary repair within 2 hours of inspection. Less serious issues have a 24 hour or 28-day target for repair. Resident reports play a big role in keeping our roads safe.

Thames Water’s project to replace the water main all the way from Highlands Avenue to Arborfield Studios will have a big impact on the village over the next few months. The work is needed to replace the failing pipes and to provide water for the existing and future development. I have asked council officers to ensure that Thames Water’s proposals minimise disruption, and I will keep a close eye on this. The work at Molly Millars Lane in Wokingham is due to complete in Mid-March, with just a few overnight closures thereafter to finish the connections to the new distributor road.

In November, Wokingham’s plan to meet the government set housing target progressed through its first public examination. Many of us

feel the extent of development in this area is disproportionate, but this has been unavoidable since development at Hall Farm was proposed in 2021. Importantly, if the plan is agreed later this year, we will have more power to resist the smaller speculative developments in our area which offer few benefits to the community and eat into the remaining green spaces between existing housing.

After a year off, 2026 sees the return of borough council elections to Barkham, a chance to elect one of your 3 borough councillors. The Liberal Democrat candidate will be Mohima Bose, a primary school teacher who has lived in the borough for 30 years. I know Mohima will work as hard to represent our community as I do, and I hope you will consider giving her your vote on 7th May.

Cllr Adrian Betteridge

Ed: In case you are wondering, we do have two other Ward Councillors, Conservatives, George Evans and Joseph Barley, but I have received no contributions from them since just after their election two years ago.

Snowdrops at Welford Park, near Newbury



Thames Water Major Project

By the time you read this, you should be aware that Thames Water will be installing a 'trunk' water mains to serve the increasing



population in the new developments of Arborfield Green and Finchwood Park, where the water pressure is very low in places. Thames Water have increased the pressure of the existing mains supply in recent years to try and ameliorate the situation and this might account for the major burst mains pipes at the south end of Bearwood Road just after Christmas, and the previous one a few metres along the road some 3-4 years ago, also over Christmas. See Page 11 for more about this incident.

This project entails running a new large diameter water pipe along Bearwood Road from Highlands Avenue past the Lilacs and to Barkham Road. It will then turn right down the hill, past the Manor and the Bull, along Langley Common Road, finishing at Arborfield Studios.

This project has been in the pipeline (if you'll excuse the pun!) for many years but is going to start on 16th February and is expected to take about 20 months to complete, with the Bearwood Road phase taking some six months. During this time the road will be closed (they call it a hard closure) with diversions in place which will guide traffic via Barkham Road, Langley Common Road, Eversley Road, Sindlesham

Road and Mole Road.

We understand that the closure will be in short sections working along the road and that access to homes will be maintained throughout using metal plates as bridges where necessary. Access might be in one direction only.

As we understand it, there will be minimal disturbance or alteration to the water mains pipes that serve us, but in due course the pressure is expected to be lowered which should reduce leaks, such as those mentioned above.

The contract has been awarded to the M Group, and we have been assured by Thames Water staff at a public meeting in the Village Hall on 9th January that there will be M Group staff on hand to deal with issues and questions. Residents in the locality can expect to receive mail drops anytime soon to tell you more about what is in store for us.

This is obviously going to be very disruptive for us all for an extended period of time, let's hope the contractor does a good job and completes the project ahead of time.

You can find out more about the various phases of the road closure plan at:

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

We sent a DevWatch email alert in the middle of January. If you didn't receive that alert and wish you had, then I suggest you sign up for email alerts. See Page 2 for details on how to set up.

As a community, staying connected, patient and informed will make this period easier for everyone. We will continue sharing updates as the project moves forward.

Thanks to BPC for providing some of this information.

What You Say about Us!

Occasionally we receive feedback about our activities and last month we received two contrasting messages which I thought might be of interest.

Following the Thames Water trunk main project DevWatch notice:

"Many thanks you for all your efforts in providing details of the imminent phased installation of the Thames Water Trunk Main. I can imagine the disruption to traffic locally, and in the surrounding areas, as being enormous during this period."

"My wife and I want you to know that we appreciate all the work you do in keeping everyone informed on what is happening in our area and with future proposals. It's with the information you so tirelessly provide which enables people to fight unjust issues. We have lived in Barkham for 49 years now and have seen enormous changes to the area in that time, some good and some not so good."

"Anyway, this note is primarily to thank you for all the work and effort you put in to the benefit of the Barkham residents."

And following the DevWatch alert about the Limmerhill Appeal:

"Do you guys just complain all the damn time. You do realise that people need a place to live."

We try to keep you informed of activities in the village likely to be of interest. It just goes to show that we can't please all of you all of the time!



Preventing Fraud

Stop and think about fraud - It could protect you and your money.

Fraud is a deceptive act intended to result in financial or personal gain for the perpetrator while causing harm or loss to the victim. It encompasses a wide range of illegal activities.

Every year, the British public loses billions of pounds to fraudsters. With scams ranging from the simplest confidence trick to the most sophisticated high-tech online fraud, it pays to keep up to date with the latest news and advice.

Courier Fraud

Criminals pose as police or bank staff and pressure victims to withdraw cash, buy high value items or move funds to a "safe account". Losses across the Thames Valley exceeded £2m last year.

Prevention: Hang up; call your bank/police on a known number; never share PINs or One Time Passcodes (OTPs); the police or bank will never send a courier or ask you to move money.

Fake parking QR codes

Many QR stickers on parking machines and their signage are fraudulent.

Prevention: Do not scan QR stickers; pay only via RingGo, bank card, or other official methods shown on the machine and report suspicious stickers.

"Hi Mum/Hi Dad" message impersonation

Fraudsters can now use AI generated voice notes to impersonate your children.

Prevention: Call back on a known/saved number or agree a family codeword and never transfer to a new account based on messages alone.

Report Fraud UK

has replaced Action Fraud as the national reporting centre for all incidents of fraud and cybercrime providing a single gateway for reporting and intelligence.

Report online at

www.reportfraud.police.uk

or call 0300 123 2040. You will receive a crime reference and victim support signposting. Forward suspicious texts to 7726.

For wider phishing emails, use

report@phishing.gov.uk

History Books

The "Barkham A History" book can be obtained from the BPC 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.




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St James' Barkham



What would you say?

Hundreds of churches around the country are asking 'Do you ever feel like something's missing?' to people in their communities this year as they organise events providing an opportunity to learn more about the hope, purpose and life that can be found in Jesus Christ.

Take part in our anonymous survey

At Barkham Church we are running a survey that asks people how they would respond to the question above as well as asking about people's experience of church and to what extent they are interested in exploring further. It is completely anonymous (unless you specifically request for us to be in touch) and only takes a few minutes. Access the survey via the QR code below.



Starting at Easter, we will devote some Sundays to addressing the issues that come up in the survey most often, as well as running other events designed for those who want to explore further. Visit our website www.abch.org for more details. And if you would like to dig deeper straight away we would recommend findlifeinjesus.org

Easter at Barkham Church

Good Friday Easter Story Trail:

Friday 3 April 2-4pm at the Junipers park. Ideal for families with young children, but open to all! Follow the trail that leads you to successive episodes in the Easter story, before returning to the Junipers for Easter treats and crafts. There is no charge for this activity.

Easter Sunday Services

Join us at 10am and 6pm as we celebrate the wonder of the resurrection. The morning service will be all-age, so children will be included in the whole service.

As ever, you will always be very welcome.

Julian Bidgood

Minister of Barkham



The Quiz

Some football clubs move to new stadiums from time to time. Here are some of the grounds that the 92 English football league clubs have used. Do you know the name of the club and the name of their current ground?

1. Maine Road
2. Elm Park
3. Goldstone Road
4. Ayresome Park
5. Roker Park
6. Victoria Ground
7. Burnden Park
8. Baseball Ground
9. The Dell
10. Filbert Street

Answers on Page 19

Where in Barkham?

Where is this sign? You don't have to walk in the woods or across fields to find this one.

Answer on Page 19



Neighbours

One of the newer countries in Europe is North Macedonia. Do you know how many and which countries border it?

Answers on Page 19

Wild About the Coombes



I wasn't far into the Coombes for a walk one February morning when I heard quite a commotion going on ahead of me. There was a lot of shouting, apparently directed at a dog, which was too distracted to pay any attention to its owner, who was frantically pushing through some dense vegetation to reach it. The dog had hold of a deer by the neck, pinning it to the ground. The owner hauled the dog off the traumatised animal and dragged it back through the undergrowth to the path. When asked if there was anything they could do, my advice was to get the dog quickly away from the deer.

During what was only two or three minutes, the dog walker had displayed an amazing range of emotions – surprise, panic, frustration, anger, determination, shock, sympathy, embarrassment, fear and relief.

Now it was my turn to push through the vegetation to the deer. I didn't want to frighten it unnecessarily by getting too close but I did want to see what state it was in. It was lying on its side with its neck and head upright, breathing heavily. There was a wound on its neck, with blood in the surrounding fur, but it didn't seem to be bleeding heavily.

The only other significant injury that I could see was to one of its hind legs. (Readers of a squeamish disposition may wish to jump straight to the next paragraph at this point.) The ankle was broken, with the hoof hanging by skin and tendons alongside the exposed shin bone like a glove. It didn't look like a new injury. Instead I think this was probably a doe that I had been watching a couple of days earlier. She had been hobbling around, foraging, with one hind leg held off the ground. There had been a second deer close by, apparently standing guard for its mate. He seemed to be aware of me, standing a good 20m away behind some trees, but he was obviously not too concerned about my presence.

I returned to check on the deer every half hour or so through the morning. Each time she seemed to have moved a few metres but was always still lying down, breathing heavily, with her head held up. I grew in confidence that she would recover enough to limp away,

and I would come back to find her gone.

Returning after lunch, she was still where she had spent the morning, but sadly the poor animal had passed away.

Not wishing to leave her lying on the ground for other dogs to find and develop a taste for venison, I decided to bury the doe. She could continue to play a role in the ecosystem, but serving other life towards the bottom of the food chain. I dug a hole several metres from where she had perished, and further out of the way. I then carried her to it, and covered her over in a shallow grave.

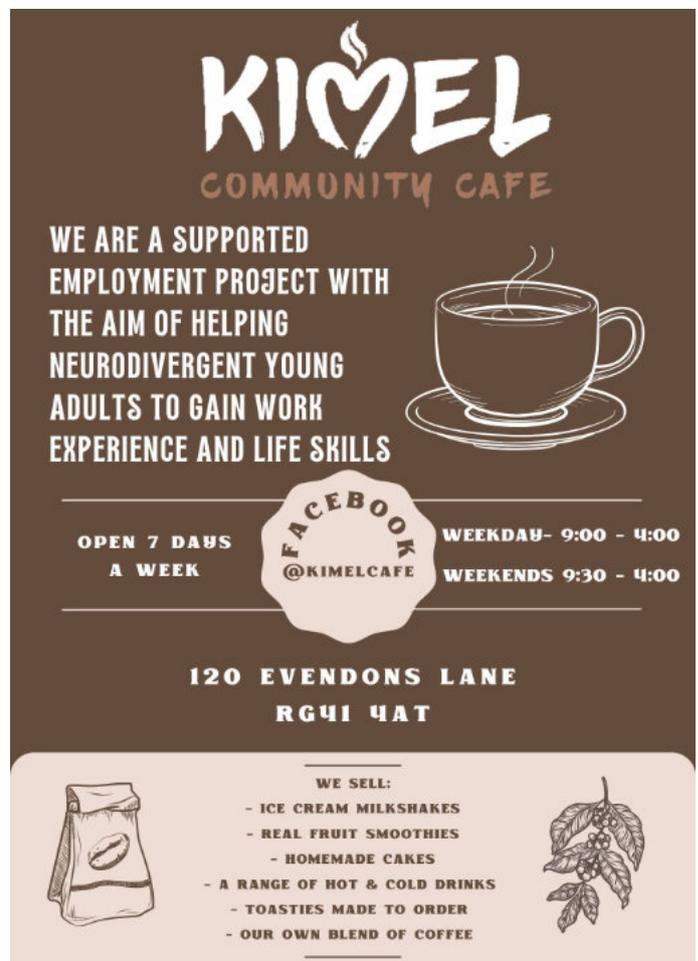
She had not had the best of lives, becoming disabled and more vulnerable to attack, then succumbing prematurely to a carnivore's natural predatory instinct.

I am conscious that some people keep their dogs on leads in the Coombes, with a few even choosing to muzzle their pets. I imagined that this was done mainly in consideration of other people in the woods who may find their dogs uncomfortably boisterous. Since the incident with the deer, though, I think it may go further than that. Perhaps they are taking a wider view and doing it out of respect for the wildlife that inhabits the woodland.

We all have lives that may be quite different from people like ourselves. How our lives turn out can depend very much on luck, good or bad. It is just the same for lives in the wild.

Joe Wild

Ed: the photo is one of mine from a few months ago



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Thames Valley Lakes!

I am fortunate to have had very few problems with utilities over the years, but recently there was a major incident in the village that few residents will have failed to notice and that affected me personally and which gave me a fresh insight into how the utility companies work.

I share this experience, as a resident, not as editor of this magazine.



On 30th December a burst water main flooded the south end of Bearwood Road. Thames Water set up camp and blocked the odd side of the road and set up temporary lights to control the traffic. On 2nd January, BT/ OpenReach removed the telegraph pole, disconnected the wiring and made temporary connections to most houses but not mine among others. During the repair time, of course we lost our water supply, but only for a few hours and Thames Water provided plenty of water bottles.

Surprisingly, when they finished for the weekend they removed the temporary traffic lights and replaced them with ill thought-out road closure signs.

Drivers were confused whether they should enter Bearwood Road on the wrong side of the road. Some turned in anyway, while others hesitated, some making a U-turn (a popular word these days!). One even did a three point turn on the roundabout while the other drivers watched on. One photo shows that at least one car hit the road closure signs.

I can't complain about lack of road closure signs. They started towards the Sindlesham end of Bearwood Road and there were several coming up the hill heading to Wokingham,

one of which blocked much of the pathway.



I am grateful to the support of Mike Barker, chairman of the Parish Council and Adrian Betteridge, our Ward councillor and Clive Jones, our MP.

Had Thames Water left the temporary traffic lights in place then we would have avoided this safety issue and I can't help wondering whether the reason for replacing the traffic lights with the road closure signs was because it was cheaper.

By 8th January, the road was cleared and traffic was back to normal. In

all it took ten days to repair the leak.

But it was not until 18th January that BT/OpenReach replaced the pole and reinstated the lines. 16 days without broadband or a telephone line is a long time, these days..

I experienced first hand just how hard it is these days to report or get updates on problems with utility companies such as Thames Water or BT. They outsource their work, sometimes to two levels and if you eventually get to speak to someone they don't know what's going on and rely on reports from their sub-contractors. It is very frustrating.

This experience is a reminder to me of how dependent we are on our broadband to run our daily lives. It's hard to make a complaint or chase progress without broadband. Of course, we can use our mobile phone data but I don't have a huge monthly amount.

Eventually BT sent me a wi-fi hotspot box which connects to the mobile phone network, so that was a big help for the final week.

Another positive is that a few weeks later I received a credit from BT for the loss of service, which was nice.

This is the second time in recent years that there has been a leak in this same spot. In fact one of my witty correspondents referred to the area as Thames Water Lakes!

Thames Water make the point that the increase in leaks recently might be caused by their need to increase the water pressure in order to serve the residents of Arborfield Green. This increasing demand is the reason for the forthcoming installation of a new trunk main that is going to cause so much disruption to the village over the next year or two, see **Page 7**. Let's hope that the traffic management is better organised during this project.

BVRA Social



It's Newsletter time again and we are now well into 2026. Since Christmas and the New Year we've had spells of very cold weather followed by prolonged weeks of rain and yet more rain! I think we are all longing for drier spells.

We hope Spring will bring better things and the signs are here - snowdrops are blooming and daffodils are already shooting so maybe it won't be long.

Since the last Newsletter we have had one event - the *Carols in the Park* on 12th December which was attended by 60 carollers - families, and adults and children all singing along to the Breakaway Brass Band.

After starting in the Woodlands they slowly made their way to the edge of the Junipers Park where there was more hearty singing,

and then they were treated to mulled wine, or soft drinks and mince pies. This was a lovely celebration of our community 'festive spirit' in the run up to Christmas.



A bucket collection was made for the Band as a 'thank you' for kindly giving up their free time to play for us, and I'm pleased to say we were able to donate £100 to them.



Special thanks also go to all the BVRA team and all other helpers who made this such a great event.



Our first event of 2026 will be the Children's Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, 5th April. This will take place at 3pm in the Junipers Park, and entrance is £1 per child.

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

While the children are searching for their tokens to exchange for little chocolate eggs the parents and adults, will be able to buy raffle tickets for the Giant Egg and other chocolate prizes.

This is always a fun family event and seems to be over in a flash as tokens are usually found quite

quickly, and then there is the surprise of who has won the Big Egg !

The popular Family Skittles Evening is booked for Saturday 9th May in the Village Hall at 7:00 for 7:30pm. There will be a Ploughman's Supper and a licenced bar available, and tickets costing £15 per person can be obtained from Gill Powell by emailing social@barkham.org.uk

Other events planned and booked for this year are:

* The Annual Quiz on Saturday 24th October

* Carols in the Park on Friday 11th December

Details of these events will appear

in future issues of the Newsletters, on posters around the village, on the BVRA website and on the Facebook page.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the events. They are a great way of meeting people if you are new to the area.

The Social Team are always looking for new people to join them and help with events, so if you are interested please contact Gill Powell on

social@barkham.org.uk

for more information.

Shirley Warner
BVRA Committee and Social Committee Member



The band that performs for us at the Carols in the Park is the Breakaway Brass Band. Here is a little about them.



Breakaway Brass enjoy rehearsing every Tuesday evening in The Hub at the Baptist Church on Crowthorne High Street. We would like to thank the church for allowing us to make it our home for rehearsal. We are a small but very friendly brass band, an offshoot of the Bracknell and Wokingham Community Band organisation.

We delight in being a mixed age group from those in their twenties to those enjoying retirement and equally of mixed ability as far as brass playing is concerned! We play a variety of music from typical brass band marches through classical, film, musicals and popular music catering for the different abilities and tastes of our band members. We play out in the community in the Summer and at Christmas and hope to make a concert in the Baptist Church an annual event. There is a place for anyone who would like to join us

and we would welcome newcomers especially those seeking to take up banding again. So dust off those instruments and just turn up and give us a try. 8pm at the Baptist Church RG45 7AT, Tuesday evenings. Park around the corner in Heath Hill Road South and then through the front door of the church. What could be easier?

BreakawayBrass@outlook.com

alangravett@hotmail.com

<https://www.bwcb.org/breakaway-brass>

TREE-MENDOUS TREES - Part 1

Let me introduce myself. I am Derek Oxbrough, your local Tree Warden, and I have lived in Barkham for past 30 years. Also, I have been a member of the Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association for the past 10 years.

We are very lucky to have so many lovely trees in Barkham. We have one of the highest numbers of mature trees in the Wokingham Borough, and we have many tree-lined streets, Rooks Nest Wood, the Lime Tree Avenue and the Coombes Woodland.

Each issue I would like to bring you a report related to local trees and offer a "Help Desk" on local tree matters. Because, although I may not have all the answers, as a Tree Warden, I should be able to point you in the right direction to find an answer to your queries.

The sort of queries I envisage are:

- Trees at risk from developers or other construction projects
- Trees that are dangerous because of damage or disease
- Identifying Trees species and their classification
- Planting of new trees and their aftercare



To conclude this article, I would like to show a picture of one of my favourite trees in Barkham. It is located in the Junipers not far from the recreation ground entrance. Grid reference: SU 78590 67679

I particularly like its situation where it is almost enclosed by houses, but has been given the room to thrive, and it has a lovely very symmetrical oak tree shape and is about 400 years old.

Its shape is also unusual for an oak, in that the branches start very low down on the trunk, which could be the result of what is known as "Bundle Planting". This is where a bundle of young saplings has been planted together and then eventually they merge into a single trunk as they grow. If you go and have look at the trunk you can just see the signs of merged saplings as undulations in the trunk.

I look forward to receiving your trees queries or perhaps your favourites.

Derek Oxbrough - Tree Warden, Barkham

Email: doxbrough@hotmail.com

Tel: 01189 760578

For more information visit: <https://www.wdvta.org.uk/>

BARKHAM VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

BVH is pleased to announce two technology upgrades:

- Our internet connection has been poor for many years, and we've listened to everyone's feedback. We now have full-fibre broadband, courtesy of Gigaclear.
- We've also added Bluetooth audio, making it easy to run a lively - even full-throttle - kids' party.

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



**DO YOU HAVE A
HEAD FOR NUMBERS
AND A HEART FOR
COMMUNITY?**

Barkham Village Hall, a much-loved and well-used space at the heart of village life, is looking for a volunteer **TREASURER** to join its friendly committee. You'll be responsible for overseeing financial transactions, preparing reports, and attending committee meetings every other month.

A full handover and support will be provided by the current Treasurer. This role comes with a small salary.

To find out more, contact the Barkham Village Hall Committee at 07596 554654 or barkhamvillagehall@outlook.com.

Snowdrops in the rain



MOVING HOUSE WAS A DRAG!

Most of the Coombes is Parish Council owned and looked after by the Coombes Woodland Committee, or CWC

A team of CWC volunteers have been in action recently, removing the remains tree house in the Coombes. The tree house had been an elaborate structure and sturdily built with sections spanning two ancient yew trees. However, much of the structure depended on branches and trunks from fallen trees, and these were starting to rot. The CWC was concerned about the risk of collapse as it weakened, particularly if this was caused by someone climbing onto the bridge between the two yew trees. The fall of three metres to the ground could have led to serious injury.



Experts were called in to dismantle the structure at the end of November. Then on a Saturday morning in January a team of eight volunteers sorted the pile, leaving the natural timber to rot naturally in the woodland and the sawn timber and non-natural materials were collected and carried to the nearest byway.



The debris included broken metal tables and chairs, wheelbarrow parts, bits of a trampoline, rope and other materials. The volunteers made several journeys, carrying and dragging the rubbish 300m from where the contractors had piled it, and 20m higher, to the lane where Wokingham Borough Council's Countryside Service was good enough, and able, to send a pick-up truck to collect it for sorting and disposal.



Alan's Patch



Over the past few weeks I've been doing maintenance mostly. With the help of my son I replaced my vegetable beds using sleepers. These are so much more robust than the gravel boards I used previously. I reduced the number of beds in order to widen the paths, making access better. It means less growing space but I've plenty enough anyway so hopefully it will prove a good decision.

There was a lot of soil disturbance, as you would expect, and some crops like parsnips had to be dug up and buried elsewhere. And the overwintering spinach had to be moved, which has not done them much good.

As you can see there's not much growing just now! You might notice the last remaining red cabbage. At the far end the autumn sown broad beans are doing fine so far.

Among the vegetables in store are what's left of the bumper harvest of butternut squashes. I might struggle to use them all so if you are a neighbour please contact me and maybe I'll still have some spare.



In the greenhouse the tomatoes and chillis seeds have sprouted so the growing season is under way and I've been able to eat home grown lettuce under glass.



CALL TODAY 07769 224268 OR EMAIL LAWBERY17@GOOGLEMAIL.COM



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35 Years Ago

In Issue 15 we can see the jubilation at saving Evendons

Farm from development and an article from the Friends of the Earth, who were active here at that time. Finally, who remembers the

Playbus - I do, my kids went to that.

BV
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SPRING 1991

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As this is the first edit
Newsletter for 1991, I l
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FRIENDS OF THE EARTH



This is the third article reprinted from the World Wildlife Fund's leaflet "what on earth can I do" and covers changes that can be made at work to help the environment.

There is enormous wastage of paper and energy in the work place. Does your work place have an environmental policy? If not start one! Consider contacting your local council to see if they

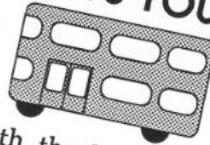
EVENDONS FARM SAVED

All it took was a chat over the garden gate... a few neighbours back in spring 1989 stood discussing a luminous orange Planning Permission notice for "development at Evendon's Farm" Amey Roadstone Company (ARC) was planning to develop the site from which it had been extracting sand by exchanging open fields for a "mini village".

Oh no! Not more houses! What about the traffic? Where will the sandmartins live? No more pleasant country walks! 369 local residents strongly objected and signed a petition. A Public Meeting followed at the end of April and the Evendons Farm Campaign Committee was formed.

Through newsletters, a questionnaire, liaison with MP. John Redwood, local councillors, other residents associations, local pressure groups and posters our campaign took shape.

A CHANCE OF A BUS YOU CANNOT MISS!



ated with the buses; drivers, committee members, driver organisers and bus maintenance groups are all voluntary. Indeed we could not exist without our friends!

We are working hard to bring one of our buses (the "Megabus" - it can currently be seen in the Safeway's car park at Woosehill) into your area - exact site to be decided - with sessions to start at the beginning of the summer

In Britain every year 130 million tonnes of cardboard, newspapers and other waste end up in landfill.

- Save energy and thus reduce carbon dioxide. Turn off lights that you are not using, reduce unnecessary lighting and use energy efficient light bulbs with energy efficient ones.
- Is the workplace being cleaned with environmentally safe products?
- WWF supports the use of recycled paper because its manufacture uses considerably less energy and therefore produces less effluent than when paper is made from virgin pulp.

If you are interested in joining Friends of the Earth please contact Janet McNeill on 328226 or Tim Manning on 774110.

ER

ISSUE 15

Finchampstead Flower Club



Finchampstead Flower Club have had an interesting quarter.

In November, we had our annual Open Evening at Finchampstead Hall, attended by over 100. Tracy Griffin demonstrated arrangements under the theme of Snowflakes. The



club provided seasonal refreshments and ran a tombola as well as the traditional raffle of the arrangements.



In December we held a members' workshop on a Christmas theme, using sustainable mechanics. Members enjoyed using items such as twigs or aluminium wire, rather than oasis, to provide support for their arrangements

In January, Renata Petruske was on a *Flower Mission*. She introduced us to some unusual flowers in a variety of designs, with some attendees delighted win them in the raffle.

Why not come and enjoy our demonstrations? On 23rd March our demonstrations will be by Carol Bennet, reflecting that *Spring is in the air*. We certainly hope so! We

also run an optional competition for members, entitled *Spring Awakening* and so there will be a lot of ideas to appreciate or emulate.

On 27th April Sandy Draper will run a foam-free workshop. If there are spaces after members have signed up, this will be opened to visitors.

We meet at California Hall, 7:30 for 8pm. £6 per visit to include refreshments. Please just turn up or contact the chair, Lis Barrett, 01189892092 Elisabeth.barrett_email@gmail.com for further information. We look forward to welcoming you.

Kriss Turner

You can also follow our activities on our [website](#)

<https://bit.ly/3X3OkzN>



or on [Facebook](#)
<https://bit.ly/4b0gDVr>



involve
MAKING A DIFFERENCE LOCALLY

Charities, voluntary & community groups, and other not-for-private-profit groups including community businesses: do you need information, bespoke support and advice to grow your group and your services? From how to start a new group and then run it efficiently, to funding advice, to volunteer and committee-member recruitment, plus general and specialist training, **involve Community Services** provide assistance to any local non-profit organisation in Bracknell Forest and Wokingham Borough.

Our charity also has a suite of wellbeing services that run across Wokingham Borough including a universal adult signposting service and a social and emotional support network for those impacted by cancer.

To find out more, contact us on 01344 304 404, reception@involve.community or 0118 228 0480, reception@vcshub.co.uk or look at and download information via <https://involve.community>



A new year has arrived and as we ladies continue to meet each month a programme of speakers and great topics, and other social events is planned for 2026.

The final meeting in 2025 was our Christmas Party on 3rd December when as usual there was a wonderful buffet of delicious food, all supplied by the ladies.

We also had mulled wine and mince pies followed by the Secret Santa, so we all went home a gift. We signed a big Christmas Card and made donations in lieu of sending cards to each other and managed to raise £90 which was given to the *Link Visiting Scheme Charity* as in previous years.

To round off the evening Judith gave us a quiz to do on the *UK Old Money*. This really tested our memories as Decimal Day had been back in 1971 !!

Our January meeting was again a

wonderful lunch at Bearwood Lakes Golf Club on the 14th when 20 ladies enjoyed a delicious menu and great company, and a spectacular view of the course on a lovely sunny day.

We ended our 2025-26 year on February 4th with our AGM when we reviewed the past year, discussed some of the forthcoming year's events, received the year's financial statement and paid our subs. We all felt we had had a very good year.

Diane, our Programme Secretary has once again organised a varied programme of speakers with interesting topics, and we were delighted to hear that Allan James is visiting us again in April for a guitar musical evening.

We will be having a Supper and Games evening in May and our usual BBQ in August.

Our monthly walks will hopefully begin again in April through to September.

We meet every 1st Wednesday of the month at Barkham Village Hall from 7.30pm and enjoy friendship and various speakers and social events, and warmly welcome new members. If you are new to the area and would like more information about joining us then



Quiz Answers

1. Manchester City
2. Reading
3. Select Car Leasing Stadium, previously Madajski Stadium, Brighton and Hove Albion
4. Amex Stadium
5. Middlesbrough
6. Riverside Stadium
7. Sunderland
8. Stadium of Light
9. Stoke City
10. bet365 Stadium
11. Bolton Wanderers
12. Toughsheet Community Stadium
13. Derby County
14. Pride Park
15. Southampton
16. St Mary's
17. Leicester City
18. King Power Stadium

Where in Barkham?

This sign can be found on the right-hand side of Limmerhill Road walking from the Ye Olde Leathern Bottel. Incidentally, the field on the left is subject to a planning application at the moment.

Neighbours

- North Macedonia has five neighbours:
1. Albania
 2. Bulgaria
 3. Greece
 4. Kosovo
 5. Serbia

please contact Shirley Warner on 0118 9789124 or 07949 234085 or by email at

shirleyannwarner@gmail.com

We would look forward to seeing you.



Mrs Stubbs v the Post Office

You might recall the previous articles in this magazine about **Mrs Stubbs v the Post Office** and the the play, by the RABBLE Theatre, called **Glitch**. Now this play is touring nationally and will conclude its run in Reading on 7-17 April 2026. Book your tickets here

<https://rabbletheatre.com/glitch-the-true-story-of-the-post-office-scandal/>

<https://rabbletheatre.com>



INTERVIEW

Below is a recent interview with Pam Stubbs about the play and the scandal. I hope you find it interesting.

How does it feel to see yourself being portrayed on stage?

It was intimidating at first, but once you get into the production, you forget that it's 'you' if that makes sense. It becomes somebody else's portrayal of that person. I liked what the students did first of all, because they were so different, then there was the first 'development' production in 2024 - it was so interesting to see how it developed, and every time I see if there's something new with everyone's interpretation.

Some people who don't know a lot about the Post Office scandal might be undecided about whether to come or not. Why should they come?

They should come because this isn't simply telling the same story as you might have read in the paper, or Nick Wallis's book, or even the ITV drama. This play is basically my recollections of what's happened, my memories of what I went through, how I dealt with it. Basically, being told that I was stealing money. It's a deeply personal story, so many people in this village didn't even know it was going on!

*So, it gives this different perspective, people might have seen and heard lots in the news or watched the drama, but **Glitch** offers a different direction for understanding.*

So even if you're far away from Reading, there will be a postmaster near to you who will have experienced something like this... So many sub-postmasters were overwhelmed, they ended up giving up. Their lawyers so often encouraged them to plead guilty because they didn't know how to refute the claims, even though the Post Office were in the wrong - it makes me so angry.

You've been involved with this show since day one. Now you're seeing it go out to audiences all across the UK, from Plymouth to Newcastle! How does that feel?

That's mildly frightening! It's people who know nothing about here, my local area. The thought of all of northern England hearing my story is hard to imagine; daunting. I still think it will resonate and help people understand what happened, because the stress and issues were the same up and down the country - Post Office were as awful wherever you lived!

You grew up in Essex. Whereabouts were you born and brought up? When did you move away?

I was born in Barking in Essex, brought up there - my whole family's from round there. My Dad worked for Wiggins Teap Paper Makers near St Paul's Cathedral in London. We used to go up there quite often. They had a balcony on the seventh floor, and anyone who worked for them could go there for the Lord Mayor's Show, so we used to go and watch. I stayed there until I went to college in 1964 when I went to Eastbourne to PE college. Soon after I left college, my parents moved to Basingstoke; I moved my parents up there, including all my dad's roses! The convent school where I taught PE, which you hear about in the play, is in Twickenham. In what was Alexander Pope's villa, right on the river. It was a lovely school, and they had literally just built the swimming pool when I began. That was the best time of my life. I was there for around 18 years.

We have several venues in East Anglia and we wondered if you could tell us about growing up in Essex and any memories you have of that time.

My brother lived in Harlow - and every time we visited him, my Mum made me drive her through Barking.

I was very happy there - I went to "South East Essex County Technical High School" which could be the longest name for a college ever. They also had a pool, so I swam a lot. Swimming was the thing I did. I competed, and got as far as national competition in 200m freestyle. But my sight was very bad and so I struggled to see the other end of the pool!

I may have got into the top 20, but I'd get very nervous so I didn't keep it up in the end. I also did a little synchronised swimming as well; it's so hard! And then I found I was born to be a teacher, I absolutely loved that.

How would you like people to feel after seeing Glitch?

Angry and frustrated with the powers that be. Not just Post Office - yes, we can all have a go at them - but the solicitors; those who should have given better guidance. Postmasters were fighting their own battles that they could never win.

I still consider myself very, very lucky that I had a Saturday girl who worked in the portacabin; very intelligent she was, and her father was a high-ranking policeman in Barkham. His advice was, 'If they say they'll prosecute you, just say, see you in court with all your evidence, because they'll back away - and they did.' I'm so thankful that I was never actually prosecuted. I do almost feel guilty that I managed to avoid the malicious prosecution that so many others suffered. All I did was get very cross, say no, and stick to it. From the time of losing my business until very recently, when I finally got compensation, I had to live from charity shops, I had so little materially because I sold my business for far less than its true value in the end, but I managed; it was a case of 'needs must'.

It's very clear that you and the other post masters and mistresses formed a very special bond, how is that bond today?

It's difficult because I don't see others very often any more, only if there's a reason to bring us all together. Alan obviously got his knighthood! And others received honours, of course, but I haven't kept up with people particularly, to be honest, as we're all geographically spread out. I watched all of the Public Inquiry, I had it on constantly. I cried a lot as I watched people sharing their impact statements; I have such a lot of sympathy for people who suffered far more than I ever did. And then there were the ones that really make me angry - the Union reps and the private investigators who did so much to ruin people lives. There are some sub-postmasters I care about very much, Jan Skinner especially, we all supported each other at the time, and Kay Linnell was so helpful during the litigation, she would explain everything to me.

Some people might feel - after Mr Bates - that they know everything there is to know about the scandal. What would you say to them to encourage them to see Glitch?

No, I don't think anyone knows everything about the scandal! I think watching Glitch will help people begin to understand how people caught up in this actually felt: what did they lose from their lives? With the play you get to witness someone going through the experience as if it's happening right in front of you... although, of course, there were so many other moments of stress and frustration that could have gone into the play!



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trinityband.co.uk
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WOKINGHAM CHORAL SOCIETY - IN COLLABORATION WITH EASTWOOD CHAMBER ORCHESTRA PRESENT

Sturm und Drang: German Romantic Myths & Legends

Schumann Manfred: Overture & Chorus of the Spirits
Schubert Rosamunde: Hunter's Chorus & 3rd Entracte
Mendelssohn A Midsummer Night's Dream:
Titania's Lullaby & Nocturnes (Nos 3 & 7)
Humperdinck Hansel & Gretel: Abendsegen
Beethoven Mass in C

Directed by George de Voil

Saturday 21 March 2026
7.30pm

All Saints Church
Wiltshire Rd
Wokingham
RG40 1TN

Tickets £20
£5 for students and under 18s
Scan QR code for tickets



www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk
registered charity 274853

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	13 th February	early March
Summer	8 th May	early June
Autumn	14 th August	early September
Winter	13 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



BVRA EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt - 5th April

Skittles Evening - 9th May

Quiz Night - 24th October

Carols in the Park - 11th December

USEFUL CONTACTS

Barkham Parish Council

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

bull@thebullbarkham.co.uk
0118 304 9428

The Coombes CE Primary School

<https://www.thecoombes.com>

Crowthorne Orchestra

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

Finchampstead Flower Club

Fourth 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 @ 13:00
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

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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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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)

CWC - Coombes Woodland Committee

clerk@barkhamparish.gov.uk

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



PRIMARY
PREVENTION
HEALTHSPAN
COACHING

DESIGN YOUR FUTURE HEALTH

Start with a free 30-minute healthspan consultation, then...
Barkham Newsletter offer: Full 45-minute coaching sessions for the 30-minute price £70 instead of £85 until July 2026



WWW.PRIMARYPREVENTION.CO.UK

Vicky's PILATES

Body Control

'Pilates is the body conditioning class suitable for all abilities and ages'

*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

local PAYG singing groups for fun and wellbeing



for your **self**

You don't have to be great at singing for singing to be great for you!

no judgement

no pressure

no performances

no expectations

Everyone is welcome!

"I never imagined a singing group could be so **uplifting**; I have found a **renewed joy** for life and made **so many friends.**"

for contact details & to find out more about our sessions, follow us online:

Facebook: sing.for.your.self.group | Instagram: @sing.for.your.self
soph@singforyourself.co.uk | www.singforyourself.co.uk



check out our **baby-friendly** sessions!



With bags of **enthusiasm**, Soph creates a **welcoming** environment of **fun** and **trust** in every session



www.singforyourself.co.uk

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