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Barkham Newsletter

Issue 122 Winter 2017

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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

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

STOP PRESS - the BVRA will close down in the new year unless we find a new Chairperson. Please help to save your residents' association! See page 3 for details.



Carols in the Park

Friday 15 December 7pm

The Junipers



Family Skittles Evening Saturday 10 March – see all Social Events details on page 12

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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, the public).
- Recruit new Committee members when necessary.
- Time commitment could vary dependent on the availability and interests of the incumbent but no more than a few hours 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 Stewart Richardson or any member of the committee (details on page 5).

BVRA Secretary – could you help please?

We have a vacancy on the BVRA Committee for the role of Secretary. The main responsibilities are:

- Attend and participate in the quarterly committee meetings and Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- Take, agree & distribute minutes arising
- Solicit & collate officer AGM reports in advance of the public meeting

This is a key role to oil the wheels of the BVRA machine and to contribute your ideas in the development of the residents' association!

Please contact Stewart Richardson (details on page 5) or any committee member for further details.

THE BVRA HAS NO CHAIRPERSON AND IS IN IMMINENT DANGER OF HAVING TO CLOSE DOWN – PLEASE HELP!

The Barkham Village Residents Association ("BVRA") was established in 1987 so is now in its 30th year. It came about initially in response to a Planning Application for housing development within the Coombes.

After the threat to the Coombes subsided, the association continued to contribute to Barkham's community spirit by running social events and the production of a quarterly newsletter.

Planning issues remain a key interest of the BVRA and obviously there is a lot of current activity on this topic (see elsewhere in this newsletter).

However, we will have to wind up the BVRA in the new year if we cannot find local residents to join the committee.

We have been without a permanent chairperson since our previous chairman moved out of the area. We have managed via "acting" chairs and the Newsletter Editor has been Acting Chairman for the past 4 years, in addition to editing the quarterly Barkham Newsletter (which you are reading now). However, he is unable to continue to carry out both roles and stood down at the recent AGM. None of the other committee members are able to take on the role.

We must have a Chairperson in order to function for practical reasons but also to conform with our Constitution. We have also been without a Secretary since the summer when the previous incumbent had to stand down.

We have advertised for a new chairperson in the newsletter and on the website many times over the years but have received no replies. Unless a resident comes forward to take on the chair role by 31 January 2018, the committee has decided that it will have to wind up the BVRA. This is obviously something we want to avoid at all costs **BUT IT WILL HAPPEN UNLESS THERE IS A VOLUNTEER.**

IF YOU VALUE THE BVRA AND WANT TO SAVE IT, PLEASE HELP NOW!

Contact Stewart Richardson or any member of the committee (details on page 5) for more information or to volunteer.

(signed) BVRA General Committee

Note

The roles of the Chairperson and Secretary are described on the facing page. Previous experience is not required and the rest of the committee will provide help and guidance as needed. The main prerequisites of the Chairperson role are a desire to support the local Barkham community and a good dollop of common sense!

The Quiz

The theme this time is “Black or White”. Each question or answer has the word “black” or “white” in it. Simple!

1. In which cult TV show might you encounter the “White Walkers” (though best to avoid them!)?
2. What was the title of Amy Winehouse’s second (and final) studio album?
3. Which English county has a White Rose as its emblem?
4. Who co-starred with Will Smith in “Men in Black”?
5. How many times does Black Rod bang on the door to the Commons with his rod at the State Opening of Parliament?
6. Who was known as “The Walrus of Love”?
7. Which classic song includes the line “Letters I’ve written, never meaning to send”?
8. Who wrote the novel “The Woman in White”?
9. ...and “The Woman in Black”?
10. What is the name of AC/DC’s best-selling album, released in 1980?
11. What is the common name for leukocytes or leucocytes?
12. Which Beatles album features the song “Blackbird”?
13. In which city is the “White House” shelled by tanks in a failed coup attempt in 1993?
14. Who had a 1967 hit with “Black is Black”?
15. Which play starts with “To begin at the beginning: It is Spring, moonless night in the small town, starless and bible-black...”?
16. Which Russian city on the Black Sea coast hosted the 2014 Winter Olympics and is the current location for the Russian Formula 1 Grand Prix?
17. In chess, which colour pieces have the first move?
18. Which fictional character says “Oh my ears and whiskers, how late it’s getting”?
19. How was the (infamous) Royal Irish Constabulary Special Reserve better known?
20. T-Rex sang “ride a white swan like the people of the Beltane”. What is the Beltane?

Answers on page 23

BVRA 2017/18 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman: Stewart Richardson (acting)
chairman@barkham.org.uk

Secretary: vacant
secretary@barkham.org.uk

Treasurer: Ian Overton
973 4806
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Membership: Jim Butler
978 3572
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979 1914
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Editorial

Welcome to the winter edition of the Barkham Newsletter! We have a new record membership of the BVRA at 706 Barkham households.

I must start by reiterating the message on the front cover and explained on page 3. **The BVRA is in great danger of having to wind up its operations due to the lack of a Chairperson.** We are not “crying wolf”; this is a real crisis and we do hope a member of the Barkham community will come forward to help us before we have to dissolve the residents’ association. **If you value the BVRA and the work it has done over the past 30 years PLEASE HELP NOW!**

More positively, on to the contents of this edition of the newsletter. This is a bumper 24 page edition. We have a new record membership of the BVRA of 706 Barkham households. The winter issue is normally “members only” but the parish council have asked us to deliver to all Barkham residents to ensure all are aware of the continuing and escalating development threats.

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 stimu-

late discussion and participation where appropriate. Laurence Heath (Barkham Parish Council) and John Kaiser (Wokingham Borough Council) discuss the issues in detail on pages 6 - 10.

The quiz this time (“Black and White”) is larger than usual at 20 questions, including a few tricky questions maybe.

Our webmaster, Dave Clements, gives a website update on page 11 and also lets residents know we are now on Facebook. No Twitter account yet!

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

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 (shortly to end) 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.

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

Stewart Richardson
Editor

Advertising and Newsletter Contributions

Newsletter articles / contributions for the Spring edition should be in by 16 February 2018. 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 early March.



Borough Councillor's report

Current position with Local Development Plan Update (or when is an enough a enough)

The borough council currently are operating under the 2010 Core Strategy which had a requirement to build out some 621 houses per annum up to 2026. This was endorsed by a Planning Inspector following a public examination. Under the 2010 Core Strategy the council agreed four Strategic Development Locations ("SDL") to take our housing up to 2026. It was agreed with the Inspector who examined, and found it sound, with the comment that the Local Plan, because of the size of these SDLs, housing would be mainly delivered towards the end of the period up to 2026, which is what is happening.

The 621 number was based on the old South East Plan which was set by Government. This figure is not an Objectively Assessed Number (OAN) as required under the new National Planning Policy Framework as a result WBC and the other five Berkshire authorities commissioned an Objectively Assessed Need for housing which came up with 856 per annum for Wokingham.

However under the National Planning Policy Framework ("NPPF") the rules changed and we failed to deliver fast enough under the new rules to give us the five year rolling supply, something which is totally outside the council's control.

Because of this slow delivery we have now been penalised by the Government with a 20% add on to our current assessed housing need of 856.

So the five year need is 856×1.20 to give 1,027 per annum or 5,136 over the five year rolling requirement. We also have to include the backlog of 1,063 to give 6,047.

There are a number of reasons why house building is slow. The massive uplift in value of land with planning permission means that it is treated as an investment opportunity, with developers slowing build rates if house prices show signs of weakening to protect the profits they make on each house. Additionally there is a shortage of skilled workers which makes it difficult to increase the build rate even when demand is strong. As said earlier it was recognised by the inspector at the inquiry in public of our Local Plan in 2010 that slow delivery could be a problem in the short term due to the size of the sites identified in the plan but that in itself would not be a reason to increase the numbers agreed in the plan. Unfortunately this seems to be ignored by inspectors at subsequent appeals.

Various appeals have challenged the OAN number of 856 and inspectors have agreed with appellants' and arbitrarily increased the assessed need from 856 to 894. The argument used being affordability, on the basis the greater

the supply the cheaper the price. It is interesting to note that the council have no influence over price however developers do, in the last three years they have increased the price of a two bed terrace from £250,000 to £389,000.

Expansion of the governments Help to Buy programme sounds like a step in the right direction. Sadly it is the complete reverse and has become the house purchase equivalent of housing benefit. The effect of these schemes has been to pump money into the housing market, helping to keep prices high and beyond the reach of first time buyers.

In our Borough alone, planning approvals have been granted which should provide some 13,000 dwellings. Meanwhile, some of the same developers who have these approvals and their advisors continue to acquire land and put forward new applications for housing in totally inappropriate and unsustainable locations, often without any infrastructure to support them, sighting the fact they believe the council do not have a 5 year land supply, in essence due to their own slow delivery rate.

A classic example of this behaviour is the Arborfield garrison development; this is a development of 3500 homes and formed part of the 2010 local plan, all of which have planning permission granted by the council. Covering 2 sites, one site is for the delivery of 2000 homes and it is accepted that the build out rate is such that getting round to delivering the number in the plan will take many years. Recognising this the developers have obtained temporary planning permission for a large part of the site and have leased it for some 9 years

to a film company to generate revenue and to stop further depredation of the site, very laudable and makes common sense, That said they have now submitted another site for upwards of 800 additional houses adjacent to but outside the boundary of the approved Arborfield SDL as part of the council's calls for sites for the local plan update. One must ask when they think they will get round to delivering on that site should they be successful in gaining approval.

With regards to the other site which is in the control of another landowner, it is now coming up to 2 years since approval was granted a for some 1500 homes and not a brick has been laid or a sod been turned, so there is no indication when this site will start to deliver housing this in turn has a major impact on the council 5 year land supply.

Using the latest imposed housing needs of 894 per annum and the 20% add on gives a five year need of 6,047. However the council believes it still just meets its five year rolling with 5.11 years but to achieve it the council has had to release its reserve sites.

The government instead of allowing developers to challenge the council should be exploring ways for local authorities to purchase land cheaply, with or without compulsory purchase intervention. This would allow local authorities to contract builders to build within predetermined time scales. To meet these time lines they will be forced to consider more efficient ways of building such as modular construction which will deliver greater numbers in shorter time frames and

will go some way to solving the shortage of skill workers.

In addition the current policies are failing to deliver low cost housing for first time buyers, developers do not like affordable housing and complain that they cannot make a profit and lose money on the 35% affordable housing they are required to provide on most developments. If this is truly the case, the land designated for this purpose should be appropriated by the authority to allow them to build their own housing stock, for the less well off in our borough.

We continue to be challenged at planning appeals on our need almost on a daily basis and if such challenge is accepted by inspectors we end up with houses in unsustainable locations causing more and more congestion, such appeals are costing the council in the region of one million pound per annum to defend in spite of the fact we have over 13000 approvals granted under the 2010 local plan. The government should therefore guide Planning Inspectors to allow responsible authorities such as Wokingham to continue with their strategy of delivering housing according to its sustainable local plan, without the additional burden of fighting unreasonable planning appeals that rely on the fiction that the Borough has not provided adequate land for development.

Added to this debate is the issue around greenbelt vs. countryside. Greenbelt is highly protected in planning legislation whereby countryside has very little in the way of protection, the issue is Wokingham has very little in the way of greenbelt whereas surrounding areas have a higher

percentage of the land area designated Greenbelt and as such developers and other surrounding authorities (and Government) look to areas of countryside such as Wokingham to deliver a far higher number of houses under a duty to co-operate to meet the housing needs.

The council and councillors continue to lobby the government against this current system to stem ever upward housing numbers and development in unsuitable and unsustainable locations which forces pressure on services and infrastructure on all areas of the Borough and we await the results of our lobbying with baited breath.

Remember I am always available on the phone or email to deal with any enquiries or questions you may have with regards to your borough council.

John Kaiser

Borough Councillor for Barkham Ward and

Deputy Mayor for Wokingham

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and loss of countryside.

There was criticism that developers seem to focus on building the more expensive types of houses and that there is still a lack of housing for first time buyers. Older people complained that they were unlikely to downsize as there were no suitable properties being built – “no bungalows” said one.

There was a lot of irritation that there is still no firm plan for a medical centre at Arborfield Green. Residents feel short changed about this: “We were told that redeveloping the garrison would provide facilities for the local community. It is not happening” was one comment.

There was a more upbeat response to the new Bohunt School but this was tempered by many complaints about access routes. There are still not safe routes for pupils living in Arborfield Green, let alone for more distance parts Barkham. Timings of the buses and poor punctuality were also criticised.

Some other issues raised included the slow roll out of fast broadband

and concerns about maintenance of sports pitches. There was impatience to learn more about what is proposed for the new District Centre at Arborfield Green.

The Steering group is now analysing the written responses. Armed with this information and the results of the residents’ survey, we are now embarking on the task of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan policies. This will be a large task but will determine the shape of the Neighbourhood Plan itself. The Neighbourhood Plan will not be able to stop development but it can influence how it happens

Neighbourhood Plan - Countryside Views

When considering possible future development across Arborfield and Barkham Parishes we must take full account of how any such developments will impact views of our countryside. Views reflect the geography, geology, natural environment and man-made features of the landscape. Development should blend in to the landscape, not to impose on it.

We would like to hear about the views that are important to you, those that may be enhanced and those you fear may be jeopardised by development. There are many important and much-loved views around the two parishes and we have begun by listing some of them. The following are all in Barkham:

- View from Barkham Road, approaching the bridge, looking across Field Farm
- The rhododendron avenue along Bearwood Road
- Barkham Church from Rooks



Barkham Brook

Nest Wood and from the north east along footpath BA10 (The Barkham Way)

- The view from Coppid Hill looking south across open fields

Please suggest others. Respond to abnpsg@gmail.com and attach any photographs if you wish.



Fields near Barkham bridge

Housing Policy

Driving around Wokingham, it is hard not to notice that there are large tracts of land being made available for house building. It seems crazy to say so, but Wokingham is under pressure from the government for not providing enough land. In his article, John Kaiser explains the byzantine process that reaches this conclusion.

Barkham Parish Council recently sent a letter to Sajid Javid, the Communities Secretary, concerning the short comings of the government’s housing policy, in particular with regard to the 5 year land supply. This letter was published in the previous edition of the BVRA Newsletter. In the end, we did receive a reply: a somewhat flimsy one, it has to be said. The issues raised are too great to ignore, so Barkham Parish Council has followed up with an open letter to politicians and media.

There are some basic issues that Sajid Javid needs to address:

1. The government’s own figures show that planning approvals nationally have far exceeded the number of homes being built and this has been the case for the last ten years. In Wokingham, there

maximise the returns on their investment by land banking. In spite of this, the perceived solution is to grant yet more approvals and to lumber local councils with even higher building targets, over which the councils have no control.

3. To make matters worse, the targets do not specify what sort of houses are built. Though councils attempt to set targets for affordable housing, in practice developers try to maximise the number of larger 4 bedroom houses, which they find more profitable. As a result, there is a desperate shortage of low cost starter homes which younger people can afford to purchase.
4. When developers actually build smaller houses, they are still failing to address affordability. It is the developers who have chosen in to increase the price of a two-bed terrace from £250,000 to £390,000 in Wokingham.
5. With signs of house prices weakening, there is every likelihood that the rate of house building will slow down. This is because many developers will opt to protect the value of their land rather than to build and sell at discounted prices. This will especially worsen the shortage of desperately needed low cost housing.

are approvals for 13,000 as yet unbuilt dwellings.

2. This suggests the real problem is not the supply of land. Key factors are a shortage of skilled workers, lead times to build infrastructure (the Arborfield Cross Relief Road, for example, will take 7 years from inception to completion) and the temptation for developers to limit building rates to
6. The Government, through the planning system, seems to punish those areas who are planning and taking record numbers of housing. Wokingham is absorbing record numbers, yet it is being inundated by unwelcome, speculative proposals and appeals from *cont...*

Neighbourhood Plan - Shaping Our Future

The “Shaping Our Future” event was held recently so that residents of Barkham and Arborfield could discuss progress of the Neighbourhood Plan. There was a lot of intense discussion on a range of topics. Many thanks to everyone who attended.

Traffic congestion, inevitably, was a hot topic, especially following the number of road works around the area. “Will it ever end? The building has only just begun” was a typical comment.

Development obviously was another hot topic, particularly following the recent announcement that Barkham Square is being assessed by the planners as an additional site. Associated worries centred on additional traffic



...cont developers. Planning Inspectors considering these appeals seem to be actively encouraging this trend away from plan led delivery.

7. Barkham Parish Council will continue to pester Mr Javid until we receive satisfactory answers. Other parish councils are also sending letters and at least some local politicians are being supportive. I encourage residents to join the fray by writing their own letters too!
8. The government's aim is to build more houses to solve housing shortages and to do so as quickly as possible. What they are getting is fewer houses and too many of these are of the wrong type in the wrong place.

Barkham Square

Barkham Parish Council is very concerned that Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) suddenly advised that Barkham Square is being assessed as a major development site as part of the Local Plan Update. This would mean extending Arborfield Green (the former garrison site) by at least 58 hectares on open land to the north of Arborfield Green, close to Barkham Street which is designated as an Area of Special Character.

At the recent "Shaping Our Future" event, the recent announcement concerning Barkham prompted plenty of concern, if not anger. "Why is Barkham being targeted again?" asked one resident while another, questioned "if it wasn't already a done deal?"

Barkham Square was previously submitted as a possible development site as part of the Wokingham local plan, the Core Strategy adopted in 2010. However, this was rejected by the Planning Inspector who considered it would not achieve sustainability benefits, would affect separation from nearby villages and would have an adverse landscape impact.

Barkham residents are already concerned about traffic congestion. This was identified as the main concern in the Residents Survey carried out for the Neighbourhood Plan. Expansion of Arborfield Green will inevitably lead to even more traffic having to use residential roads such as Barkham Road and Bearwood Road.

The Core Strategy allocated 3,500 homes for the garrison redevelopment, including some lands to the south at Hogwood Farm. So far just a few hundred homes have been built. The Hogwood development appears to have stalled. Meanwhile the lead developer at Arborfield Green recognises that the build out rate will be slow and consequently has arranged for a film company to use redundant buildings as a studio for up to nine years. In spite of progress being slow, the parish is already being expected to accept further expansion. Barkham Parish Council finds this totally unreasonable. -

Provision of health care at Arborfield Green

There is going to be a huge shortfall in medical facilities across the Borough as massive new housing developments come on stream and developers press for more housing. Barkham, which includes much of Arborfield

Green, has no existing medical facilities. Arborfield only has a small clinic held weekly in the Village Hall, which is run from the Swallowfield practice some four miles away.

Plans for the Arborfield Green were sold to existing residents on the understanding that it would provide sustainable new facilities for both new and existing residents. The need for a new GP surgery was included in the Core Strategy and development funds were reserved for that purpose. Crest Nicholson, the lead developer at Arborfield Green, has agreed to provide a suitable location in the proposed Village Centre. This has the backing of WBC and local parish councils.

A new medical facility at Arborfield Green would have a natural catchment of around 17,000 patients including ultimately over 10,000 residents in Arborfield Green itself plus more than 6,000 existing residents in Barkham and Arborfield. It would also mean that some capacity will be released at surgeries in Wokingham Town, providing capacity for future residents of the developments in North and South Wokingham.

There has been some doubt whether a new facility would be provided as the local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has preferred expansion of existing facilities. This would be in line with NHS policy which favours larger units. However, I understand that discussions are taking place between WBC and the CCG, so a GP surgery at Arborfield Green could still be a possibility.

Laurence Heath
Vice Chairman
Barkham Parish Council



Webmaster's update

One new development has been the creation of a Facebook page to help promote social events and also advise of development watch alerts. The page can be found by searching for Barkham Village Residents Association in Facebook, entering gid.uk/BVRAF in your browser or by linking to it from the home page of the website <http://barkham.org.uk>.

For some time, we have had a "forum" facility on the website to allow Barkham residents to air their views and share ideas and opinions with other residents. Unfortunately, this has not been

much used, either because people are not aware of it or don't see the value. If you would like to participate please visit <http://barkham.org.uk> and click on the forum option at the top of the page.

Given the increasing development activity in the area this is one place where you can air your views and see what your fellow residents are thinking. Anyone can view the forum but you do need to register if you wish to post on it. We plan to close down the forum and replace it with a Facebook Group which will be available by early in the new year.

This year, ten Development Watch alerts have been emailed out. This is just one more than last year. The activity continues to reflect the increasing amount of development activity in the Barkham area. The number of active subscriptions to the alerts is 147 and remains fairly constant. We are however seeing an increasing number of invalid email addresses when we mail out so if

you no longer get emails please update your details or register on the site.

If you wish to receive these emails or be able to post on the forum please go to the website home page and select the "Create an Account" option in the "Logon or Register" box. You will need to provide a name, email address, post code and tick the mailing lists you wish to subscribe to. You will be sent an email asking you to confirm your email address - if you don't receive this please check your junk folder as you must click on the reply option in order to activate your subscription. The post code is used as a security check to prevent rogue registrations from being accepted.

Finally, we are always looking to enhance the site so if you have any suggestions these can be sent to me at webmaster@barkham.org.uk

Dave Clements
BVRA Webmaster

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.



singing voices - carol sheets will be provided. Once again 'Breakaway Brass' will be providing the music, and there will be a bucket collection for the musicians since they kindly give up their time. The committee will again be serving mulled wine, mince pies and warm blackcurrant (non-alcoholic) drinks. So do come along, wrap up warm and enjoy the festive season.

Social Matters

The clocks have gone back and we have had a few frosty mornings, and as I write this in early November it feels that December, Christmas and even 2018 are fast approaching.

Since the last newsletter we have had a very successful 'Barn Dance' on September 30th (see photos). Approximately 50 dancers including a few children were kept in step (well most of the time anyway) by Alan Dyer, the caller in his Alderbricklam Band. There were times when some of us were going the wrong way at the wrong times, but it was all great fun! And the hot dogs were good too! The last dance was exciting as we all made a very large circle and then with the help of a band member we made an ever decreasing and then increasing circle back to the original circle - it looked very complicated and the trick was not to let go of hands!

The Quiz will have taken place on November 25th so the report on this will appear in the next Newsletter.

Our next event is the family 'Carols in the Park' on Friday December 15th, starting at 7pm at the junction of the Woodlands and the Junipers. This is a free event so please bring your torches and

Future events and dates for 2018 have already been planned and booked. The first event is the 'Family Skittles' evening on Saturday March 10th in the Village Hall, 7.00 for 7.30, and supper will be provided. As usual there will be a bar and a raffle. Tickets are £10 and £5 for primary school-aged children, and can be obtained from Gill Powell on 978 3373, or by emailing social@barkham.org.uk. This is a great fun event so please put the date in your new diaries.

As usual the children's 'Easter Egg Hunt' will take place at 3pm on Easter Sunday, April 1st at the Junipers Park. This event is always very popular, and a reminder will appear in the Spring Newsletter.

That's all the news for now, so I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year, and thank you for supporting the BVRA Social Events. I hope to see as many of you as possible at our planned future events.

Shirley Warner
Social Committee Member



Farley Hill Bowls Club News

We had our AGM on 25th October, and elected our 2018 Management Committee along with a new Club Captain Nick Long-Field and Vice-Captain Martin Edwards. The other members were all re-elected, except for some administrative changes to the Social Secretary's role

The 6 club batch trophies were also presented at the AGM this year. The winners were: Club Championship - Nick Long-Field, Ladies Cup - Sharon Henry, Pairs - Geoff Mottram & Bruce Harnett, Novices Cup - Martin Edwards, Presidents Cup - Andrew Marks, Bob Waterer Cup - Andrew Marks.

This was not one of our best seasons for winning many of our usual approx. 50 friendly matches; but we are all very pleased that nearly all the 8 new bowlers that joined our club this year have been playing in our friendly matches as well as in the club competitions. We look forward to us all doing better in 2018!

Our green closed on 18th September. However, if you would like to pop in to have a look at the clubhouse and our green, with a view to possibly taking up bowls next year, or maybe just coming along to one of our monthly winter social activities, please contact Bill Dowling, Club Secretary, on 01344 772130 or e-mail billdowling@farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk

Farley Hill Bowls Club is at the Victory Hall, Church Road, Farley Hill RG7 1TR

For more information please see our website: www.farleyhill-bowlsclub.org.uk



I did not attend the meetings in October and November due to personal commitments.

We visited Wokingham theatre in October to see "Hedda Gabler" by Henrik Ibsen. It was as dark, passionate and brooding as you would expect!

Our December 6th meeting is our Christmas party. We all contribute food then play party games and have a lucky dip sharing of Christmas gifts.

The January 3rd meeting is a craft evening where I will bring along items for card making. You can expect to leave with a completed greetings card.

Our February 7th meeting is our AGM.

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

For more information please contact our Chairperson Mrs Pauline Vestey on 0118 979 1714.



News from Your Parish Council

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

The Parish Council has been busy fighting planning applications for further development in Barkham. We currently have an application for 70 dwellings at Oakwood View, School Road, (application number 172165), if approved this would have a huge impact on the traffic in this area and we urge residents to respond. You can keep you up to date via the BVRA Development Watch.

Our other major concern is possible development at Barkham Square, this site joins on to the development at Arborfield Green, stretching from Commonfield Lane to Langley Common Road. Crest are keen to pursue this. If this is permitted a further 1000 houses could be added to those already approved for Arborfield Green. WBC have highlighted this area as a possible site for more development. See more detailed report from Laurence Heath.

Sam Hosgood Sporting Endeavour Fund

This fund was set up by Sam Hosgood in order to help young people who are passionate about their sport and compete at county



level. We were delighted to present 3 awards at the last meeting of the Council.

Ali Castle, aged 13 is a talented swimmer, Ali won a gold medal and two silvers at the County Championships. She trains 6 days a week on top of her school work.

Ewan Castle aged 16 is a rugby player and plays rugby for the County, after a lot of hard work he has named himself as the 1st choice fly half. On top of studying for A levels he has been selected for the AASE programme (Achieving Academic and Sporting Excellence) at Henley College in affiliation with the premier ship club Wasps.

Bethany Austin, aged 12, a gifted tumbler. She trains for 12 hours a week. She is an elite gymnast and has been nominated as part of the GB talent developmentsquad.

Sam presented each winner with a cheque towards their training expenses and wished them every success for the future.

Precept

The Parish Council will shortly be setting its precept which is collected as part of your Council Tax, based on the band of your property. Wokingham Borough Council collects the precept from the residents on its behalf and pays to the Parish Council annually in three instalments. Grants are given to local charities who support our residents such as Keep Mobile, Citizens Advice Bureau, Wokingham Job Support Agency, the BVRA to contribute towards the printing of this magazine, The Coombes C. of E. School to pay for the running costs of the swimming pool as we firmly believe that every child should be able to swim. Also, St. James Church to keep the grave yard in a tidy condition, the Village Hall which pays for the mowing of the grass; this lovely area is a huge attraction for hirers of the hall which hosts many events during the year. Plus others. During the year the Parish Council has paid for a defibrillator which has been installed at the Post Office in Bearwood Road. A Welcome Map

which has been delivered to every household in Barkham. Created two delightful walks with signage and way markers, the Barkham Way and The Coombes Circular Walk. We do hope you have had a chance to try these.

The Parish Council is not authorised to make the big decisions such as planning and road maintenances, but it does have an important role ensuring that the views of the parish are represented to WBC. Therefore we budget for seeking guidance from professionals where needed, plus we hold a healthy planning reserve fund as a fighting fund should it ever be required.

Therefore, for the small sum of £27.73 for households in Band D this is very good value for money.

Vacancy for a Councillor

The Parish Council are now looking for a new councillor. If you feel you would like to become more involved with what goes on in your community, please contact the Clerk who will be able to give you more information. There will be many changes coming to Barkham and this is your opportunity to become more involved.

History Books

The "Barkham A History" book has been such a success that we have now taken delivery of a further stock of books. If you have not yet purchased your copy they can be obtained from the Clerk at £8.50 each or from Henry Street Garden Centre. These will make ideal Christmas presents for anyone who is new to the area and does not already own one.

Loddon Valley Ramblers' Walks

For more walks, including some longer ones, visit Loddon Valley Ramblers Website: www.lvra.org.uk

Sunday 3rd December 10:00, 5½ miles: Whitchurch Hill and Boze Down **Start:** [SU634765](http://www.os.uk) CP in centre of Pangbourne RG8 7AW. Leader **Mary W, 07833 582902 or 0118 977 0746.**

Tuesday 5th December 10:00, 10½ miles: A pleasant local winter walk through farmland, Yateley Common, Warren Heath and woods. **Start:** [SU779609](http://www.os.uk) St Mary's Church, Eversley RG27 0PX. **Meet: 09:40** at [SU807697](http://www.os.uk) Cantley Park, Twyford Road, Wokingham RG40 5QQ for car share. Leader **Jane T, 07899 734799.**

Thursday 7th December 10:30, 5½ miles: Walk along the lanes of Warfield. **Start:** [SU873726](http://www.os.uk) Frost's Folly free CP, RG42 6EN. Leader **Judith C, 07765 064650.**

Sunday 10th December 10:30, 4½ miles: A gently undulating walk without stiles, along Pudding Lane and Farley Hill. **Start:** [SU760669](http://www.os.uk) Free CP at Arborfield Cross, near The Bull at Arborfield RG2 9QD Leader **Ellen H, 0118 934 1084 or 07715 553979.**

Sunday 17th December 10:30, 5 miles: Try Roman Mince Pies & Mulled Wine along Foudry Brook into Silchester Amphitheatre. **Start:** [SU655646](http://www.os.uk) Village CP opposite Horse & Groom pub, The Street, Mortimer RG7 3RD. Leader **Graham S, 0118 977 6586 or 07966 002016.**

Thursday 21st December 10:30, 6½ miles: Near Henley & passing through Gillsmithers Wood and Harpsden. **Start:** [SU772817](http://www.os.uk) Mill Lane Free CP Henley, RG9 4HB. Leader **John A, 0118 977 4183 or 07780 966598 (on day of walk only).**

Sunday 24th December 10:00, 5½ miles: Join us on a Christmas Eve Walk around Windsor Great Park, **Start:** [SU947726](http://www.os.uk) Cranbourne Tower CP, SL4 2B T. Leader **George & Jake, 07703 662747 (Text only please as I am rather deaf).**

Local Women's Institutes

If you would like to join one of the local institutes to meet other like-minded ladies, please come along to the Arborfield Green Community Centre on the first Tuesday evening in December to join in with all the other new members at this fledgling WI. They meet at 7.30 pm and have an exciting programme of demonstrations for Christmas.

Also in the local area, is Arborfield and Newland WI who meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 2.00pm in Arborfield Village Hall. Arborfield and Newland are, in contrast, about to celebrate their Centenary in 2019!

All new prospective members are very welcome at either or both of these groups.

Pam Stubbs



Alan's Patch

The bonfire has died down and I've collected the ash to spread around my patch, mainly under the fruit trees to provide nutrients. The autumn colours have been spectacular this year; I wonder if the weather has been especially helpful.

There are some vegetables that when home-grown have a flavour that money can't buy. One of these is sweet corn. It was highly successful and the badger defences proved effective so we were able to eat the entire crop this year. This makes it one of the great delights of August. The same applies to peas but the season is much longer, from July to September. Carrots and parsnips have done particularly well this year. Carrots are another vegetable that is best home-grown for freshness. It's not just the flavour there is also a scent when raw.

In early October the grandsons were here and so I used this as an opportunity to show them a bit of gardening (no use relying on their father!). So we picked some seeds from the old and blackened pods of the broad beans and sowed them to over-winter in the hope that they will crop earlier than the spring sown. Going against traditional practice I use the same variety for spring and autumn sowings because the winters are

much milder these days. In any case the autumn sowing varieties taste like cardboard! Unfortunately with the warm weather and having sown them a couple of weeks earlier than normal they have grown rapidly and I am wondering if their growth will be too tender to survive the winter so, as a backup, I have sown some more seeds interspersed with the originals in case a few die during the winter. I am sending them photos so that they can see the progress.



Pear and butternut squash

Butternut squash have been very successful and safely stored for winter however a few were really small and not much different in size to one of my pears so that's my photo of the month, the two alongside each other. Can our younger readers tell which is which?

I'm still eating tomatoes and I still have a few more in the greenhouse together with the last cucumber. I really like my cucumber – they have the same fresh flavour but without the bitterness that I associate with shop-bought ones.

The compost bins are in good order. I noted a couple of times this past month or so that the temperature was too high to hold my hand in for long! Alongside I emptied the leaf cage and refilled it again to overflowing with this year's leaves. This involved a bit of trampolining to crush the

leaves down so as to add some more! Fortunately a ride-on mower makes this a relatively light job albeit a quite time consuming one. I think that most of them have dropped so not many more sessions collecting them now.

All the fruit is now safely stored in the garage or freezer. In terms of vegetables all that remain in my patch are carrots, parsnips, leeks, beetroot and spinach. There are still a few peas but it looks like that final batch was sown too

late to crop; I'll have to dig them out soon.

The deer are regularly visitors in the field, lying down in the field basking in the sun despite the heavy dew on the grass, three heads peering over the grass. One might have thought that getting wet would be a deterrent to lying down but clearly not! I've seen more pheasants than usual this autumn; one day there were seven of them – two cocks and five hens – perched on the fence. And in the garden we had a flock of redwings visit several times during a week or so. We had to get the bird book out to identify them! This year our holly tree has got berries for the first time, the other shrubs have lots of berries too. Does this suggest we are going to have a long cold winter?

Alan Edwards

Arborfield Gardening Association



Hello Everyone!

I'm pleased to announce that we did not win this year's Gardeners' Inter-Societies' Quiz in September at Henry Street (else we would have had to organise it again for next year!!). So we have to say "goodbye" to the silver cup until next year?

We are sad to say that we also had to relinquish the Table Competition Trophy at our Three Societies' Social with Shinfield and Swallowfield Gardening Associations in October, missing top score by a smidgen. The theme for the evening was "Royal Connections" and the Table Competition comprised of: a pair of vegetables, a pot plant, a vase of flowers, a dish of fruit, a floral art arrangement, an item of craft, a bottle of apricot brandy, a Victoria sandwich and a savoury flan. Each of these items are marked out of 10 and another 10 points, making a total of 100 marks, is awarded for the overall look of the table.

We warmly congratulate Swallowfield on their well-deserved win and look forward to regaining the trophy next year!

A reminder that the next AGA meeting will be a week later than usual – ie on the FIFTH Thursday in November (Thursday 30th November) due to a previous booking in the Hall, made before we changed our weeks from the second to the fourth week of the month, to accommodate those wishing to attend SAHGA's meetings and vice-versa.

This was going to be a talk by John Negus entitled "Caribbean Calypso", however John has recently undergone heart by-pass surgery and is taking a well-earned rest. John is always in great demand to speak throughout the South and on the Radio Sussex "Dig It" programme.

While he recovers, John has taken care to arrange for a colleague, Paul Patton, to take his place. Paul describes himself as a Plant Pathologist, Writer and Broadcaster. He can also be heard on "Dig It". Paul gives talks on a wide variety of gardening topics. On this occasion he will give us an illustrated talk on "Wildlife in the Garden".

The Christmas event for our Members this year will be held at the Bull on Thursday 7th December.

Our first meeting in the New Year will be in Arborfield Village Hall on Thursday 25th January at 7:30pm. Geoff Hawkins will be speaking to us on "Growing Vegetables in a Small Garden"

Geoff retired in January 2012 as head gardener from the private estate of Mill Court near Alton, Hampshire where he had worked since 1977. As a head gardener running a small estate of 30 acres meant that he worked in greenhouses, vegetable and fruit gardens, herbaceous and shrub borders as well as looking after the trees, ponds and natural features on the estate.

Since retiring he has lectured at local adult education centres on gardening skills, garden design and growing your own fruit & vegetables. He is a member of the Surrey Guild of Judges and

Lecturers and on the list of speakers for the Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies.

For over twelve years he was a regular expert on LBCs Weekend Matters along with Matthew Biggs, Christine Walkden, John Allbutt and Jim Butress and has also appeared on BBC Southern Counties Radio and Delta FM. Geoff has also been part of the team at Loseley Gardening Show with John Negus, Peter Mills, Paul Patton and Alan Sergeant.

For a little bit of light relief from the day job he has also been involved in the running of Froyle Gardening Club, having done two stints as Chairman and having been on the committee for many years. He has also taken part in 23 of the 25 pantomimes produced by the Froyle Players! Not many bearded dames around these days!

The Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice – Farnham - are sowing the seeds for their 2018 Open Garden event to raise money for local Hospice Care. They are looking for proud gardeners to open their garden to the public next Spring/Summer. For more information: 01252 729446 / fundraising@pth.org.uk

Enjoy this beautiful mild Autumn and a very Merry Christmas to you All!

Catherine (Chair)

catherine.breen@ymail.com



he is like. Although we live in a sceptical culture, many people tell me that they would like to know God if only they knew he was there. Well Christmas tells us that all the guessing games about God can stop. God has come to us as a person, Jesus Christ. God has turned up in history, so that we can truly know what he is like.

Good news at Christmas

Why is it that the roads are so busy on Christmas Eve? It is because – like pigeons – we have a homing instinct! And that instinct to be with those we love is especially powerful as we approach December 25th. That desire to be with the people you love is at the very heart of the Christmas story and the Christian message today. You may remember these words that are included as one of the readings at a Christmas service. In Matthew's gospel, he reports that, in a dream, an angel spoke to Joseph, saying:

Mary will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' – which means 'God with us'.

This is wonderful news for us, for two reasons. First, because it tells us that God has taken the initiative, so that we can know what

But more than that, it tells us that God came to us, to mend a broken relationship. Although Christmas is a time to celebrate the closest of relationships, many of us know that it also highlights the pain of broken or damaged relationships. When it comes to God, the Bible tells us that our natural instinct is not to welcome him with open arms, but to push him out to the fringe of our lives. We much prefer to be in charge ourselves! This comes naturally to us, but it's a serious matter to treat God in this way. Yet whilst God could simply withdraw from us, instead he came to us in the person of Jesus Christ. And as the Angel says, he came to save us from our sins, so that our relationship with God can be restored; so that we can be reunited with the God who truly loves us.

This is the good news of Christmas that we will be celebrating at St James' again this Christmas. Everyone is welcome to join us at one of our services.

Julian Bidgood

St Eligius Church Arborfield Green

It has been a busy Autumn at St Eligius. In October we were pleased to welcome the Mayor of Wokingham Borough, along with Viscount Alanbrooke, representatives of Crest Nicholson and the Corps of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers to the dedication of our new organ. It was a great celebration of the history of the church, but also an opportunity to look forward to the future as the community of Arborfield Green grows.



Picture courtesy of Phil Creighton at *The Wokingham Paper*

Coming up we have the busy Christmas season, with several special services to which all are welcome.

On Wednesday 13th December at 7pm we have our traditional Carols by Candlelight where we are delighted that soprano Louise McGahon will be singing solo and with our Church Choir, and that the Arborfield Military Wives Choir will be joining us for a mix of seasonal readings and carols all by candlelight.

Over Christmas itself we will be holding Midnight Mass at

11.30pm on Sunday 24th December, and then our main Christmas Day Service will be at 11am on Monday 25th December.

We are located at the end of Tope Road next to the Cricket Pitch and close to the Community Centre.

We have a weekly service at 11am, which is a Holy Communion except for the second Sunday of the month when we hold an Ecumenical Service of The Word.

On the first Sunday of the month we hold a Family Service @9:30 which is an informal service when families and friends can join in crafts and activities, sing songs, listen to stories, pray, and enjoy one another's company.

For further information please phone the Church Office on 0118 9730133 or email office@steligi.us.church - find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/steligi.us.church/>

LUNCH-TIME CONCERTS AT ST ELIGIUS CHURCH ARBORFIELD GREEN

The aim of the Lunch-time Concerts is to provide good quality music for people in Arborfield Green and the surrounding areas. There is no entry fee. The voluntary contributions from a retiring plate are for the maintenance of the Church, as it adjusts to the financial requirements as a new civilian church.

Each Concert, commencing at 12.30 pm, lasts just 30 minutes. This is followed by a Buffet Lunch prepared on site on the morning of the Concert. It consists of a variety of delicious sandwiches and

delectable cakes, crisps or other nibbles, and tea, coffee or a cold drink. This enables people with a limited lunch-time to attend. If you have any special dietary requirements we will be pleased to try to meet them.

The Church seats about 120 people comfortably. It is a very light, warm and welcoming building, with equally welcoming people! There is easy access for wheelchair users. Also, there are toilet facilities, including wheelchair access.



Blackwater Valley Wind Quintet

People come from Arborfield Green and the wider surrounding area. The lunch provides an opportunity for socialising, to meet with the performer(s) and

If you would like to have lunch after the Concert, please, contact Rita Le Var, latest by the end of the Monday preceding the Concert (Tel. 01252 372320 or E-mail:



Charlotte Baker and Sally-Anne Goodworth

friends or to make new friends.

The range of Concerts is very varied in order to bring interest to a wide audience. Recent concerts include: Blackwater Valley Wind Quintet and Charlotte Baker, Soprano and Sally-Anne Goodworth, Piano.

The first 3 concerts of 2018 are as follows:

- 17 January Guy Murgatroyd, Piano
- 14 February The Wokingham Rock Choir
- 14 March Margaret Bolt & Susan Frost, Piano Duo

rita_le_var@ntlworld.com) so that the necessary catering arrangements can be made.

The Church Car Park is on Baird Road near the Church. The Verger will be on site to assist with parking.

St Eligius Church, Arborfield Green. Tope Road, Arborfield, Reading, Berkshire RG2 9NB.

Christmas Services @ St James' Barkham

Carols by Candlelight	Sunday 18 Dec @ 7pm
Children's Carols	Sunday 24 Dec @ 4pm
Midnight Carols	Sunday 24 Dec @ 11.30pm
Christmas Day	Monday 25 Dec @ 10am

CROWTHORNE Symphony ORCHESTRA

It's almost that festive time once more and our popular Afternoon Family Christmas Concert will be on Saturday 9th December at St John the Baptist Church in Waterloo Road, Crowthorne. The concert will start at 4.30pm and with free entry for children of 16 and under it is an excellent opportunity to introduce young children to the excitement of live music. As usual there will be a selection of seasonal music with some old favourites and some new pieces too. And of course carols – we expect the usual audience participation in the latter! Perhaps there will also be another chance for children to conduct the orchestra when they play one of the popular Christmas pieces – who knows? There will be refreshments and a raffle in the interval. Make sure you put the date in your diary and bring the whole family, old and young!

Tickets are available from Décor Interiors in Crowthorne High Street as well as the Information Centre in Wokingham Town Hall (£10 in advance or £12 on the door). They can also be purchased

on-line via our website with small booking fee.

The orchestra continues to flourish, and has grown in numbers and musical competence under the inspirational direction of Robert Roscoe with each concert offering an exciting new challenge for the players. We welcome 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 and have members of all ages. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings 7.45-10pm in term time and are held at Oaklands Junior School in Butler Road, Crowthorne.

Our Spring Concert will be on Saturday 10th February 2018 at 7.30pm at The Old Gym, Wellington College, Crowthorne and will include Khachaturian's 'Adagio from Spartacus', well known to many as the theme tune from the 'Onedin Line'. There will also be music from Bizet's 'Carmen' and 'L'Arlesienne' suites, 'Kerala Suite' by Sibelius, and more. Future events include a Strings only

Workshop on Saturday May 12th 2018 at Oaklands Junior School which as usual is open to non-members as well as members of the orchestra.

Please check our website for up to date information on concerts, rehearsals, workshops and more: www.crowthorneorchestra.com

We extend the Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year to all.

Chris Gadsby

Wokingham Choral Society

We are a thriving 120-member mixed voice choir that performs to a high standard. Christmas is coming! Get into the festive spirit and come along to Bach's Christmas Oratorio performed by Wokingham Choral Society on 16 December 2017 at 7.30pm. Venue: The Great Hall, University of Reading, London Road site.

If that inspires you to want to get back into singing and join a choir, we would be delighted to see you at an open rehearsal on 11 January 2018, 7.30pm at Emmbrook Senior School, when we will be starting on Handel's Messiah. Which leads nicely on to our next concert which will be, (and not too many surprises here...), Handel's Messiah on 24 March 2018 at 7.30pm at the Great Hall, UoR, London Road site. For details of any of these events please see www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST ON ICE

Beauty's Carriage GOLDEN TICKET
Pre-purchase your golden ticket to be in the draw to win a ride for one person in Beauty's Carriage £1.00 per ticket

CHARITY PERFORMANCE

Wednesday 13th December 2017
Doors open: 17:00 | Show Starts: 18:00
All seats £9.45

DATES	PRICES
Friday 15th December 2017 Doors open: 17:00 Show Starts: 18:00	Upstarts Seating All Seats: £12.95 Family*: £40.00
Saturday 16th December 2017 Doors open: 13:00 Show Starts: 14:00 Doors open: 17:00 Show Starts: 18:00	Rinkside Seating All Seats: £12.95 Family*: £40.00
Sunday 17th December 2017 Doors open: 13:00 Show Starts: 14:00 Doors open: 17:00 Show Starts: 18:00	Bleacher All Seats: £12.95 Family*: £40.00

*Family Ticket consist of a 4 people, including a minimum of 2 children.

Also Available: Private Seating Areas • Birthday Parties • Sponsorship Opportunities
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK CALL US TODAY!

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John Nike Way, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 8TN.

Barkham Diary

06/12/17	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
12/12/17	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
12/12/17	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
13/12/17	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
15/12/17	BVRA Carols in the Park	Junipers	7.00pm
03/01/18	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
09/01/18	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
09/01/18	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
10/01/18	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
22/01/18	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
23/01/18	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
07/02/18	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
13/02/18	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
13/02/18	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
14/02/18	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
16/02/18	Copy deadline for Spring Newsletter		
26/02/18	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
27/02/18	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
07/03/18	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
10/03/18	BVRA Family Skittles Evening	BVH	7.30pm
13/03/18	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
13/03/18	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
14/03/18	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
26/03/18	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
27/03/18	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
01/04/18	BVRA Easter Egg Hunt	Junipers	3.00pm
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



Extra help for clients with mental health issues

I wrote in the last edition that the Berkshire Community Foundation had granted us funding to run a project for 4 hours per week to give more debt and welfare benefit help to people that have mental health issues. This is going very well. So well, that Wokingham Borough Council have agreed to also fund it so that we can expand it to 1 day a week.

Do you use Social Media? We have a Facebook Page that we try and populate with useful and topical articles and information at least 3 or 4 times a week. Go to Facebook and search on '@wokinghamcab'. Don't forget to 'like' us!

We also have a Twitter feed. If you use Twitter you can find us by searching on '@CitAWokingham'.

We are planning a quiz event in February next year. So, if you have a team that is interested in taking part email us on quiz@citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk and we will keep you up to date. We are still running our 100Club, with monthly results reported in

Barkham Village Hall

Next to St James' Church, beautiful rural setting for weddings, christenings and parties.

From as little as £23/hr for both halls. £26.50/hr after 6.00 p.m. on Saturday.

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

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

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

The Wokingham Paper. If you are interested in joining email us at 100club@citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk.

You can also email us with problem issues from our website or on public@citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk or drop in to one of our offices:

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

The Quiz - answers

1. Game of Thrones
2. Back to Black
3. Yorkshire?
4. Tommy Lee Jones
5. 3
6. Barry White
7. Nights in White Satin
8. Willie Collins
9. Susan Hill
10. Back in Black
11. White blood cells
12. "The Beatles" AKA "The White Album" (two for the price of one!)
13. Moscow
14. Los Bravos
15. Under Milk Wood
16. Sochi
17. White
18. The White Rabbit (Alice in Wonderland)
19. Black and Tans
20. It is a fire festival that celebrates of the coming of summer and the fertility of the coming year.

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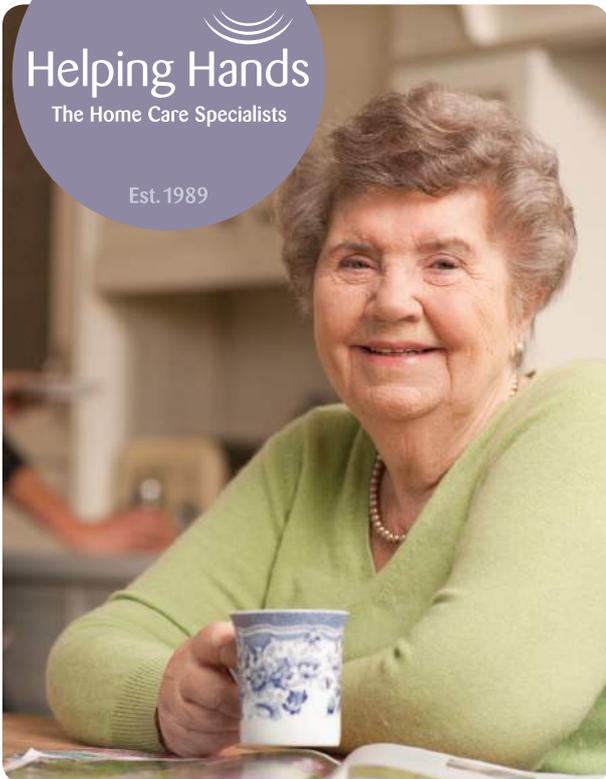
Give us a call on **0118 976 2564** or visit www.exactkitchens.com
Unit 6, Barkham Grange, Barkham Street, Barkham, Wokingham, RG40 4PJ

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