



# Barkham Newsletter

£1, free to Members

Issue 142 Winter 2022

from the Barkham Village Residents Association



## CAROLS in the PARK Friday 16th December

7pm at the Junipers in Elizabeth Park

Everyone welcome

Finishing with mulled wine or lemonade  
and minced pies

Voluntary Collection for the Band



## VILLAGE SURVEY

The BVRA and the BPC (Barkham Parish Council) have conducted a joint survey amongst residents to help us improve the services we provide to Barkham. The BPC distributed this survey during November with the latest edition of Village Info, their periodic magazine.

We do hope you were able to give us your views. We will publish the results in the Spring Issue of this Newsletter.

If you would like to find out about the results of survey earlier then please enrol onto our email distribution list here.

<https://www.barkham.org.uk/index.php/barkham/keep-in-touch-with-bvra>

Web: [www.barkham.org.uk](http://www.barkham.org.uk)

Facebook Group



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### Chair Chat

As we close out on the 35th year of the BVRA the committee is very keen to ensure that what we do as an Association is relevant to residents and adds value to your life in Barkham. You should all have received details of a resident survey to ascertain what matters to you and your key issues and priorities. I do hope that as many of you as possible have spent a few minutes completing

this survey. Your feedback will directly inform the future direction and remit of the BVRA. Our role will always be to serve the residents of Barkham in the most constructive way to improve your day to day living in the Parish. We will be busy analysing the survey results during December and will be publishing the results and outcomes in the Spring 2023 newsletter.

In terms of the current committee, we have one resignation and two new committee members. Alison Goudge has resigned as Treasurer. She has been a very diligent Treasurer over the last three years and a key achievement is moving the BVRA Bank Account from HSBC to Lloyds which provide a much more user friendly and less onerous banking facility for a small association such as ours. I and the committee thank Alison for her hard work and wish her well. We are very pleased to welcome two new

committee members. Steve Young replaces Alison as Treasurer and Gurprit Singh has joined as our new DevWatch Editor. You can see the full overview of current serving committee members in the montage below.

Barkham continues to be a place of choice for both developers and residents alike and there are worrying proposals and plans in the offing that threaten to directly impact our quality of life. We are here to support and offer any guidance to combat such threats accordingly.

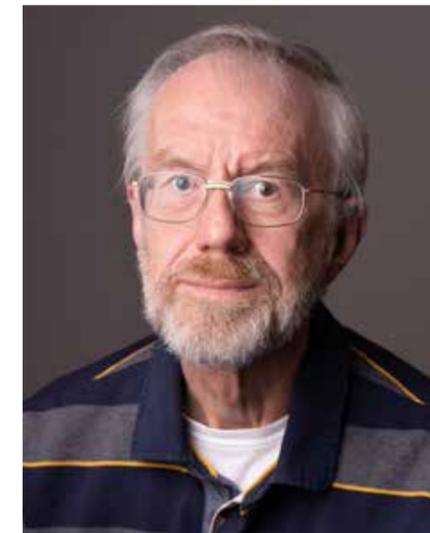
Finally, the committee wish each and everyone one of you a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and hope to see many of you at the ever-popular Carols in the Park this month.

Bev Dipper  
Chair

## Membership Subscriptions for 2023

Member subscriptions remain at £2 per household. We are encouraging all members to pay by direct debit which ensures easy payment. If you already pay by direct debit – thank you. Your subscription will be collected in early February. If you do not have a direct debit already set up (please check first) and would like to do this to pay your sub for 2023 please sign up for direct debit at:

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



### Editorial

Welcome to the Winter edition of this newsletter. So, after a couple of months of drought we have had a couple of extremely wet months. After ten days into November we had already had more than the monthly average!

Development continues to be a prominent issue in the village, with several developments be-

ing proposed and reported on DevWatch while John Kaiser's article is food for thought on this theme.

I am delighted to welcome a few organisations writing about what they do – the Dinton Walking Group, the Singing for Yourself Group and the amusingly named Barkham Hookers who, I understand, have featured here before! Contact me if you'd like to tell us about what your group does.

The sad death of the Queen has inspired the quiz. I hope you enjoy giving it a go.

On the Social side, you can read the report of the Skittles Evening in October. Looking forward we have the annual Quiz night later this month and in December Carols in the Park. I hope to meet a few of you there.

## BVRA 2022/23 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Following the recent AGM the new committee is as follows:



**Bev Dipper, Chair**  
chairman@barkham.org.uk  
Leads and supports the Committee



**Gill Powell, Chair of Social Committee**  
social@barkham.org.uk  
Manages a calendar of social events



**Alan Edwards, Newsletter Editor**  
newsletter@barkham.org.uk  
Produces quarterly newsletter and website content



**Dave Clements, Webmaster**  
webmaster@barkham.org.uk  
Maintains and develops the website, Facebook and IT systems



**Steve Young, Treasurer**  
treasurer@barkham.org.uk  
Manages the BVRA bank account and ensures financial commitments are met



**Shirley Warner, Social committee**  
social@barkham.org.uk  
Organises village social events and liaises with Barkham Village Hall committee



**Bev Dipper, Membership**  
membership@barkham.org.uk  
Manages the membership database and the distribution of the Newsletter



**Gurprit Singh, DevWatch**  
development@barkham.org.uk  
Focal point for all planning and development activities in Barkham Parish

### Contributions

We welcome contributions to this newsletter either on a one-off basis, occasional or regular. Please send your contribution to the Newsletter Editor at newsletter@barkham.org.uk by the deadline, which for the next edition is 10th February.

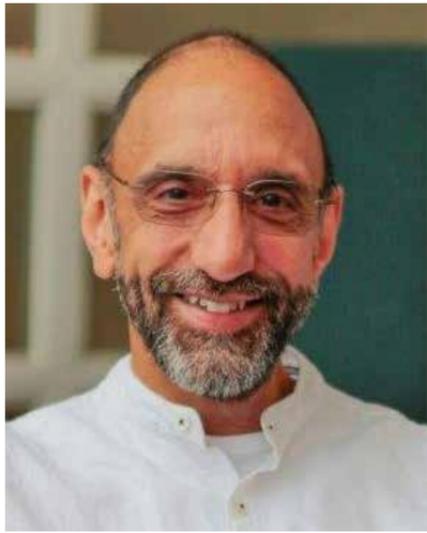
### Advertising

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

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

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

Please contact the Newsletter Editor to discuss your needs and supply your copy to newsletter@barkham.org.uk by the deadline, which for the next edition is 10th February for distribution in late February.



### DevWatch

Sadly, our DevWatch coordinator, Stewart Richardson passed away earlier this year. Having done this role for many years his knowledge and expertise will be greatly missed.

We are also indebted to Dave Clements who in addition to his many other duties handled DevWatch reporting in the interim. As I am getting up to speed, I have based this update on Dave's report at the Annual General Meeting of the BVRA on the 11th of November 2022.

It's interesting that since the last AGM, 16 DevWatch email alerts have been sent out. This is up from 11 in the previous year and is indicative of the increase in undesirable development activity in Barkham and the immediate surrounding area. Unfortunately, this is likely to continue into next year.

With regard to the local plan, in January we advised of the consultation being run by Wokingham Borough Council (WBC). Our alert provided background on the potential impact for Barkham residents. Following the local government elections in May and

the resulting change in leadership, there has been a delay to the plan update. At present we do not know when this will be resolved.

Since then, our activities have focused on 2 areas:

- School Road, where both the closure to through traffic and the Instalcom site on Wood Lane have impacted residents. Both have resulted in a significant increase in traffic on Langley Common Road. The School Road closure is done under an experimental traffic regulation order (ETRO) which is in place for at least 12 months from the closure in September. We will be issuing an alert shortly to remind residents to send their observations into WBC. The Instalcom appeal is due to be finally heard late this month and we will update residents with the outcome
- Proposed major developments on Blagrove Lane (circa 350 homes) and Edneys Hill (circa 40 homes). These are unwelcome developments which will have significant impact for Barkham Residents. Both are at the formal planning application stage and are under review by WBC. They have attracted a significant response from residents. The Blagrove proposal has had over 500 comments and Edneys Hill with over 200 comments. We think that both applications may be rejected by WBC but will then go to appeal. We will continue to keep residents updated of the progress and advise how to make representations to any appeal.

Gurprit Singh

# Wild about The Coombes

In the last Newsletter, this series about the Coombes was introduced by describing where the woodland sits in relation to the local public rights of way.

It was also mentioned that it was the threat of a major development within the Coombes in the 1980s that prompted the formation of our BVRA and the start of this Newsletter. Other articles have covered how Pam Edwards and Christine Thomas took the lead in organising the local residents to resist the development and establish the BVRA 35 years ago.

Curious about what exactly the dynamic duo had managed to fight off, I made a trip to the Council to see what was still on record in the Planning Office. The case was traced to Outline Planning Application number 028160, the documentation for which had been reduced to microfiche, about 750 pages of it.

Most of the pages related to objections, mainly local but coming from as far afield as Australia.

About 60 objections were duplicated content that people had simply added their names and addresses to before posting to Wokingham District Council (WDC), as it then was. These cases were all followed up to determine whether the householders had actually sent them in or someone else was using their address to bolster the number of objections. All the replies confirmed that they were genuine and could therefore be counted.

More than 100 independently written letters of objection had

been received by WDC. These included one from Sir Gerard Vaughan M.P. to say that he too had received numerous objections, which he supported. He was then the MP for Reading East, fighting against plans, sponsored by Nicholas Ridley, to build housing in Berkshire's diminishing green belt.

It was good to see how actively the Barkham Village Action Group had been lobbying WDC, and presumably they were responsible for a copy of BVRA Newsletter issue 2 being on file at the council.

There had been a study to identify additional housing land in the district, possibly in response to Nicolas Ridley's plans for Berkshire's greenbelt. This culminated with a report in January 1984, 3 years prior to the application for the Coombes. A copy had been included in the file.

Seven sites had been considered, one of which was the Coombes. Only 2 were deemed to offer possibilities, neither of which was the Coombes. One went on to be developed in Barkham, known as Elizabeth Park.

Undeterred, in August 1987, Mr Clifford-Wolff of Barkham Manor submitted his outline plan for 120 houses and 90 flats covering 25 hectares, or 62 acres, across most of the Coombes. The proposed position is shown in orange on the map above/below, with Elizabeth Park similarly shown in green.

The plan was rejected by WDC early in October. Later that month, the applicant launched an appeal against the rejection. The Inspectorate proposed to conduct its review of the case as a documentation exercise. WDC argued its case for the appeal to include a public hearing and arrangements were duly made for

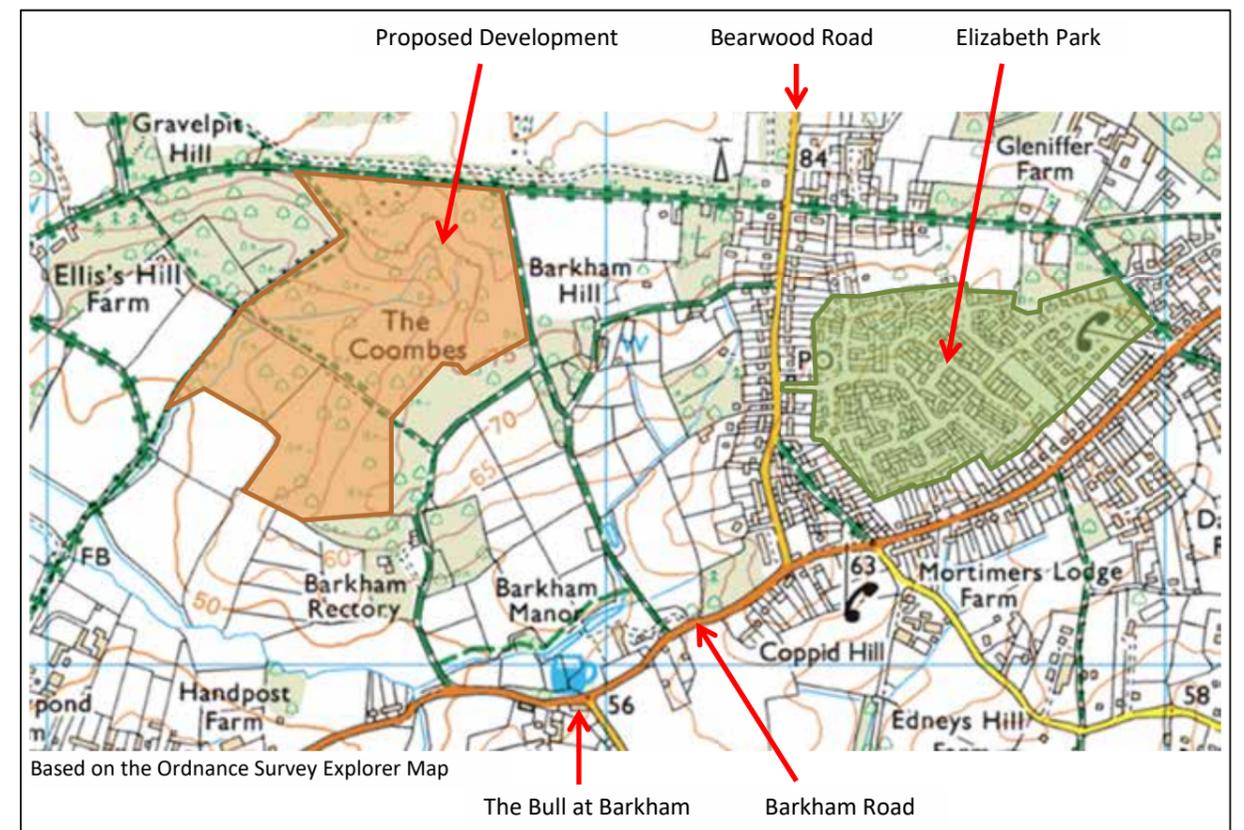
an Inquiry to start on 7 February 1989, expected to last 6 days.

But there was no Inquiry. For whatever reason, the appeal was withdrawn in November 1988. The Coombes woodland had been reprieved and continued to live on as a treasured wildlife habitat.

However, that was not the last threat that it would suffer, as you will discover in future BVRA Newsletters.

Nowadays, the BVRA Development Watch alerts people by email to such development proposals and tells of how to make a response. If you are not yet registered to receive these notifications, go to <https://www.barkham.org.uk/index.php/barkham/keep-in-touch-with-bvra>.

Paul Steel





## The Elephant in the Room Housing Development

As I said in my last article "Do not delay the Local plan as failure to deliver it puts all the green spaces in the borough at risk and is the only way to avoid Wokingham becoming an unplanned urban sprawl." Unfortunately, the worst has happened, and the Borough has no local plan protection as the new coalition administration has delayed the plan. The previous administration had plans to have regulation nineteen part of the Local plan in place and it would have offered some protection at appeals. This is the same situation when Liberal Democrats took over in Oxford they refused to sign the county wide Local Plan and ended up with the Secretary of State writing to them saying he would remove their ability to determine planning applications and take it under central control, Unfortunately during the time they delayed the local plan they ended up with hundreds of wind-fall homes approved on top of the planned number before they finally signed it.

Both the executive members for Planning and the Local Plan are from Twyford and this means Liberal Democrat controlled areas in the borough are being protected against housing.

I was disappointed the executive member for the local plan answered a question I raised at the council about allowing developers write the Local Plan with applications for additional two thousand homes in Barkham and surrounding areas, but he had no solution and simply said no.

The problem is Government, along with all major political parties is committed to mass housing development across the country. Labour 250,000 per year, Liberal Democrats 380,000 and Conservative 200,000 homes per year and Wokingham share of this is 781 homes to be built per year in Wokingham Borough up to 2038. Our current Local Plan can meet some of these additional homes but is out of date and we need a new Local Plan that plans for an additional 6,000 new homes.

Currently the council have no choice but to meet that target and there is no possibility of doing so without building on green space. I would very much like to build all the new homes on previously developed (brownfield) land but there is simply not enough of that available in the borough.

To meet the imposed housing target, the council is required to produce an up to date Local Plan. If the council refuses to produce one or try to produce one that does not meet the Government's target, this and the fact we no longer have a 5 year land supply, both of which are the major consideration for government planning inspectors at appeals hearing, this means where the council has refused planning permission and the applicant has appealed against the ruling they will win, this will mean even more housing development because of a lack of a 5-year land supply.

By having a gap in the land supply, when we have only our out-of-date old Local Plan in place, means we have lost the ability to protect any of our green spaces because even if the council refuses planning permission, developers would no doubt win at appeal overturning the council's decision.

The developers are out in force as they know all these facts. Just look at the number of development plans - Blagrove Lane 400 homes, 800 homes at Barkham square, 270 at Rooks Nest Farm and 40 in a back garden development off the Barkham road.

There are also many others at various stages of development, we see a developers' consultation delivered to residents of Arborfield regarding hundreds of homes at Cross Lanes Farm in the centre of the village all of which will add to the congestion and put a strain on services. The University of Reading continue to pursue their proposals for Hall Farm with up to 4,000 homes, which are at least next to the motorway and can be contained with the right level of infrastructure. All this does this does not bode well. Remember if the council lose at appeal, they lose the ability to apply conditions which benefit the community.

I hate to say it but a collapse in the housing market might slow it all down, but developers control the land supply and failure to build will just mean more applications get approved to make up the numbers.

There was over 4,000 local signatures on the petition to stop Barkham Square, but developers still press on.

Do not forget a Local Plans can establish land that cannot be built on as much as land that can.

Wokingham is a wonderful place to live but with that brings the problems of people wanting to come here to live, this coupled with developers who have their eyes on all the green space in the Borough and know they can sell every home they build.

The farmland and other green spaces in the Borough are certainly "optioned" to a housing developer, meaning the developer has made a deal with the landowner to buy the land if there is a chance of getting planning permission, who are in most cases are keen to sell because of the huge monetary gains, should they get permission to build on it.

These developers would be rubbing their hands with glee if the council continue to delay or discard the draft Local Plan drawn up by the last administration as it would leave so much more of our countryside open to potential development which will be won at appeal even if the council refuse the application. Should this happen, we will have the prospect of no green space in the borough and just become part of Greater Reading.

John Kaiser  
Member for Barkham  
Wokingham Borough Council

## Christmas 2022 at St James' Barkham



**Carols by Candlelight**  
**Family Carols**  
**Midnight Carols**  
**Christmas Day Service**

7pm Sunday 18 Dec  
4pm Christmas Eve  
11.30pm Christmas Eve  
10am Sunday 25 Dec

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.*

These words from the prophet Isaiah are always read at our Carols by Candlelight service and no wonder. Though written 700 years before Jesus, they point to the hope and help that he alone will bring. This year we are even more aware of the darkness in our world. The war in Ukraine, political turmoil and the cost of living crisis (all on the heels of a pandemic) have all shaken our sense that all is well. The Bible has always been more realistic about our world and about us. We are of infinite worth and yet we are unavoidably broken – and perhaps we are feeling the effects of that brokenness as much as ever. And yet, as Isaiah prophesied, a light has shone in the darkness. God broke into our world that first Christmas, and in Jesus Christ, we meet the one who can give us true hope, in this world and the next. We would love to invite you

to join us as we celebrate is good news once again.

We have four services. Family Carols on Christmas Eve is designed with children especially in mind. Carols by Candlelight (back in church this year – hurrah!) is more traditional and is followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Midnight Carols provides a quieter opportunity for reflection before the big day and ends just after midnight; and Christmas Day is a family service for all ages. We'd be delighted to welcome you.

Julian Bidgood (Minister of Barkham)

[www.abch.org.uk](http://www.abch.org.uk)





## An Update from Barkham Parish Council

### Sam Hosgood Sporting Endeavour Fund Award

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 a grant award at the November meeting of the Council.

The grant was awarded to Bracknell Athletics Club to support Bethany Austin in the 400m Women's Hurdles. In 2022 Bethany qualified for English Schools and was selected by England Athletics to compete for the Under 18 European Trials. She is ranked 19 in the country on the Power10 and is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the country for her year group.



### Planning

Two recent planning applications that the Parish Council have considered and commented on are for Blagrove Meadows and Land off Edneys Hill. The Parish Council have objected to these

applications and now await the decision of Wokingham Borough Council Planning Committee.

### 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.

From the Precept received, Grants are given to local charities who support our residents such as Keep Mobile, Citizens Advice Bureau and the Wokingham Job Support Centre to help with running costs, and to St. James Church to keep the grave yard in a tidy condition.

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.

### Parish Councillor Vacancies

The Parish Council is the first tier of Local Government representing the local community, delivering services to meet local needs wherever possible, and improving quality of life and community well-being. The Parish Council currently has two Councillor vacancies for co-option.

Barkham covers an area from its boundaries in Barkham Road, Barkham Ride, and Bearwood Road to its Southern boundaries in Arborfield Green (the majority of which is in Barkham), Park

Lane, and towards the end of Langley Common Road and School Road.

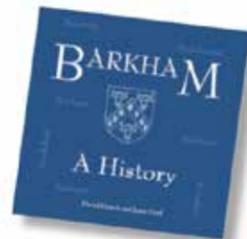
From established communities in Elizabeth Park, rural and semi-rural areas and the new community developing at Arborfield Green, the Parish faces many opportunities and challenges.

Parish Councils benefit from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which provides funds to help enhance facilities for residents.

This means we need as broad a spread of councillors as possible as we work with residents on the future of the area.

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

### History Books



Book available from Henry Street Garden Centre

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

## 35 Years Ago

In Issue 2 we can see that, just as today, development was uppermost in the minds the BVRA, specifically, the planned development in the Coombes that led to the formation of the BVRA.

Also, the social side was starting to be developed. Apparently, we were all swingers then and relished Kentucky Fried Chicken!

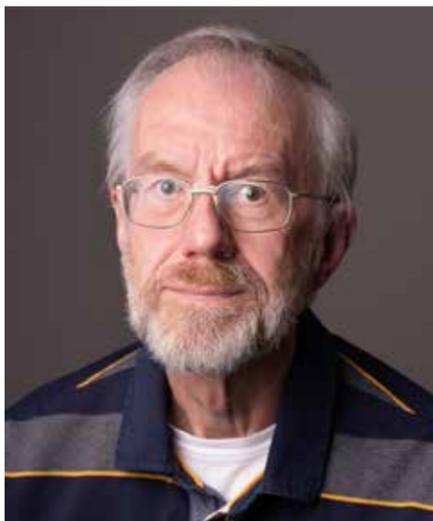
The first few editions were produced by our first Newsletter Editor, David Tyrwhitt-Drake,

who printed the master using his own typewriter. They were then photocopied and stapled by hand.

The good old days?

Alan Edwards





### Alan's Patch

The incredibly hot and dry Summer seems a distant memory after the very wet Autumn we have experienced. My irrigation storage tanks are now full again! It has also been warm and the grass has been growing rapidly and my lawn shows no signs of having been yellow a couple of months ago. Warm and wet weather makes for perfect growing conditions for fungi this year such as these found in the Coombes recently!



I don't water the potatoes so they are smaller than normal but otherwise of good quality. Carrots and parsnips with their

long roots found enough water and cropped well.

Peas and beans were excellent earlier in the season but suffered with lack of water and excessive heat and stopped flowering early, so there was nothing from mid-August. Spinach suffered too but a few survived. Surprisingly Swiss Chard grew really well.

In the greenhouse I've had a great crop of tomatoes. Probably as a result of the hot and sunny weather, I have had the best ever crop of aubergine including one rather strange example. Cucumbers, after a slow start, have been very tasty over the past three months and I've still got one in the fridge.

With it still being warm, the tomatoes continue to look healthy. Normally by mid-November I would have cleared them out ready for the annual cleaning of the greenhouse – the messiest job of the year!

Sweet corn was another beneficiary of the hot weather but unfortunately I had problems with a badger demolishing half of them!

It's been a fantastic season for apples and pears. More than in previous years, I thinned them ruthlessly and, as a result, I had more large fruit than in the past. Best of all is the quality with the sun giving them extra sweet-



ness. My peach tree, now about four years old, produced its first decent crop.

I haven't seen the deer in the field behind for a few months so I'm wondering if some fences have been reinforced somewhere, preventing them gaining access.

### Where in Barkham?

Where is this beautiful monument to modern technology?



### Volunteer

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

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

### Volunteer Your Time

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

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

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

Telephone: 0118 969 6369  
Email: [info@me2club.org.uk](mailto:info@me2club.org.uk)  
Address: Me2 Club, Unit 9, Indigo House, Fishponds Road, Wokingham, RG41 2GY

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



### The Quiz

With the Queen having passed away in September I thought we should dedicate the quiz to her. How many of these questions can you answer? No cheating!



1. In which street in which city was the Queen born?
2. Princess Elizabeth delivered her first broadcast speech at the age of 14 on 'Children's Hour', during the Second World War. In which building was she when she made that broadcast?
3. In which technical skill was she trained in during the war?
4. In which country was Princess Elizabeth when she became Queen?
5. Who was the second prime minister of the Queen's reign?
6. Where would you find the Royal Yacht Britannia?
7. Which is the one horseracing 'classic' that the Queen never won?
8. The Queen is famous for her corgi dogs. What was the name of her first one?
9. Which was the Queen's banker?
10. The Queen is the second longest reigning monarch ever. Who is the longest?

Answers on page 23.



## New Chairperson

Required for Barkham Village Hall Charity

If you are community minded and enjoy dealing with people please apply. We hold bimonthly meetings and the position would require approximately 3 hours a week of general supervision of projects and other affairs

Contact: Derek Oxbridge

[doxbridge@hotmail.com](mailto:doxbridge@hotmail.com) Tel: 01189 760578



### Social Matters

It's hard to believe we are already in November as I write this, and after enjoying a lovely mild and sunny October the long summer days are almost forgotten. Dark nights are upon us and the fallen autumn leaves cover the gardens and woodlands. It's not long till Christmas, but before then we do have more BVRA events to look forward to.

Since the last newsletter a very successful Family Skittles evening was held on September 24th. It was well supported by over 50 people, and it was lovely to see young granddaughters and teenage lads there too - all bowling so well I might add! After two rounds of team games we paused for a tasty Ploughman's Supper, and then nearly everyone entered the 'Killer' knockout game to produce the last person standing. This year the team winners were again The Happy Campers - successfully defending their title, and the winner of the killer game was Mac, who was actually a member of the Happy Campers - these really are the team to beat, so we'll see what next year brings if they are still competing! Many thanks go to Peter Jay who did all the computer scoring, and to Gill Powell who kept all the members on track

for their turns. Photos - use the last three (prize winners) and any of the others if needed to fill the space but a couple are very blurry!

The Quiz Evening on November 19th will have taken place by the time you receive this newsletter so a report on this will appear in the next Newsletter in the Spring.

The next event and the last one for 2022 is the very popular 'Carols in the Park' on December 16th at 7pm. We meet at the junction of the Woodlands and the Junipers and make our way to the edge of the Park. Singers are accompanied by the 'Breakaway Brass Band', and carol sheets are provided and this is such a lovely event for families, adults and children alike, to come together to sing carols for the start of the festive season. On reaching the edge of the Park mulled wine, soft blackcurrant drink and mince pies will be served, and more singing takes place. This is a free event, but there will be a bucket collection for the Band who very kindly give up their time to play for us. Please make a note of the date in your diaries and look out for posters around the village and check on the BVRA Website.

Events have been planned for next year and will include the Family Skittles on 25th March, the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on 9th April, the Annual Quiz on 21st October, and Carols in the Park in December.

Do come along and join in the events, have fun and meet people - these events are put on for your enjoyment, so I hope to see many of you there.

I would like now to send my very best wishes to you all and

your families for a very Happy Christmas and New Year, and with hopes for a healthy and peaceful 2023.

Shirley Warner  
Social Committee Member



Charity no: 1026028  
Sharing, Caring, Having Fun

# Barkham Pre-School

- Highly qualified and committed staff
- Happy, secure and stimulating environment
- Catering for children aged 2-5
- Large and versatile setting
- Recently renovated outdoor space!

**Funded & Non-funded spaces AVAILABLE NOW**

Pre-School operates from Barkham Village Hall, Church Lane, Barkham RG40 4PL.  
Opening hours are Tuesday 9-12.45, Wednesday 9-12.45/2.30, Thursday 9-12.45/2.30 and Friday 9-12.45/2.30

For more info please visit: [www.barkhampreschool.net](http://www.barkhampreschool.net)



## Don't make it easy for burglars this winter and holiday season

As the winter nights close in, leave a light on... and burglars in the dark! Burglars are often opportunistic thieves and you can take steps to avoid becoming one of their victims this winter.

- Make your home look occupied by using timer switches on lights and radios, these can also help conserve energy and save money.
- Illuminate your front door with energy saving dusk to dawn lightbulbs that come on automatically.
- Consider purchasing and installing a video doorbell, house alarm or CCTV system.
- Close and double lock all doors and windows when going out - those 10 or 15 minutes on the school run or popping out to the shops are all a burglar needs to break into your home.
- Always double lock doors and windows at night and when you go to bed.
- Keep all valuables and keys out of sight and away from doors, windows and letter-boxes.
- When not in use, store electronic car key fobs in a signal blocking pouch to prevent them being scanned by thieves to open and steal your car.
- If you have a key safe, ensure it is not visible to people passing by, but anyone tampering with it can be seen.
- When working from home, ensure laptops and electronic equipment are not on view.
- Don't give thieves the tools to burgle your house, ensure your sheds and garages are locked and secure.

**Here's a bright idea...**

**Leave a light on!**  
As the nights draw in is your home secure?

**THAMES VALLEY POLICE**  
www.thamesvalley.police.uk

- Close and lock all your doors and windows when going out or to bed
- Keep valuables out of sight
- Don't advertise that you're out invest in a light timer switch
- Register your valuables with www.immobilise.com
- For crime updates sign up to www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

We wish you a healthy and happy holiday season, but please:

- Don't leave any presents on view or advertise them on social media.
- Don't leave packaging next to your bin.
- Don't advertise you are away from home on social media. Ask a trusted friend or neighbour to keep an eye on your property.
- Ensure you security mark and register your new presents and gifts online at www.immobilise.com

You can find further crime prevention advice at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

Please contact us if you have any information relating to burglary in your neighbourhood. Report online or call us on 101. Always dial 999 in an emergency.

Alternatively, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on free phone 0800 555 111.

Receive free crime and information updates from Thames Valley Police by registering for Thames

Valley Alert at:

[www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk)



or consider joining a local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. For more information about schemes in your local area, visit: [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)



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

Follow us on social media for regular crime updates and find out what your local policing teams are up to:

**Facebook:** TVP Bracknell & Wokingham

**Twitter:** @TVP\_Wokingham

**THE BARKHAM HOOKERS**  
CROCHET GROUP

Tuesdays 10-12 in the library at the FBC, Gorse Ride, Finchampstead  
Tuesdays 6.45-8.45 pm in the library at the FBC, Finchampstead  
Wednesdays 10-12 at Sanpa Restaurant, Denmark St, Wokingham  
Fridays 10-12 at Sanpa Restaurant Denmark St. Wokingham

All sessions are Pay As You Go £5  
All levels welcome from beginner to expert  
Private 1 : 1 tuition also available

CONTACT GAYNOR WHITE FOR MORE INFORMATION  
07985046977  
[Familywhite25@gmail.com](mailto:Familywhite25@gmail.com)  
The Barkham Hookers Charity Page on FB



## Barkham Hookers Crochet Group

The Barkham Hookers Crochet Group started in 2012 and has grown ever since. We meet up several times a week, see the advert below and have raised over £60,000 for charity (£52,000 for the Royal British Legion alone) since 2012. We have raised money for many local and national charities and recently presented a cheque for £1,200 to The Cowshed, a local charity that helps families in need. We decorate Wokingham for the Poppy Appeal every year and really went to town for the Jubilee in the summer.

New members always welcomed.  
Gaynor (The Madam)

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## Trinity Concert Band's Christmas Concert on Saturday 10th December, 4-6pm

Trinity Concert Band's famous annual celebration of Christmas music and carols in the atmospheric surroundings of Reading Minster combines a popular mix of seasonal nostalgia and festive cheer. Under the expert direction of Paul Speed, the band will take us on a musical journey through Christmases past and present.

We warmly welcome children of all ages to this family-friendly celebration of the festive season. Come ready to sing some well-loved carols and be inspired by the fantastic sound of an award-winning concert band – this is the perfect family outing to enjoy at a very special time of year.

Our Christmas concert will feature a fantastic feast of music from different periods, places and popular festive movies, with a sprinkling of sleigh bells courtesy of

Santa's little helpers (the younger audience members)! Here's a list of just some of the pieces you can look forward to:

- A Home Alone Christmas
- Suite from 'The Nutcracker'
- Away in a Manger
- Winter Wonderland
- Sure on This Shining Night
- Miracle on 34th Street
- Polar Express

- Sleigh Ride
- O Come All Ye Faithful
- Jingle Bells

Grab your friends and family, harness up your fastest reindeer and join us for the perfect prelude to the holiday season!

For more details about the band, contact Joanne Neale, publicity@trinityband.co.uk

### Singing/Music Lessons

Music lessons for children and beginners under the age of 14

*My studio is kitted out with all the music equipment one would need for creative writing, singing and recording. Helping children to develop and discover their musical talents in a fun, creative and relatable way!*

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- Basic piano lessons
- Songwriting and music production coaching

Email Hollie: [holliemills.music@gmail.com](mailto:holliemills.music@gmail.com)  
Phone Hollie: 07809 340781



## CROWTHORNE Symphony ORCHESTRA

We are busy rehearsing for our Autumn Concert in November as I write this, but before we know it, our traditional afternoon Family Christmas Concert will be upon us!

As always, we will be playing lots of favourites including music from Frozen, Christmas at the Movies, Sleigh Ride, and other popular festive music as well as carols for the audience to join in. We hope this year to resume the long tradition of inviting children to conduct the orchestra, which sadly Covid put paid to last Christmas. It is a real joy to watch the excitement on the children's faces when they endeavour to keep the orchestra following their beat, and the orchestra in turn try very hard to do exactly what the children tell them!

The Christmas Concert is at St John the Baptist Church in Crowthorne on **Saturday 10th December at 4.30pm** – bring the whole family, young and not-so-young, to this popular event in the beautiful setting of our parish church. Children

16 and under are free and tickets are available in advance via our website. Tickets will also be available at the door subject to availability.

Our Spring Concert is on Saturday 25th March 2023 at 7.30pm at The Old Gym, Wellington College, Crowthorne when the programme will include Vaughan Williams: Overture 'Poisoned Kiss', Sibelius: Violin Concerto, Walton: Spitfire Prelude and Fugue and Respighi: Pines of Rome.

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

Our website has information on concerts, tickets, rehearsals, workshops and more: [www.crowthorneorchestra.com](http://www.crowthorneorchestra.com)

Chris Gadsby



## Wokingham Choral Society

### Christmas Carol Concert

Wokingham Choral Society is looking forward to its annual Family Christmas Carol Concert on Saturday 17th December at 6.30 pm. This year, it will be held for the first time at the new Carnival Hub (Leisure Centre) in Wokingham. We are delighted to be able to perform in the concert space of this new venue. We look forward to welcoming old friends and new to join us in a selection of traditional and modern Christmas carols for choir and audience, as well as some festive readings. Please go to [www.wokingham-choral-soc.org.uk](http://www.wokingham-choral-soc.org.uk) for more details of this and future concerts, or contact our Membership Secretary if you are interested in joining our friendly choir.

# DINTON WALKING GROUP



## 'The Talking Group that loves to Walk'

### WHAT DOES THE GROUP DO?

We organise about 60 leisurely paced, pleasant 4-6 mile walks of various grades of difficulty, throughout the year. These are usually within a 10-15 mile radius of Wokingham but we also arrange some further afield & occasionally in London. We have an active programme of monthly meetings with entertaining speakers, social events including suppers, quizzes & a Christmas Lunch. Each year we nominate a charity for our fundraising events throughout the year. We also organise an annual walking holiday for our members.

### OBJECT

The Group was formed to increase opportunities for all like-minded adults to gain safe access to the countryside & promote friendship amongst members by providing a regular programme of walks & related activities. No one will ever know the pleasure that walking & talking in the company a group can bring until it has been experienced.

### HISTORY

The Group was formed in September 1999 under the auspices of Wokingham District Countryside Services by amalgamating the Women's Walking Group & the Over 50s Mixed Walking Group. After 2 years the Group formed its own management committee & all walks are member devised & led. We are affiliated to The Ramblers' Association.

### WHERE & WHEN ARE MEETINGS HELD?

Walks are weekly, usually on a Tuesday at 10.30am, with various local start points & submitted by the members. These are communicated to the membership by our bi-monthly newsletter.

A monthly evening meeting is also arranged for members & although the group was originally formed at Dinton Pastures, we are now based at Barkham Village Hall & meet at 7.45pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

### MEMBERSHIP

We are a mixed group with currently some 100 members of

semi-retired/retired people who enjoy talking & walking. Usually an average of 25-30 members come along to each walk. The Group offers a very warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us for fresh air, exercise & companionship. However some may also prefer to walk quietly & safely within the group whilst enjoying the natural world. Anyone interested in walking with us is always welcome to come along & try us out before committing themselves. A Sample Walks Programme is available to view on our website, run for us by Winnersh Parish Council & can be seen at [www.winnersh.gov.uk/dwg](http://www.winnersh.gov.uk/dwg)

Membership runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January & is currently £6 per annum. Contact [dintonwalkinggro@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dintonwalkinggro@yahoo.co.uk) if you are interested.

# Resilience isn't about being tough

We use resilience in the face of adversity, which comes in many forms, from the impact of a pandemic to the somewhat lighter, arriving late to an appointment or spilling coffee down our favourite top.

There is no absolute agreement in psychological research about resilience, but one way it's been summarised uses the three R's – Resistance, Recovery, and Reconfiguration. The first of these is often translated as toughness, but I don't think that's helpful. Let's look at the other two before returning to Resistance.

Having asked hundreds of people, I'd say that Recovery is the most common of the Rs we use to describe resilience, typically using a phrase like the 'ability to bounce back'. This might bring to mind the analogies of the sapling flexing in the wind or the more literal bouncing back of a ball.

Bouncing back can be a good analogy, but like most complex things that involve humans, it isn't perfect. For example, bouncing back implies a 'fast' return, quickly recovering to where we started, which is perfectly reasonable for those lighter adversities but less so for something like the loss of someone close. Even with great skill, recovery may take some time, and that's normal.

Reconfiguration refers to the growth we may go through while dealing with adversity. It's common for people to describe that although they wouldn't choose to go through their difficulty or wish it on anyone else, now they are different. Somehow stronger, more skilled than before, or with

a better appreciation for the value of life. I used to wish I could have this kind of growth without going through adversity, but I'm not sure it works like that!

If you are currently going through adversity, and many of us are, I find it helpful to appreciate that growth is a possible outcome and even asking ourselves 'how can I grow from this?' If it seems insensitive, or your answer is 'I can't' then it might be too early, or the question needs phrasing differently.

And finally, we get to Resistance. The image this suggests for me is an oak tree – majestic and solid. But even the mighty oak will flex and move in the wind. The core may look solid, made more so by its growth through adversity from a sapling, but the leaves and branches still flex, and forces still create strain through the roots. For me, this describes how we may have developed skills, mindsets and resources – the three aspects that I suggest make up resilience - that allow us to work with difficulty and continue to function well in the face of adversity.

One of those skills, for example, is our ability to work with un-

pleasant emotions rather than them working us. Blocking out emotion, which for many is the epitome of toughness, is rarely a helpful long-term strategy. Having the skills to face and feel unpleasant emotions, working with them and responding wisely is a real resilience skill - and a fundamental one. It helps us to be flexible, see options, function, and perhaps learn from our adversity.

Business consultant Tom Peter suggests that business leaders often consider the hard stuff of finances to be the bottom line, the fundamentals of business. When the actual hard stuff is what we often call the soft stuff, how we treat our customers and staff, the consideration we put into our services – it's the bottom line that's soft, totally dependent hard stuff of working with people. He coined the phrase "[Soft is hard. Hard is soft,](#)" which is the perfect analogy here – the soft stuff of emotions, for example, is actually the hard stuff of resilience. It's not toughness we develop; it's skills, mindsets, and resources for working effectively with adversity – as, if you reflect, you already know.

Mark Quirk MSc  
[www.MindfulnessBerkshire.co.uk](http://www.MindfulnessBerkshire.co.uk)

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## Finchampstead Flower Club

FFC is for people who love flowers. We meet once a month to watch a demonstrator develop arrangements or for a workshop for ourselves. We have enjoyed Morgan Douglas Nuth presenting "Magical Botanicals", Sally Harding presenting "You've seen it all before" and Annette Urquhart on "Cinnamon and Spice". Some members travelled to Norden Farm to watch Mig Kimpton, a national demonstrator.

As with all our demonstrators, there was a range of flowers and foliage in a variety of containers. Each month some members enter the flower arranging competition (this is voluntary and provides lots of manageable ideas for displays at home). This year has been based upon Beatles song titles, including challenges like "Norwegian Wood" and "Yesterday".

In December we have a workshop but will have another professional demonstrator in January.

Please phone the chair, Lis Barrett, 01189892092 if you would like to attend in 2023 or just come to California Hall on 23rd January at 7.45 for an 8pm start.

You can follow our activities at <https://bbandoflowers.org.uk/clubs/finchampstead/> or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Finchampstead-Flower-Club-2011434195620803/>

Kriss Turner



I'm pleased to say that the Ladies Group is continuing to meet each month and in September, October and November we had some excellent speakers visit us with a varied programme of topics.

In September Marcia Watson talked about her time volunteering at the Rainbow Children's Home, a home for orphaned and impoverished children in Nepal, and it was so heart-warming to hear just how happy the children were and what wonderful, caring work was being carried out. Marcia brought a selection of Nepalese handicrafts which had been made by the women of the Rainbow Handicraft Charity - these were beautifully coloured woven bags, handbags, purses and rucksacks, etc. and we ladies did almost buy up all of her stock. A wonderful boost for the charity she is so passionate about.

October saw Chris Rhodes visit us, and for this meeting the husbands, partners and friends were invited along too. Chris' talk was on 'Plastic Pollution and sustaining the Future' - a topic very much affecting each and every one of us today, here and globally. He explained the problem of plastics in the environment and the harm they do, and the ways in which we can help and hopefully save the planet before it is too late.

In November Kaye and Ann from the Museum of English Rural Life in Reading came to talk about 'Extraordinary Women'. Most of we ladies think we are in some

way, but the women who Kaye talked about were really special at the time. These included Nancy Astor, the first elected woman MP, and Evelyn Balfour, who pioneered organic farming in this country and across the world.

On a carefully selected sunny and mild autumn day - 25th October - Barkham Ladies undertook a very pleasant local walk. Despite past heavy rainfall, paths were clear and we all returned dry-footed! We began at FBH, (Finchampstead Baptist Hall) walking through California Country Park, stopping for coffee, then taking broad walk route across to the greenway. We then circled through Hazebrouck Meadows, an area unknown to some, and back to FBH for our pre-ordered lunch. Add photo

Our December meeting is our Christmas Party when we ladies all bring along some savoury or sweet food for what is always a wonderful buffet table. We have a secret Santa, and really have a lovely time getting into the Festive Spirit!

We have a programme of events and speakers already planned for

next year, organised so well by our member Jenny, and the first one is a lunch at the Wheelwrights Arms in January. Our AGM is in February when we also have a Silent Auction.

We have had some new ladies join us recently, so if you are new to the area or now are thinking about joining the ladies group, then please contact Shirley Warner for more information on 0118 978 9124, or by email at [shirleyannwarner@gmail.com](mailto:shirleyannwarner@gmail.com). We meet at Barkham Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.45pm, and enjoy friendship and a varied programme of speakers and events including a Summer BBQ, and we would warmly welcome new members.

Shirley Warner (Chairperson)




**Award winning, Barkham Blue and Barkham Belle, made using pasteurised cow's milk from a local Guernsey herd. Available from local farmshops and delis or collect direct from our dairy here in Barkham.**



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



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

Do you love to sing, but for one reason or another you can't (or wouldn't dare) join a choir? Then **Sing for your Self** is the group for you! We are a truly local, no pressure, no performances, no demands and no expectations, fun singing group, where EVERYONE is welcome, no matter their confidence or ability levels.

With bags of energy, enthusiasm and empathy, my aim at **Sing**



**for your Self** is always to create a welcoming atmosphere of inclusion, trust and fun, where everyone can relax, sing confidently and leave the session feeling uplifted and happy.

We currently run three sessions a week in Arborfield, Finchampstead and Winnersh. After a warm-up, where we leave behind the stresses of the outside world and our daily lives, we sing along to well-known songs from across the decades, from '60s right through to modern day. We learn one song more thoroughly each week, pausing to go through any tricky bits, and then we just enjoy

singing them out! After our 2 daytime sessions we enjoy some refreshments together, bringing some often needed social contact into the day as well. Our sessions bring together men and women, from 18 to 80+ and provide some great laughs. And watching new friendships bloom amongst our singers is a truly wonderful bonus! Sessions are £5 each on a Pay As You Go basis, payable in cash or online, with donations for refreshments during daytime sessions.

This August we held a two-hour Summer Singalong Special, which brought together almost 60 group regulars and their guests at Barkham Village Hall, for a fabulous evening of fun. With a well-stocked bar for refreshments, we sang everything from Nat King Cole to Morecambe & Wise, from Abba to Elton, from Take That to Bryan Adams and songs from Grease to The Greatest Showman. The common theme? They were all absolutely wonderful songs to fill your lungs and sing out, leaving us all feeling great!

By popular demand we have decided to open up our last Thursday evening session of the term to do a Christmas Singalong – another two-hour Special with a refreshments bar and all your favourite popular Christmas songs from Bing Crosby and Andy Williams, to Shakin' Stevens and Slade! We will be holding this session at Gorse Ride Junior School, Finchampstead, on



Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, and would love to welcome you along, whether you are already a **Sing for your Self** regular or just fancy a lovely, local Christmas Singalong! This session will cost £12 per person, bookable in advance, refreshments included.

For further information on local sessions, or to enquire about booking on to our Christmas Singalong Special, go to [www.singforyourself.co.uk](http://www.singforyourself.co.uk) or [www.facebook.com/sing.for.your.self.group](https://www.facebook.com/sing.for.your.self.group)

or send an email to [soph@singforyourself.co.uk](mailto:soph@singforyourself.co.uk)

**Soph Tarttelin – Sing for your Self**



- Quiz Answers**
1. Bruton Street, London
  2. Windsor Castle
  3. Motor mechanic
  4. Kenya
  5. Anthony Eden
  6. Leith, Edinburgh
  7. The Derby, at Epsom
  8. Susan
  9. Coutts
  10. Louis XIV of France

**Where in Barkham?**  
Answer: On the corner of Barkham Road and Sandy Lane.

# Barkham Diary

07/12/22	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.30pm
13/12/22	Barkham Parish Council	AGCC	7:30pm
14/12/22	Bonsai Club	BVH	7:30pm
16/12/22	BVRA Carols in the Park	Junipers	7.00pm
04/01/23	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7:30pm
10/01/23	Barkham Parish Council	AGCC	7:30pm
11/01/23	Bonsai Club	BVH	7:30pm
23/01/23	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	8:00pm
01/02/23	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7:30pm
08/02/23	Bonsai Club	BVH	7:30pm
10/02/23	Copy deadline for Spring Newsletter		
14/02/23	Barkham Parish Council	AGCC	7:30pm
27/02/23	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	8:00pm
01/03/23	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7:30pm
08/03/23	Bonsai Club	BVH	7:30pm
14/03/23	Barkham Parish Council	AGCC	7:30pm
25/03/23	BVRA Skittles	BVH	7:00pm
27/03/23	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	8:00pm
05/04/23	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7:30pm
09/04/23	BVRA Easter Egg Hunt	Junipers	3pm
11/04/23	Barkham Parish Council	AGCC	7:30pm

## Weekly Events

Mondays	Pilates Class	BVH	10:00am
Mondays	Dog Training	BVH	6:30pm
Tuesdays	Rainbows	BVH	4:30pm
Tues-Fri	Barkham Pre-School	BVH	9:00am
Wednesdays	Art Class	BVH	7:30pm
Wednesdays	Brownies	BVH	5:30pm
Thursdays	Pilates Class	BVH	6:15pm
Thursdays	Karate	BVH	7:30pm

## Location Codes

AGCC	Aborfield Green Community Centre
AVH	Arborfield Village Hall
BVH	Barkham Village Hall
CRH	California Ratepayers Hall
FMH	Finchampstead Memorial Hall

## Contacts

Art Class	Kay Young	978 5177
Barkham Ladies Social Club	Shirley Warner	978 9124
Barkham Pre-School	preschoolbarkham@gmail.com	
Bonsai Club	<a href="mailto:berkshirebonsaiclub@gmail.com">berkshirebonsaiclub@gmail.com</a>	
	<a href="http://www.berkshirebonsai.co.uk">www.berkshirebonsai.co.uk</a>	



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Contact the editor if you would like to publish the dates of your events in this Diary or to update them.

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

Gordon Giltrap in concert - Friday, December 2

Led Into Zeppelin - Friday, December 9

Spriggan Mist and Flutacious - The Wassail - Friday, January 27

Some Kinda Wonderful - Celebrating the music of Stevie Wonder - Friday, February 3

Andy Fairweather Low & The Low Riders - Friday, February 10 - SOLD OUT

Catfish in concert - Friday, February 17

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

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

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

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