



£1, free to Members

Barkham Newsletter

Issue 118 Winter 2016

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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



Carols in the Park

Saturday 17 December

7pm

The Junipers



**Family Skittles Evening Saturday 4 March
– see all Social Events details on page 2**

Have you completed the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire? If not, please do so – see page 6-7

**We still need a new Social Secretary
See pages 2,3 and 18 for details
Please help!**

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SOCIAL MATTERS

Where does time go? – it does not seem all that long ago that we were toasting in 2016 and within a few weeks it will be 2017.

This year we have had the lead up to, and the result of the referendum, (Brexit - is this now a Scrabble word?) and look forward to the outcome (or not depending on your view). The USA have had their election and we will see what happens there. The properties on the old Garrison, along with the new school are being built so there are many changes for us all. I am definitely moving in 2017 and am still looking for a replacement here! The committee are still keen

to keep the social side of things going and are trying to organise events but we do need someone to replace me and act as the focal point for these activities – the “Social Secretary”.

We have managed to organise the Carols in the Park and this will be on SATURDAY 17th DECEMBER at 7 PM starting at the usual place of the junction of The Woodlands with The Junipers. Music will be provided once again by the “Breakaway Brass” who have been supporting this event for us now for many years, in different incarnations of the band! Please bring torches, and coins for the bucket collection. We do not charge for the event itself but the band give up their time and we feel that if we can help them buy music etc. then they will also benefit. As usual we will have mulled wine (along with non-alcoholic squash) and mince pies. We will supply the carol sheets but please make sure that you return them at the end.

On March 4th the committee have arranged a family skittles evening – tickets £10.00 and £5 for primary school children. Start time will be 7 for 7.30 at Barkham Village Hall and supper will be included. As usual there will be a bar and raffle. Please email social@barkham.org.uk for tickets or call Gill Powell on 978 3373.

Hopefully the Easter Egg Hunt will go ahead for the children in 2017 on Easter Sunday and this will be in the Spring 2017 edition of the newsletter and on the website. The committee are trying to arrange a barn dance in the autumn and also another quiz evening in November. There are provisional dates for these in the Diary (see page 19).

May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year? Thank you for all the support that you have given me over the last few years and please continue to support the BVRA social functions.

Judith Collins

BVRA 2016/17 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman: Stewart Richardson (acting)
chairman@barkham.org.uk
Secretary: Christine Leigh
977 4333
secretary@barkham.org.uk
Treasurer: Ian Overton
973 4806
treasurer@barkham.org.uk
Social: vacant
social@barkham.org.uk
Membership: Jim Butler
978 3572
membership@barkham.org.uk
Newsletter: Stewart Richardson
979 1914
newsletter@barkham.org.uk
Web Site: Dave Clements
989 2198
webmaster@barkham.org.uk
Development Watch: vacant
development@barkham.org.uk

Advertising and Newsletter Contributions

Newsletter articles / contributions for the Spring edition should be in by 17 February 2017. It helps if these can be submitted in electronic form by email to newsletter@barkham.org.uk. They may also be sent to the Editor, Stewart Richardson, at 342 Barkham Road, Wokingham, RG41 4DE.

For trade adverts, contact Ian Overton by email to treasurer@barkham.org.uk, or call 973 4806. We offer three landscape sizes, 64mm x 54mm at £22, 124mm x 105mm at £52 and 190x130mm at £100, for 4 quarterly insertions.

Distribution of the next issue will take place in Mid March.



Editorial

Welcome to the winter edition of the Barkham Newsletter!

There is a particular focus in this issue about the threat of even more development in Barkham, in excess of that already announced on such major sites as the garrison (now “Arborfield Green”, even though much of it is in Barkham). We want all residents to be aware of the potential scale of these developments and the related issues and to stimulate discussion and participation where appropriate.

John Kaiser (Wokingham Borough Councillor) discusses this in his article on page 5. We have previously sent out the map and list of the Submitted Sites to our Development Watch mailing list but are reproducing them in this issue for all residents (see pages 9 and 10, together with details of how to make your views known.

On pages 6-7 Laurence Heath (Barkham Parish Council Deputy Chair) answers some questions relating to the Arborfield and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan. We strongly encourage you to complete the survey questionnaire, either online at www.arbarsurvey.com or by filling in the hard copy enclosed with this issue of the newsletter. Thank you to those residents who have already done this, but the more responses we have, the more weight the plan will carry.

As this is the last edition of the year, I want to thank everyone who has contributed articles in 2016.

We continue to cover the activities of Barkham Parish Council and I'd like to take the chance to thank them for once again supporting the newsletter with an annual grant. Without it we would have to reduce the size of the newsletter and increase membership fees, both of which we want to avoid.

I also want to thank the advertisers who give us an important source of revenue to offset against our costs. I hope they get some return from their investment!

As always I'd like to thank Bob Bishop for his continuing work as the “publisher”, Steve Young as the “wholesaler” who packages up the copies and to all the 30+ distributors without whom the newsletters would never reach the streets of Barkham.

Also, in my “Acting Chairman” role I want to thank the members of the General Committee (this page) and the Social Committee for their continuing work on behalf of the residents’ association. In particular we must recognise the efforts of Judith Collins, who is moving out of Barkham and so stepping down from her Social Secretary role at the end of the year after 7 years in the role. She will be sorely missed! We still haven't found a replacement, so our ability to organise the social events next year is under threat – PLEASE HELP!

Finally, may I send the BVRA's best wishes to all residents for Christmas and the New Year!

Stewart Richardson
Editor

The Quiz

For those of you who think this quiz is too low brow, the theme this time is “Art”. However, there may be the odd popular culture question thrown in!

1. Which artist, primarily known for his ceramic vases, has an alter ego named “Claire”?
2. Who was the long standing and controversial art critic of the (London) Evening Standard who died in 2015? Clue: He had a “distinctive” accent and appeared a couple of times on “Have I Got News For You”.
3. Which band had a hit with “Art for Art’s Sake” in 1975?
4. Which came first chronologically – Art Deco or Art Nouveau?
5. Who painted the anti-war “Guernica” and in which city could you view it?
6. Who had a number 1 hit with a song from the film of Watership Down?
7. Which major art gallery is situated on Millbank in London?
8. The Barbara Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden is in which Cornwall town?
9. Who painted “The Fighting Temeraire” and for 1000 brownie points what is the full name of the painting?
10. Which Australian art critic, who died in 2012, wrote and presented the BBC series (and book) which is probably the definitive analysis of modern art – “The Shock of the New”.

Answers on page 19



News from Your Parish Council

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

A new housing assessment has been carried out by the Borough Council jointly with neighbouring district councils. The result of this is the Wokingham Borough Council's target for new homes has been increased from 650 to 856 homes per year up to 2035. This means that the Council will be looking for sites to accommodate another 10,000 houses over and above those in the pipeline. The Borough Council issued a "Call for Sites" inviting developers and landowners to suggest where new houses or other development should be located. Information can be accessed through the Borough Council website. Areas within Barkham have been suggested for development, at this stage it simply means that someone has put them forward. See more detailed report from John Kaiser, Borough Councillor.

Arborfield Garrison SDL development update

The first phase of development is taking shape along Biggs Lane and the first new residents are expected to move in before the end of the year. The Parish Council will be providing a Welcome Pack to all our new residents and hope

to host some social events with the aid of Crest Nicholson. The first event planned will be carol singing around a Christmas tree, this always gets everyone into the festive spirit. When more information is available it will be posted on the web site.

The developer Crest Nicholson, on behalf of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), has announced the sale of land parcels H, I & J at the new £600m Arborfield Green Garden Village to Redrow Homes Southern Counties. The 15-acre site is allocated in the Arborfield Green masterplan for up to 220 homes and is located south of the new Nine Mile Ride Extension. The site forms part of the southern gateway to the new garden village. Redrow is expected to bring forward initial proposals in accordance with the site's Design Codes and outline planning permission over the next few months.

Speed Limits

Residents will now be aware of the reduction in speed limits along Barkham Road. This is a residential road and the Parish Council welcome this decision from the Borough Council. We hope in time to extend this out to the adjoining roads in order to have some continuity within the Parish.

Neighbourhood Plan

Questionnaires were recently delivered to all households in Barkham, we hope many of you have already completed them and returned them to the Post Office, if you haven't yet done so please return them as soon as possible, or complete the survey online at www.arbarsurvey.com. Your

comments and responses really do matter and will help to shape the final document.

Two public exhibitions were recently held detailing the progress made on the Neighbourhood Plan. These were attended by 70+ residents all of whom found the information interesting and thought provoking.

History Book

We are delighted to inform you that the Parish Council still has a stock of "Barkham A History". The history book has now been reprinted with a new Foreword which details the REME move of the Garrison to RAF Lyneham. If you are new to the area and do not own a copy of the history book they can now be purchased from the Clerk for £8.50 each, or they are on sale at Henry Street Garden Centre and Barkham Post Office.

Judith Neuhofer
Clerk, Barkham Parish Council

Arborfield Green Community Christmas Lights Event

Thursday 8th December at 6pm

The Cricket Pitch, Arborfield Green

We would love for local residents to join us for carols, complimentary mince pies and mulled wine around the Christmas Tree.

Special guests Arborfield Military Wives Choir and Bohunt School Choir.

Please email rebecca.eytle@preim.co.uk if you can attend, so that we can cater accordingly.



Dear residents

Further to my comments on the local plan update being conducted by officers at Wokingham Borough Council the call for sites has now closed and a list and map of these potential sites is featured in this edition of the newsletter (see pages 9 and 10). The list is extensive and many of them will not come forward as part of the borough's future recommendations due to the lack of suitability and sustainability, but remember these sites will not go away and the landowners and developers will no doubt fight to get their sites on the approved list. In addition they can submit planning applications for these sites at any stage and even in the event they are refused by the council some will no doubt end up at appeal and the decision will be taken out of local hands and will be decided by a government inspector.

Suitability and sustainability is open to individual interpretation and in an effort to clarify what is sustainable and suitable in Barkham and Arborfield we must make sure we as a community give clear guidance as to how this relates to our villages.

One way to do this is to make sure we all have an input to the neighbourhood plan, currently being created by a team of residents,

of which I am one and Parish councillors. This is a joint plan covering both Arborfield and Barkham and once it has been through the various stages and consultations will be adopted as one of the planning documents which makes up the local plan and will have an impact on where, the quantity and the quality of development in our part of the borough.

The neighbourhood plan team is currently circulating a questionnaire to all residents in the borough over the age of 18 to try and understand what is important to you the residents so it can be reflected in the final document, this is on the back of open days held both in Arborfield and Barkham.

I would urge you all to return the questionnaires you should have received, if not you can go to www.arbarsurvey.com and fill out the questionnaire online, it only 20 questions with a few additional questions about yourself. You can also get some background information on the neighbourhood plan process by going to www.arbarplan.com I cannot stress how important that you have your say as the greater the level of local involvement the more weight it will carry when it comes to be inspected in public to ensure it is fit for purpose before it can be adopted.

Making sure we all have a say in development in and around the borough is vital to ensure local roads and services do not get overwhelmed at the same time we maintain the environment and rural and individual aspects of our local community and villages

We are already seeing developers start to challenge the numbers which I indicated in my article

in the last issue of the Barkham Newsletter, so it is important we try to control development in the borough and best way to do this is through the local plan and all the associated documents of which our neighbourhood plan is one. Remember this current update of the local plan will take us through to 2035, so make sure you have your say.

The other big news is the first new secondary school (Bohunt School Wokingham) to be built in the Wokingham Borough for more than 50 years opened its doors on September 7th in Barkham on the old garrison site. More than 100 students have joined the school. Initially they will use the existing legacy buildings, next to the new £32.5 million school building being constructed, thanks to Wokingham Borough Council, on the former Arborfield Garrison site.

The frame for the new building is complete and work is now focussing on the internal features including the learning spaces and IT infrastructure designed to meet the needs of modern teaching. Staff and students will move into this new building in September next year (2017).

The state-of-the-art school, being run by Bohunt Educational Trust, will eventually cater for up to 1,200 pupils. Within the building there is a suite of customised STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) rooms, a drama theatre, and large light and open plan areas which will house the school's impressive ICT, art and learning resource centres. All this coupled with the sports facilities in the adjacent sports centre, 3G AstroTurf and tennis and netball courts make the new

cont...

cont ...school a fantastic facility for the borough's young people.

The new school is being built as part of the major development coming to Barkham in the years ahead and will cater for pupils from the new homes as well as from existing communities in the south of the borough. The site is at the heart of the new garden village based around the Arborfield Garrison development, which will also include community facilities, a sports hub around the new school and shops.

The new development will also have two new primary schools; one located on the northern part of the site and one on the southern in the coming years as the development progresses.

I would like to wish all who live in Barkham a very merry Christmas and a very happy New Year and don't forget you can contact me on any issues relating to Barkham or Wokingham Borough Council and remember to complete your neighbourhood questionnaire

John Kaiser
Councillor for Barkham
Wokingham Borough Council
Email: john.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk
Telephone: 0118 9762116
Mobile 0771 419 2352

Data Protection Act

Members are reminded that membership records are maintained on a personal computer. Details recorded are names, addresses, telephone numbers and payment records. The information is used solely for BVRA purposes, and any member is free to see his/her details by contacting the Membership Secretary.



Arborfield and Barkham Neighbourhood Plan

In previous articles, I have outlined how the Neighbourhood Plan process works and why it is so important for the future of Barkham. In summary, a Neighbourhood Plan is put together by the community within the framework of national and local planning policy. It will be reviewed by the borough council and an independent examiner. The final plan then has to be approved by residents at a referendum. Once it has passed all these steps, it becomes an official planning document with some real force in shaping future development.

I am pleased to say that in the last few months, a Steering Group team has come together who have been working very hard on progressing this project. A new website www.arbarplan.com has been launched, two public events held and a residents' survey is in progress.

The two public events last month, one at Barkham Village Hall and the other at Arborfield, along with a Community Forum run by WBC, generated a lot of interest. Below I have attempted to answer some of the main questions raised.

1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan going to have any real influence?

When the current local plan was being developed, many of the big decisions had been pretty much made before anyone was any the wiser. For example, the decision to develop the Garrison site was effectively made before local residents had really un-

derstood what was happening. At least we're ahead of the game this time. We have a clear choice – we can sit on our hands and let events take their course, or we can do the work and attempt to exert influence on the outcomes.

Clearly I believe the latter course is the right one to take. If we just sit idly by, we can hardly complain when the area is being overwhelmed by development.

2. How does the Neighbourhood Plan fit with the Wokingham Borough's Local Plan Update?

WBC are in the process of preparing a Local Plan Update. This will amend the existing local plan, known as the Core Strategy, which was adopted in 2010 and looked ahead to 2026. The Local Plan Update is expected to be adopted in 2019 and will look ahead to 2036. Many of the key decisions will in effect be taken by WBC well before 2019.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has set a timetable that allows its conclusions to be taken into account before the big decisions are taken. As we will need to have discussions with WBC as the Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan Update evolve, this ought to create a real opportunity to influence WBC decision making.

3. When will the Neighbourhood Plan be complete? Will this be too late to influence the big decisions?

We are looking to have a pre submission document ready by the middle of 2017. This will be before WBC decides on its preferred options, which will determine the shape of the Local Plan Update.

4. What about development money? Is that an incentive to complete the Neighbourhood Plan?

There is a financial incentive, but I would regard this as very much secondary to ensuring that any addi-

tional development is limited to what the parish requires and can absorb.

This could mean that in future, Barkham could have access to significant development funds. However, the parish will be obliged to spend much of it on infrastructure projects associated with the new development. Nevertheless, the parish would also be able to reserve funds for the smaller projects that tend to get pushed down the list of priorities, such as short lengths of missing pavement or improved crossings.

5. Should the Neighbourhood Plan employ planning experts?

This could become necessary in due course. It is something the Steering Group will keep in mind.

6. Could the Neighbourhood Plan be used to establish the acceptability of particular types of horticultural enclosures or other categories of land use for commercial purposes?

If specific proposals are made, the Steering Group can consider whether they have a bearing on the Neighbourhood Plan.

7. Will the Neighbourhood Plan help to limit traffic growth on local roads?

There is inevitably a relationship between the amount of new housing and increased traffic. It is a worry that local roads are already very busy and that impact of existing development, in particular Arborfield Green, has yet to be absorbed. There will be some significant road improvements, not least the new Arborfield by-pass. There will, however, be an impact on Barkham's roads as not all the new journeys will be in the direction of Reading.. This is a strong argument for having a sensible approach to new housing numbers while ensuring that they are in the right places to minimise the impact on local traffic.

8. If we do a Neighbourhood Plan, does that mean that have to accept some new development proposals?

There is an argument that says that the parish has taken a huge amount of development with the Arborfield Green development. Nevertheless, the Neighbourhood Plan will be required to consider what development is required for local needs.

It is too early to make specific proposals as we are still in a phase of gauging local opinions and requirements, but it is likely that development would only be supported where it can demonstrate some benefits to the local community by satisfying local needs or by creating new amenities and facilities such as protected open spaces.

A plan that contains excessive or unpopular development proposals is unlikely to pass the referendum test.

9. How can you help?

If you are interested in helping with the Neighbourhood Plan, please send an email to the Neighbourhood Plan contact address abnpsg@gmail.com

There are a number of focus groups, in particular those covering community facilities, sports facilities and open spaces and business development which could make use of additional support by residents. This need not be a heavy commitment of time: it may just involve reading some briefing papers and then attending a meeting to share opinions. This would all help to take the project forward.

Finally, do not forget to complete the survey, either the paper version or online at www.arbarsurvey.com

The more responses we have, the more influential the new Neighbourhood Plan will be.

Laurence Heath
Vice Chairman
Barkham Parish Council

The Bull at Barkham has received ACV protection

You will recall that in the Summer we asked many of you to sign a petition to support The Bull at Barkham in having it listed as Asset of Community Value (ACV). We are delighted to say that your efforts were rewarded, because in September The Bull was granted an ACV by Wokingham Borough, this being the first pub within Wokingham to receive this protection.

The granting of an ACV to pubs like The Bull gives it greater protection from unwanted development and would allow residents to have the first say in its future, if ever it came under threat. This is particularly important to The Bull, as apart from being the only pub in the village, it is also a Grade II listed building, with a history spanning several centuries. Furthermore, it's a great visual reminder of Barkham's distinctive character.

The Bull at Barkham is a traditional country pub and is at the heart of the local community, as evidenced by the number of regular visitors, not only from Barkham but also from neighbouring communities. This is all down to the significant contribution made by Lilly and Mike over the last 4-5 years in restoring the pub to the vibrant community facility it is today.

The petition to safeguard The Bull received well over 1000 signatures and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who pledged their support.

Chris Heyliger
Barkham Parish Council

Christmas Services at St James' Barkham



Christmas is almost upon us and at St James' we warmly invite everyone to come and celebrate the good news of Christmas at one of our services this year. All of our services are fairly informal, but if parents want to bring young children, 'Family Carols' on Christmas Eve or our Christmas Day services are designed with children especially in mind. (The Carols by Candlelight service is probably less suitable for young children as there will be a sermon of around 15 minutes.) Midnight Carols provides a quieter opportunity to reflect on the reason for the season before it all begins. We end just after midnight. We hope that one of the services will suit you and look forward to welcoming you.

Ladies Christmas Craft Evening
– Saturday 10th December

As well as our services, there is also an event for women on Saturday 10th December at Barkham Village Hall. Come and have a go at making Christmas Craft, enjoy mulled wine and nibbles and hear a short talk about the true meaning of Christmas. A wonderful way to get ready for the festive season. Details of how to book are on the adjacent flyer or visit www.abch.org.uk and click on the Barkham page or call 0118 9760285

Carols by Candlelight

7pm Sunday 18 Dec

Family Carols

4pm Christmas Eve

Midnight Carols

11.30pm Christmas Eve

Christmas Day Service

10am Sunday 25 Dec

*Come and prepare for Christmas
at Barkham Church's*

Ladies Christmas Craft Evening

*10th December
7.30pm – 10.30pm
Barkham Village Hall*

Tickets £10

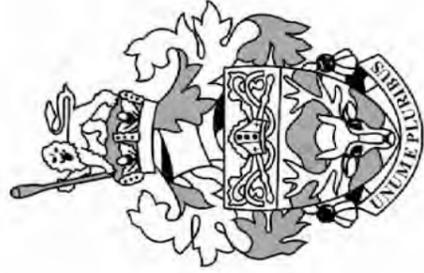
- * Make fabulous craft*
- * Enjoy yummy munchies and mulled wine*
- * Listen to a short talk and consider what Christmas is really about*

*For tickets and information visit www.abch.org.uk
and click on the Barkham link
or call 0118 976 0285*

List of submitted sites in Barkham (see map on pages 10-11)

Following Laurence Heath's article in the autumn newsletter we issued several Development Watch alerts to our email list and these can be found on the BVRA website www.barkham.org.uk on the Dev Watch tab. The alert dated 10 October contained details of our initial view of the proposed sites and contained material that residents may want to use if they wish to send their comments to Wokingham Borough Council. As a reminder, this is what we said in the autumn newsletter "I suggest comments should be addressed to Mark Ashwell who is the Executive Member for Planning and Regeneration Mark.Ashwell@wokingham.gov.uk. Remember that comments carry more weight if they are specifically on planning issues, e.g. transport and access, road safety, distance from key infrastructure such as doctor's surgeries, shops, schools and nurseries, drainage and impact on the environment. Remind him also that Barkham already took well over its share in the Core Strategy which was the last round of the local plan adopted in 2010: the garrison development allocated over 1,500 homes in Barkham, which will more than double the size of the parish."

Site reference	Location	Hectares	Comments
5BA002	Land at Barkham Manor	1.00	Creates ribbon development on Barkham Road Exceptionally poor access
5BA003	Land at Suncot, School Road	0.44	Erodes separation between settlements Poor access on School Road
5BA004	The Bungalow, Edney Hill	4.18	Significant erosion of countryside Poor access on Edney's Hill
5BA006	Land to the rear of 326-334, Barkham Road	0.68	Significant erosion of countryside. Extends current Cala development behind 336-350 Barkham Road.
5BA008	Land off Barkham Street	1.80	Significant erosion of countryside Affects Area of Special Character
5BA009	Model Farm, Barkham Ride	5.43	Significant erosion of countryside
5BA010	Barkham Square	58.29	Major extension of Garrison development with major access and other infrastructure issues
5BA011	Land to the Rear of 370 - 384 Barkham Road	0.36	Significant erosion of countryside Poor access on Edney's Hill
5BA012	Reading FC Training Ground, Hogwood Park, Park Lane	10.03	Major extension of Garrison development with major access and other infrastructure issues
5BA013	Woodlands Farm, Wood Lane	1.48	Significant erosion of countryside Poor access on School Road. Pitches for Gypsy and Travellers and plots for Travelling Show People. Self-Build Housing.
5BA014	Oakwood View/ Land between 30 and 32 Langley Common Road	3.47	Erodes separation between settlements Poor access on School Road Pitches for Gypsy and Travellers and plots for Travelling Show People. Self-Build.
5BA015	Oakwood View/ Land between 30 and 32 Langley Common Road	0.50	Erodes separation between settlements Poor access Pitches for Gypsy and Travellers and plots for Travelling Show People. Self-Build.
5BA016	Willow Farm, School Road	6.20	Significant erosion of countryside affecting The Coombes woodland area
5BA017	Land adjacent to Coppid Hill House, Barkham Road	1.00	Creates ribbon development on Barkham Road
5BA018	Land at Highland Avenue (currently a scrap yard)	9.60	Significant erosion of countryside. Combined with site 5WK022, extends Woosehill to Bearwood Road. Site may be contaminated.
5BA019	Wrens Nest Stables, Barkham Road	1.12	Significant erosion of countryside Poor access on Edney's Hill
5BA024	Land to North of the Shires	0.46	Significant erosion of countryside Poor access



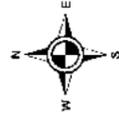
WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL



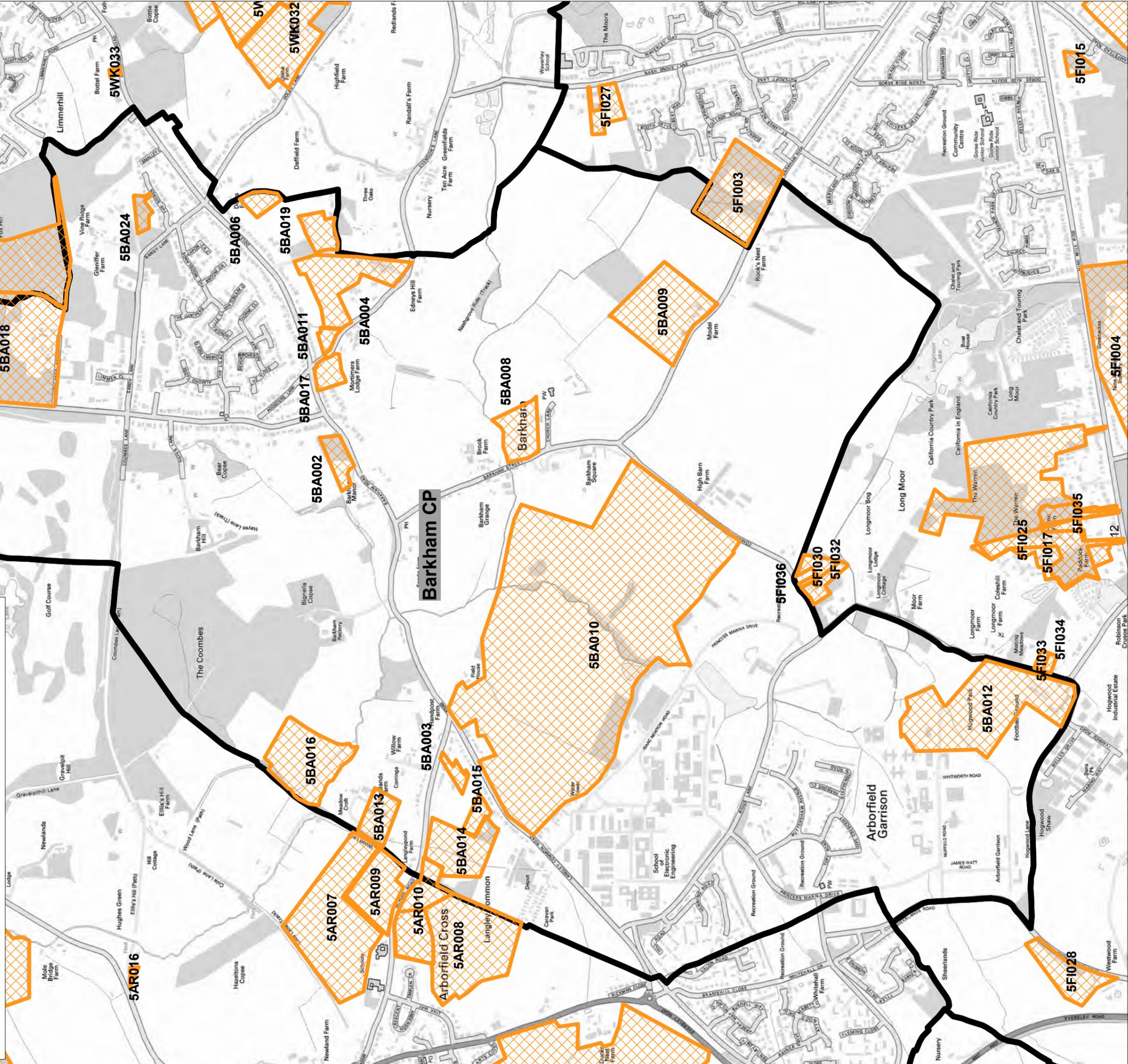
Submitted Sites



Parish Boundary



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Alan's Patch

As we move from Autumn into Winter the leaves are falling and it's time to collect them, so in what state is the leaf cage that I constructed last year? At my previous house where we had mostly oak trees the leaves took several years to rot down so it was a nice surprise to find that they had all rotted down. This meant that the first task was to empty the cage and transfer the lovely leaf mould into one of the compost bins to be stored ready for use in the Spring. Collecting the leaves from the lawn is a doddle using my ride-on mower. The new crop of leaves is building up nicely in the cage.

In the previous edition I mentioned the badgers invading and stealing the last few sweet corn cobs but for several weeks afterwards they continued to be regular visitors. The gate could be heard rattling in the middle of the night but we never spotted any. My respect for badgers was greatly enhanced after my wife told me that on a television programme she had seen a badger climb an apple tree in the dark. It then shook a branch until an apple dropped off and then descended and harvested the apple! As you might imagine I have

bolstered the defences and have not seen any evidence or heard from them since. Also last time I accused squirrels of damaging the raspberries but maybe it was the badgers 'what done it'! I really ought to install some cameras to record what's going in my patch at night or when I'm not on duty!

Carrots and parsnips enjoyed the weather and have cropped heavily. I've left them in the soil as I find they keep better there despite the possibility of slug damage. We are currently enjoying the spinach and expect to do so over the winter along with a budding crop of leeks, I've not grown them for some years.

I have dug up the main crop of potatoes and they are stored in paper sacks inside an old chest freezer in the garage. This helps to keep them at a steady temperature and prevents both frost and mice damage. I have two varieties as a main crop - King Edward and Cara, both seem to work well here. Potatoes need a little ventilation to stop them sweating but it is vital to make sure the door is kept ajar by 0.8 BSMD (British Standard Mouse diameter)!

The butternut squashes never really recovered from the slow start caused by the cold winds in June. I'll endeavour to protect them more and for longer next year. Nonetheless I have half dozen stored in the garage. A very good crop of shallots are hanging in net bags also in the garage.

In the greenhouse I tried growing cucumbers for the first time. They were a great success and proved to be so much more flavoursome than shop bought ones, I was really surprised. I also had a few really nice and large aubergines.

I have found these quite hard to grow and this year was the first time I got enough to justify the effort.

All the new fruit trees have settled in now and my old faithful Discovery apple continues to be a hero.

I'll soon be reviewing my stock of seeds to see what needs to be ordered but I also save my own seed from some plants. This includes peas, and all the forms of bean that I grow. My wife kindly shells the dried pods and puts the seeds into boxes for me, that's her contribution to my patch!

It has been a lovely late summer and autumn. This included another excellent season for blackberries. I hope you collected your fill from the local hedgerows, I certainly did and made some jam to boot. Recently I've been collecting conkers from round and about. They are well known for deterring spiders so we have them distributed around the house. I heard recently that spiders hate chestnut wood, not merely the conkers.

These past few weeks we have had some exceptional sunsets. At our previous home it was flat with trees all round so we didn't get them. In the last week or two I've seen the cock pheasant again. I haven't seen him since the Spring. He made me jump one afternoon because he was perched in a tree just above where I was working until something I did spooked him and he flew off, squawking away. If he'd kept still I'd have never noticed him but of course he didn't know that. There have been some fine fungi recently too, see photo.



Yesterday I sowed some broad beans to over-winter so I might have to protect them if there is a heavy snowfall. Now that's something we haven't seen for several years now.

Alan Edwards

Trinity Concert Band Christmas Concert

The Concert will take place on Saturday 17th December 2016 at Trinity Church, Lower Earley. There will be a matinee at 2:30pm and an evening concert at 7:30pm.

The concert will feature lots of Christmas music, some of which you'll be able to sing along to, some in more complex arrangements with 2 or 3 pieces woven together.

Ticket Prices: Tickets are £10 up to 24 hours before the concert and £12 on the door. Children under 16 years are free when accompanied by a paying member of the audience.

For tickets please email trinity-band@hotmail.co.uk or call 0845 2263047

Billy Roberts



I have been walking around the streets a bit more recently - my youngest granddaughter started infant school in September and I have the pleasure of walking to pick her up once or twice a week. I have noticed that the state of some pavements leaves something to be desired, and in some places they are in a bad condition.

If you have a complaint about the condition of a street or pavement, you should contact the highways department of your local authority. You should tell your local authority if you believe that defective or icy pavements or roads may cause an accident. If you have suffered a personal injury because of the condition of a street or pavement, for example, you have tripped on a paving stone, or slipped or skidded on an untreated icy street or pavement, you may be able to claim compensation.

For more information about how to claim compensation for personal injury, see this Citizens Advice webpage <http://tinyurl.com/cawok013>

For more information about what to do if your vehicle is damaged by an accident that wasn't your fault see this Citizens Advice webpage <http://tinyurl.com/cawok014>

You should also complain to your local authority about problems resulting from street works by utility companies (for example, gas, water, electricity) or cable companies. You should ask your

local authority to help if:

- They make it hard to get to your property - but try to take it up first with the company responsible for the works
- You are worried about noise nuisance or air pollution
- The works are dangerous, either when they are in progress, or when they have been finished
- A road or path is not put back to its original condition.

The highways department is also usually responsible for the maintenance of street furniture, for example, traffic lights, street lamps, crossing controls and litterbins. However, in some cases, another organisation may be responsible, for example, a bus stop or bus shelter may be the responsibility of a private company, or a particular street lamp may be the responsibility of the parish council. The highways department should be able to tell you which organisation is responsible.

For more information please see www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk. If you want to talk to us on the phone about anything you can call our Adviceline on 0300 330 1189.

You can also email us from our website or on public@citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk or drop in to our office:

WOKINGHAM
2nd floor, Waterford House,
Erfstadt Court RG40 1AP
public@citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk
www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk

Hours:
Mon - Thu: 9.00am - 3.00pm
Fri: 9.00am - 1.00pm

Telephone: 0300 330 1189

John Ferguson

Barkham Ladies Strollers

We have been enjoying our second year of strolls this spring/summer in perfect weather conditions. Beginning in April we set off to a bluebell wood in Warfield, attached to a farm shop. The abundance of colour and perfume makes one so appreciative of what nature provides. We enjoyed afternoon refreshments, and panoramic views from the teashop after our introductory stroll of around 2 miles. The



next venture which we embarked upon in July was from Henley to Hambleton Lock and back. We took an uphill route from Henley bridge, along wood and farmland, reaching the scenic Mill End at Hambleton and retracing steps to The Flowerpot for lunch, taken outside in the extensive garden provided. Strolling back, along the Thames and marquis used

both for Henley's regatta and subsequent festival we enjoyed a very pleasant sunny day with plenty of interest along the way.

Our July stroll was closely followed by the next at the end of August – the peak of our summer weather! Similar to last year, we set off to Elstead in Surrey for our circular of around 5 miles to Tilford and back. This year I elected to route our stroll in the opposite direction as it was hot and would avoid one steep uphill! Meeting up at the village green and spot-

ting an exceptionally pleasant cafe at Elstead, we were in no hurry to begin. Elstead provided a challenge for us all which had not been foreseen – this being shoulder-high brambles and nettles alongside a tributary of the River Wey. For some, this seemed to continue far too long and many – especially those in shorts and tee-shirts needed reassurance

there would be no more! The Barley Mow at Tilford has a splendid outdoor facility and beneath sun umbrellas we "chilled out". Most of the walk was shaded and returning back to Elstead saw us repeating 2015's venture into the Elstead Mill for afternoon refreshment. This is a delightful spot to enjoy well-maintained grounds and listen to ducks. September saw us repeating our stroll from the Arborfield Bull, up to Farley Hill and back on one of our hottest days of the summer. Thanks to accurate forecasting, we left

earlier than originally planned to avoid too much midday heat and dined indoors where Bruno at the Bull had all windows and doors open. In general, this local walk is shady and we were happy to return home as the mercury rose.

Since feedback from the strolls to date is so positive, I have been motivated to introduce more this

year and have added two into the programme. In October (another beautiful day) 16 of us began our penultimate stroll from The Horns at Cockpole Green near Wargrave. There are numerous interesting features along the way, centred around Culham Court, built in 1771 which is a vast estate with large herd of white deer grazing freely. Leaving The Horns, the route took us downhill to the Thames and Upper Culham Farm before returning steadily uphill within the grounds of Culham Court with newly built private church alongside path, to Middle Culham Farm and finally Lower Culham Farm back to Cockpole Green – hence the title of "Culham Farms"! As always and probably the main reason for attendance – lunch was appreciated and enjoyed by all.

The final stroll this year in November to appreciate autumn's colours, was the Valley Garden at Virginia Water (see photo). Fifteen came along and the conditions were ideal. The waterfall was very active, following recent heavy rainfall and the trees lived up to hopes and expectations with golden leaves covering the ground yet still plenty on the trees as well. We took the circuit past the waterfall to continue around the lake, veering off towards the polo field and into the heather garden, before moving across into the valley garden itself. We allowed two and a half hours to walk this circuit at our own pace. Lunch at The Wheatsheaf followed. This finale to our walks leaves us to hibernate as winter heads our way!

Marilyn New



Our speaker in October told us all about accordions and demonstrated the different types. We finished with a singalong. In November our speaker told us stories and read us odes which he had written and kept us all laughing for an hour. Great fun. On December 7th we will be holding our Christmas party when we self-cater and the food is always wonderful.

We have also had a visit to Wokingham Theatre.

Our first meeting in 2017 is on January 4th and will be a card making workshop.

We meet at Barkham Village Hall on the first Wednesday evening of the month at 7.45pm. Visitors are welcome so if you are new to the area why not come along and meet us for an evening and then see if you would like to join.

Pam Edwards

Wokingham Choral Society

Our Christmas Carol Concert will be performed on Saturday 17 December at 6.30pm at St Paul's Church, Reading Road, Wokingham, RG41 1EH. This will be conducted by our Musical Director, Patrick Allies and ticket prices will be £10.00 for adults, £5.00 for under 18s and students and free entry for under 5s! There will also be a retiring collection for charity which will be divided equally between the Mayor of Wokingham's chosen charity 'Soulscape' and the choir's chosen charity 'Wokingham Volunteer Centre'.

On Thursday 12 January we will be holding a 'Come and Sing' Open Evening rehearsal with free entry from 7.30pm at Emmbrook Senior School, Emmbrook Rd., Wokingham RG41 1JP, when all singers and prospective new members will be warmly welcomed to join us while we rehearse for our Spring Concert featuring music by Purcell, under the baton of our Musical Director, Patrick Allies.

The Spring Concert will be held at The Great Hall, University of Reading RG1 5AQ on Saturday 4th March 2017 at 7.30pm. Ticket prices will be £15.00 for adults and £5.00 for under 18s and students.

Tickets for both concerts will be available in advance from: tickets@wokingham-choral-society.org.uk; Information Centre, Wokingham Town Hall; Newbury Building Society; Wokingham Bookends, Wokingham; www.wegotickets.com or on the door. Further information can be found on our website www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk.

Julia Primarolo

Arborfield Gardening Association

Hello Everyone !

Hope you are all enjoying this glorious and  warm autumn weather....

On 19th September, all the local garden societies gathered at Henry Street Garden Centre in Arborfield, to flex their botanical muscles in the Inter-Societies Quiz. A challenging, but most enjoyable annual event –



- which we at AGA WON!!

AGA's team were Margaret Edwards, June Lucy and Patsy Townsend – a brilliant result – well done the team!

October brought another very special event for us, as it was our turn to host the annual Three Societies Social, an event where Arborfield, Shinfield and Heckfield & Swallowfield garden clubs came together to partake of an evening of good food and entertainment, along with some exacting quizzes and the nerve-racking table competition, where the societies compete for the best vegetables, pot plant, garden flowers, fruit, floral art, craft item, bottle of cherry vodka (!), sponge cake and the tastiest cheese straws

- and our winning streak continued!!!



Many thanks again to the brilliant efforts of Margaret, Patsy, Jean and June and their amazing supporters.

On 10th November 2016, we look forward to a talk on Hebes by our favourite Derek Leary, then - my goodness - it is Christmas and our annual Christmas meal in December!

Alan Goold from Henry Street Garden Centre will be with us again on 12th January **2017** to tell us about new products for the garden and then on 9th February we will have our AGM with some challenging quizzes.

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

Happy gardening!
Catherine Breen, Chair
catherinebreen@ymail.com

WANTED

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CROWTHORNE Symphony ORCHESTRA

It'll soon be 'that time' again so tickets for our Family Christmas Concert are available in advance as usual from Traveltime Travel Agents in Crowthorne High Street and Bookends Bookshop in Wokingham as well as on-line via our website. As in previous years, the concert will be an afternoon seasonal celebration so you can bring all the family

children of 16 and under are free. The concert is on **Saturday 10th December, 4.30pm** at St John the Baptist Church, Waterloo Road, Crowthorne. The programme will be a mix of seasonal music from the orchestra and carols for the audience to join in and sing. There will be a raffle, and interval refreshments will be provided by members of the church.

College, Crowthorne (doors open at 6.45pm). We will be welcoming pianist Daniel King Smith as soloist in **Schumann's** Piano Concerto. Daniel has played with the orchestra several times previously and we look forward to working with him again. Also included in the programme will be Dvorak's popular Symphony No 8 which is full of marvellous melodies.



– young and old are welcome and children may even get the chance to conduct the orchestra (which is always a popular moment!) and the bonus is that

Our Spring Concert will be a little earlier in the year than usual – on **Saturday 18th February at 7.30pm** at The Old Gym, Wellington

The orchestra welcomes new members subject to vacancies - if you are interested and are a competent player, even if you have taken a break from playing, please get in touch. We have a reputation as a friendly bunch with members of all ages. Weekly rehearsals are on Mondays in term time from 7.45-10pm at Oaklands Junior School, Butler Road, Crowthorne. Our website has up to date information on concerts, rehearsals, workshops and more: www.crowthorneorchestra.com

Chris Gadsby

Barkham Development Watch

Helping to protect Barkham's distinctive character

This email list is only used to send out periodic email alerts if we wish to bring any development plans to the notice of Barkham residents. Often the time allowed by Wokingham Borough Council for comments on a specific planning application or more general plan will expire before the next Barkham Newsletter is published so these alerts give residents a timely chance to comment on issues that may concern them. We currently have about 150 Barkham households on the list.

Please join the mailing list today by going to the BVRA website (www.barkham.org.uk) and follow the instructions to register for the alerts on the home page.

Also, if you have previously registered for these alerts but have changed your email address, please don't forget to resubscribe via the website. Two alerts were sent out on 10 October – if you didn't receive them, you're not registered!

BVRA Social Secretary Vacancy - PLEASE HELP!!

As previously advertised, our Social Secretary Judith Collins is stepping down from her role at the end of 2016 as she is moving out of Barkham we need a volunteer to replace her. Judith and the rest of the Social Committee have organised the various regular social events we hold each year, such as the quiz, the Carols in the Park and the Easter Egg Hunt. We currently have 7 members of the social committee so the workload can be shared.

As we have known about Judith's departure for some time, many of her responsibilities have been taken on by others (such as selling tickets and organising the bar licences) but we still need someone to take on the Social Secretary role and coordinate the activities of the committee.

Please consider volunteering to take on this important and interesting role on behalf of the Barkham community. It's a great opportunity to contribute to and be part of the social life of the village. Judith will be happy to provide more details as to what the role entails and to support the new Social Secretary as they "learn the ropes".

Please contact me (details on page 3) or Judith (977 1579) for more details or hopefully to volunteer.

If you value the Barkham social events, please do not wait for someone else to step forward!

Thank you

Stewart Richardson

BVRA Chairman Can you help please?



The Barkham Village Residents Association's role is "to preserve and enhance the character of the Parish of Barkham as a community". The chairman facilitates this role and specific duties include:

- To chair the Association, Committee meetings (4 per year) and the AGM.
- Co-ordinate actions across the Association's fields of activities.
- Represent the BVRA with outside bodies (e.g. Parish Council, media, the public).
- Recruit new Committee members when necessary.
- Write the Chairman's introduction to each Newsletter.
- Time commitment could be a maximum of half a day per month.

If you feel you may be able to take on this important role in the local community or would like more information, please contact any member of the committee (details on page 3).

The Quiz - Answers

1. Grayson Ferry
2. Brian Sewell
3. 10cc
4. Art Nouveau (most popular 1890-1910). Art Deco became popular in the 1920s and 30s.
5. Pablo Picasso, Madrid (Museo Reina Sofia)
6. Art Garfunkel ("Bright Eyes")
7. Tate Britain
8. St Ives
9. JMW Turner and the full name is "The Fighting Temeraire tugged to her last berth to be broken up"
10. Robert Hughes

Barkham Village Hall

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Can accommodate 175 guests and now has a new fully equipped kitchen. Plus with the benefit of Lottery Funding a new ceiling and lighting have been installed which can be fully dimmable for evening celebrations.

If you are a group who needs somewhere to meet on a regular basis why not use your local village hall, we have plenty of tables and chairs and spacious car park and grounds for use during the summer. We offer very competitive rates for regular users.

Further information can be obtained from the parish council web site with photographs of the hall plus a calendar with availability. Please contact Judith Neuhofer on 979 0296 or email clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk

Barkham Diary

07/12/16	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
13/12/16	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
13/12/16	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
14/12/16	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
17/12/16	Carols in the Park	Junipers	7.00pm
04/01/17	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
09/01/17	Arborfield Local History Society	AVH	7.45pm
10/01/17	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
10/01/17	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
11/01/17	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
23/01/17	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
24/01/17	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
01/02/17	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
06/02/17	Arborfield Local History Society	AVH	7.45pm
08/02/17	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
14/02/17	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
14/02/17	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
17/02/17	Copy deadline for Spring Newsletter		
27/02/17	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
28/02/17	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
01/03/17	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
04/03/17	BVRA Barn Dance	BVH	7.00pm
16/04/17	BVRA Easter Egg Hunt	Junipers	3pm
30/09/17	BVRA Skittles	BVH	7.30pm
25/11/17	BVRA Quiz Night	BVH	7.30pm
Weekly Events			
Mondays	Pilates Class	BVH	11.30am
Mondays	Dog Training	BVH	6.30pm
Tues-Fri	Barkham Pre-School	BVH	9.00am
Thursdays	Pilates Class	BVH	6.15pm

AVH is Arborfield Village Hall BVH is Barkham Village Hall
CRH is California Ratepayers Hall

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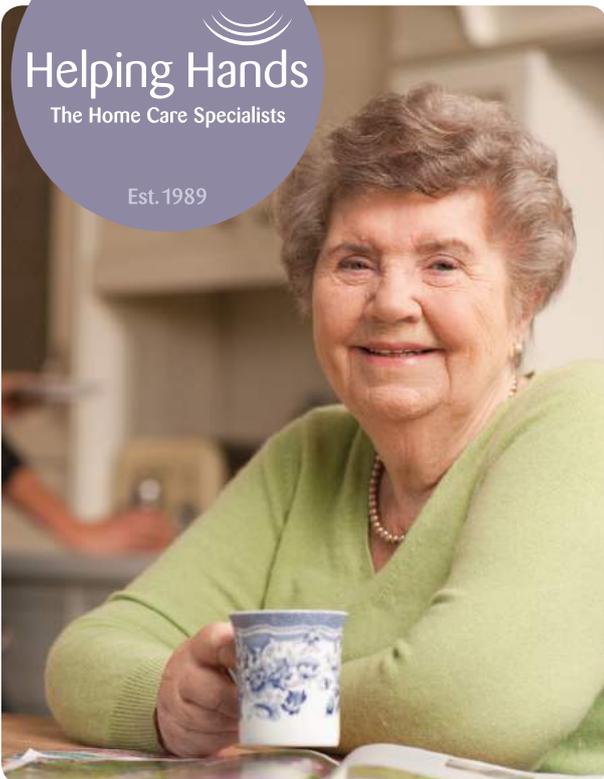
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