



# Barkham Newsletter

£1, free to Members

Issue 103 Spring 2013

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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

**Easter Egg Hunt**  
**Easter Sunday**  
**31 March 3pm**  
**Junipers Play Area**  
**See Page 12**

**Barn Dance**  
**Barkham Village Hall**  
**Saturday 18 May at 7pm**  
**See Page 12**



## 2013 Subscriptions

2013 BVRA Membership Fees are now due and remain at £2 per household.

If you have not already done so, please pay your distributor, who is:

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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, media, the public).
- Recruit new Committee members when necessary.
- Write the Chairman's introduction to each Newsletter.
- Time commitment could be a maximum of half a day per month.

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

### The Quiz

A parliamentary theme this time. A few tricky ones I think! Answers on page 23.

1. Why did Tory MP Nadine Dorries appear on TV for several weeks in November 2012?
2. Which parliamentary title is currently held by Sir Peter Tapsell but has previously been held by (among many others) Tam Dalyell, Edward Heath, James Callaghan and Winston Churchill?
3. Which current Conservative cabinet minister has the nickname "two brains"?
4. How many constituencies elect MPs to the House of Commons?
5. Which long serving Labour MP is known as "the Beast of Bolsover"?
6. Complete the sequence: Betty Boothroyd (1992-2000), Michael Martin (2000-2009), xxxx xxxxxx (2009-current)
7. Sir Peter Viggers was a fairly obscure Tory MP until the Expenses Scandal broke in 2009. What avian residence costing £1645 was he (in)famous for claiming on his MP's expenses?
8. Which current MP has won 2 acting Oscars? Bonus points for the names of the films!
9. Which Lib Dem MP resigned his seat in February after pleading guilty to perverting the course of justice?
10. And finally.....John Profumo, Roy Jenkins, Tony Benn and David Steel may seem an unlikely grouping, but which juvenile parliamentary title have they all held?

### Advertising and Newsletter Contributions

Newsletter articles / contributions for the Summer edition should be in by 20 May. It helps if these can be submitted in electronic form by email to [newsletter@barkham.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@barkham.org.uk). They may also be hand written or typed, and should 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](mailto:treasurer@barkham.org.uk), or call 973 4806. We offer three 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 June.

## BVRA 2011/12 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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## Data Protection Act

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



## Editorial

Welcome to the spring 2013 edition of the Barkham Newsletter! Can I start by reminding residents that the annual BVRA Membership Fee of £2 per household is due so please pay your distributor as soon as possible. If you don't have their details, please contact the Membership Secretary.

This is a bumper 24 page edition with a wide range of articles. David French (late of this parish) has been doing more research into Barkham's "George Washington connection". Thanks to David for continuing to supply articles even though he now lives in Oxfordshire. We also have a new contributor, Mick Bullock, who writes about the love of his life (and Reading FC)!

There is news from the parish council (including the annual Parish Clean-up on 24 March) and also from our WBC councillor, John Kaiser. Laurence Heath reports on progress with the Neighbourhood Plan.

Thanks also to my regular contributors covering gardening, rambling, church, music, history and other local societies. As always in the spring edition there is a piece from Joe Kinnagan. You

may not agree with Joe's views but I think he has the right to express them. This time he's suggesting that our successful annual Carols in the Park is in need of a revamp – see what you think.

As always, we have a quiz, this time on a parliamentary theme, with questions that I think range from easy to pretty tricky!.

If you have any comments (good or bad, but hopefully constructive!) on the contents of the newsletter please email me at [newsletter@barkham.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@barkham.org.uk).

**Stewart Richardson**

**Editor**

## Barkham Development Watch email list

As you may be aware, Barkham Development Watch set up a mailing list a couple of years ago, so that residents could be kept aware of plans for potential building developments in the parish. Many Barkham residents registered for our email alert (see below) but we have recently noticed a number of emails are "not deliverable", presumably because the person's email address has changed. If you have changed your email since you registered on the list, can you please send a mail to [development@barkham.org.uk](mailto:development@barkham.org.uk) with "Mailing List" in the heading or subject line, which will ensure you continue to receive the mails.

If you have not previously registered for the alerts but would like to do so, please send an email as described above.



## News from Your Parish Council

### Arborfield Garrison Development

The last couple of months have been extremely busy for the Parish Council with councillors attending numerous meetings with the Urban Planners, John Thompson and Partners, who have now been appointed by Wokingham Borough Council. They will be submitting a planning application in March for the redevelopment of Arborfield Garrison. A Community Planning weekend was held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January at Arborfield Community Centre, when over 200 local people braved the snow to attend this event. There was a display showing the draft proposals for 3500 new homes, a secondary school, two new primary schools, a village centre with a range of shops and two smaller neighbourhood centres. Local residents were given the opportunity to have their say about the proposals and discuss issues with landowner representatives and the consultant team. The need to provide a by-pass around Arborfield Cross and to upgrade the sewerage works were all discussed.

The residents were all in agreement that new meeting spaces will be needed, including a multipurpose community hub (similar to the Finchampstead Baptist Church Centre) in order

to foster the integration of the new development into the existing community and to provide new enhanced facilities for all. It is very important that residents have their say in what facilities are provided as this will affect you, whether you have children or are elderly everyone needs to have their say.

### Part Night Street Lighting

In order to make costs savings and to be more environmentally friendly Wokingham Borough Council have decided to extend its part night lighting scheme, the roads that will be affected are Ash Way, Bearwood Road, Broom Grove, Cherrytree Grove, Limmer Close and Whitebeam Close. (Only a small number of lights in Bearwood Road seem to be affected. The lights will be turned off at midnight until 5.30 a.m.

The Parish Council has asked the Borough Council to outline future plans to extend the scheme. While we support the concept, we are concerned that important junctions should remain illuminated. We also wonder whether the timings are appropriate for resident roads – for those of us who like to sleep with the curtains open, this could make for a very early wake up!

The Parish Council would be interested to hear the opinions of residents, especially those in the roads mentioned above who already have experience of the scheme.

### Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

The Parish Council now has a vacancy for a new Councillor, if you have an interest in what goes

on in your local area, this could be for you. With the proposed development at the Garrison and a possible 3500 new homes this will have a huge effect on all of us. A large part of the Garrison is actually located within the Parish of Barkham. We are a friendly group of people all with different skills and interests, we meet at Barkham Village Hall on the second Tuesday of every month from 8.00 – 10.00 p.m. Please contact the Clerk if you would like further information.

### Parish Clean Up

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March is the date for the annual Parish Clean Up from 9.30 am until 12.30 pm, meet at Barkham Village Hall. We will



provide the litter pickers and sacks, just wear suitable clothes and gloves. On your return to the village hall we will provide you with a bacon roll, tea or coffee and homemade cakes. The picture below shows just how much rubbish we collected last year. Any families with young children will be allocated a safe area such as a park. Please come and give up one hour to help keep Barkham a clean and litter free place to live.

Judith Neuhofer  
Clerk to  
Barkham Parish Council

## Neighbourhood Plan – the Next Steps

Many of you will have attended the workshops run by the consultants, John Thompson and Partners, who are working on behalf of the developers. A lot of the comments I have heard suggest that consultants have taken on board many of the issues raised by local residents, but there has been little mention of how the development of Arborfield Garrison will interface with the existing local communities.

This is why the Neighbourhood Plan is so important. It is the role of the Neighbourhood Plan to address the needs of the wider area. It is necessary to see how the Arborfield Garrison development can be made to work for the benefit of the existing community and to minimise the negatives such as the greatly increased traffic on residential roads.

It is vital that the Neighbourhood Plan is seen as reflecting the aspirations of local people, to maximise its influence on future planning decisions. This can best be achieved by encouraging as many people as possible to participate in the process, for example by identifying specific local needs and outlining workable solutions.

With this aim in mind, The Neighbourhood Plan Group, which is formed of members of Arborfield and Barkham Parish Councils, invited interested residents from both parishes to a meeting on 26 Feb at Barkham Village Hall. This meeting was attended by nearly 50 residents. It provided more detail on progress so far and the results of the residents' survey. How to achieve further engagement with residents was also discussed, to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan produces

the best solutions for the villages of Arborfield and Barkham in the face of the development at Arborfield Garrison. Six working groups were set up to address particular topics. These included:

- Transport including roads and public transport,
- Housing (mix of housing types and design principles),
- Education, with special reference to use of school facilities by the wider community
- Green spaces and green routes (cycleways, footpaths, ...)
- Interaction with existing communities – opportunities for shared facilities, required, e.g. shops, health, faith etc.
- Employment, with ideas to reflect changing working patterns including more home working.

The developers at Arborfield Garrison are keen to proceed to an outline planning application, possibly as early as March 2013. It has been stated that the MOD are planning to move most of their activities away before the end of 2015. While it is quite possible that this date will slip, we are nevertheless entering a crucial stage to influence the development of Arborfield Garrison. It is

essential that local people get together to influence plans in a way that protects the environment for existing residents in the area and ensures that developers deliver on promises to build a high quality community at the Garrison SDL. While it is impossible for us to complete all the processes required to have a fully adopted Neighbourhood Plan before the planning application is submitted, we believe that by working together we can ensure that the topics that are important to us all are raised and hopefully this can have an effect on outcomes.

It is encouraging that WBC have committed to building a bypass round Arborfield Cross along with a new secondary school at Arborfield Garrison. This infrastructure will be partially, but not entirely, funded by the developers, and we will need to ensure that what is built really meets our needs. Nevertheless there is a risk that a funding gap will appear, so it is essential that building at the SDL is not allowed to proceed without these critical pieces of infrastructure being provided.

Laurence Heath  
Vice Chairman  
Barkham Parish Council





## Dear Residents

We are now well into the New Year and the weather is improving hopefully the economic climate will follow the same path; my article covers important items both to Barkham and Borough wide.

I felt it was important to explain the budget constraints the Borough council has been put under and cover off what is the latest news with regards the Garrison development both in some detail

## Garrison Development (Arborfield)

It is highly likely that the MOD will vacate the garrison by the end of 2015. At the same time RAF Lyneham is scheduled to open as the new training establishment. It aims to have facilities for 1750 apprentices and staff in place by that date.

The MOD has indicated that they intend to submit a planning application this March and I will update residents when I have more information. One good news item is the Borough Council has committed itself to a bypass of Arborfield Cross and traffic studies are on going with regards to other traffic hot spots such as Barkham Bridge and California Cross roads among others and

the results will be available in May this year. This will set the scene for the cost and level of the infrastructure required for the development.

It is disappointing that the planning application is coming forward in March before the traffic modelling is available, that said it will take many months for this application to be reviewed due to its size and as the traffic modelling becomes available this will be overlaid onto the plans submitted

I did attend the vision for Arborfield presentation and the MOD feedback session at the Garrison Community centre. The presentation was very good but like all large planning applications the devil is always in the detail. Some of the key points were

- 50% of all the land will become public open space.
- The Church and the Community Centre will stay for the moment
- The Primary School shown on the sports pitches will be moved next to the new Secondary School at the junction of Langley Common Road and Biggs Lane.
- Provision is being positively considered for, allotments, sustainable urban drainage, protection of most of the trees/hedgerows, bridleways, Supermarket and other smaller shopping facilities, Doctors, Dentists, Nursery, Pub, café and small business places to name but some.
- The main community area is also planned to have market town feel by having a market square in the design.
- Wokingham Borough Council is currently looking at options for the Arborfield bypass and

once draft plans are in place they intend to plan a public meeting with residents.

- They want to give local residents a say as the plans move forward and they are planning a website named arborfieldvision.com which is designed to keep residents up to date on progress.

I will keep residents updated as progress is made but if anyone has any specific concerns/questions please let me have them and I will do my best to get answers. The important thing to remember is although the development is referred to as Arborfield nearly  $\frac{2}{3}$  rds of the houses are in the wards of Barkham and Finchampstead and as such impacts people living in Barkham just as much if not more.

## EVERY PENNY COUNTS

Wokingham Borough Council has reluctantly increased the council tax by 1.9%. This is in the context of £5million grant cuts and the need to make significant investment in regenerating the borough.

Since December, the council has been looking at the impact of the local government finance settlement which was the worst settlement the authority has ever had in one year. The borough council suffered a 10.3% reduction in its main grant from central government and in 2014/15; the borough council faces a further 16% reduction.

Over the last four years the council has made savings and efficiencies of £16.5million. The budget for 2013/14 requires an additional £6million of savings. Additionally, the government is introducing major changes to the

structure of the local government finance system. The council tax benefit scheme will be replaced by a localised council tax support scheme from April 2013, with 11% less funding from central government (equating to £600,000 shortfall).

Despite the national headlines stating the Borough has suffered an overall grant reduction of only 1.7% (£2million). The reality is somewhat very different. The actual lost to the Borough is £5million. Councils are bearing the brunt of public spending cuts and it means there are some very difficult decisions to take going forward.

Wokingham remains the lowest funded unitary authority in England. The council receive £86.60 per head of the population compared with the national average for unitary authorities of £313.10 – that's nearly four times more than Wokingham receive and we are required to provide the same statutory services. The average council receives 40% funding, we receive only 14% - the rest is raised through council tax.

We have placed additional resources in key areas such as improving roads, increasing employability skills of young people, and boosting the economy by backing a campaign to ensure there is superfast broadband for all in the borough.

The council's budget plans for 2013/16 include:

*Improve educational attainment and focus on every child achieving their potential:*

- Some £33.2million children's services revenue budget (ex-

cluding money that goes directly to schools) per year.

- £96.3million direct to schools in the form of dedicated schools grant per year
- Capital investments include: £13million to improve the borough's primary school provision

*Invest in regenerating towns and villages, support social and economic prosperity, whilst encourage business growth:*

- Some £62million over three years will be invested into regenerating Wokingham town centre.
- 2013/14 will see the start of a major investment programme to improve the borough's infrastructure which includes new relief and distributor roads
- £80,000 to ensure superfast broadband is rolled out across the borough.

*Ensure strong communities that are vibrant and support by well designed development:*

- Over 21million will be invested in council housing stock to accelerate the council's decent homes standard
- Some £24million for good quality and affordable housing developments.
- Over £13million for accommodation such as older people's housing including extra-care and enhanced sheltered schemes and supported living schemes for the borough's vulnerable residents

*Tackle traffic congestion in specific areas of the borough:*

- Overall, some £16million pounds will be invested in the borough's highways between now and 2016.

*Looking after the vulnerable:*

- £45.2million revenue budget for social care for adults

Although cuts remain inevitable the council will continue to improve efficiencies and target as many savings as possible, with minimal impact on those services most prized by residents.

## **Waste**

The revised waste collection service consist of bigger/stronger bags which should have been delivered by the time you are reading this. The aim is to have them delivered by the teams who collect the waste so it should be more efficient than last year. Some flexibility for families with special needs will be dealt with on a one to one basis. Don't worry if you have any old bags left over from last year you can continue to use them.

If you need any help with regards to issues you have which relates to the Borough council please do not hesitate to contact me

Kind regards

John Kaiser  
Wokingham Borough  
Councillor for Barkham  
[jk2gk@aol.com](mailto:jk2gk@aol.com)  
0118 9762116

## **Wokingham Times**

If you have local news or would like your event photographing for the paper, please let me know. My direct line is 918 3023.

Jon Nurse

# Jubilee Tree Planting

On Sunday 16th December 2012 Barkham Parish Council celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by planting two special oak trees in the Junipers Park. The ceremony was led by Derek Oxbrough (Barkham Tree Warden and BPC councillor) and Pam

Stubbs (BPC Chairman). Also in attendance were other members of the Parish Council, the clerk, BVRA and members of the public. The first photo shows Tom Goldring putting the final touches to the planting with Pam Stubbs.



## Easter – Fact or Fiction?

'Why do you actually believe Christianity is true?' – I was recently asked, in an e-mail from a friend.

He was wrestling with an issue many of us wrestle with today.

Living, as we do, in an increasingly interconnected world, I suspect most of us are more aware of different belief systems than pretty much anyone who has gone before us in history. And the first thing that strikes us is that there are simply so many of them out there!

'So how,' we might ask, 'could anyone ever dare to claim that what they believe is uniquely and exclusively true?'

Surely it would be far more sensible (and maybe safer too) to opt for the view that no one system of belief is exclusively true, but rather that they all contain elements of truth and are each somehow true 'in their own way'? Maybe, to use a popular illustration, different religions are simply different paths up the same mountain, and the problem is that their adherents just need to realise that and learn to put their differences to one side? At first glance, that sounds like a very attractive idea indeed.

But then we get to Easter!

There are many things that persuade me that Christianity is true. But if I was allowed to talk about just one thing in answer to my friend's question, there is no doubt that it would be to point to the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

The stakes are so high when it comes to the events of that first Easter Day. The apostle Paul, writing to Christians, put it so well: 'If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.'

And, of course, that must be true. Without the resurrection we would have no way of knowing whether Jesus was telling the truth about who he was and what he came to do. He would be just another religious leader who made some big claims, but then died leaving us wondering how we could ever know if they were true.

But that then raises another question: 'Why do Christians believe in the resurrection?'

But reading the Bible's accounts of Jesus' life, and death, and whatever it was that happened next, it's very striking to notice that absolutely no-one else was expecting him to be raised again. You might have thought that at least Jesus' closest followers would have been expecting it, since he'd told them, at least three times, that it was going to happen. But where were they on the morning of the third day? Not waiting at the tomb, eagerly anticipating seeing their Lord again, but cowering in a locked room, wondering where it had all gone wrong. And those brave women who stuck their necks out

by going to Jesus' tomb early on that Sunday morning – why did they go? Not because they were expecting to meet him again, but simply to pay their last respects by anointing his body.

So where did the idea that Jesus had been raised bodily from the dead come from?

Surely it can only be that sceptical people like them were confronted with precisely the sort of evidence it would take to convince sceptical people like you and me that it had happened? The completely unexpected and irresistible combination of an empty tomb and of so many unlikely people claiming to have seen him alive again left them with no option but to acknowledge that he was.

So it all comes down to a historical claim, and hangs on an event we're told happened in space and time.

And, very gently, I would want to suggest that this is one of the things that makes Christianity stand out among all the belief systems of the world. The Bible doesn't just present us with a set of religious ideas that we simply have to take on trust (or not) because they can't be tested to see if they're true.

The Bible's claim is that, in Jesus, God has acted in history, and left his footprints in space and time, in a way that we can investigate and verify, just as we can investigate and verify any other historical claim as well.

Not convinced? Fair enough – it's a huge claim. But why not at least look into these things some more?

I love the story of Frank Morison. He was so sceptical about the

claims that Jesus had been raised from the dead that he set out to write a paper to demonstrate that it hadn't really happened. But, as he examined the evidence again, he found himself forced to admit that it had. His resulting book 'Who Moved the Stone?' would be a great place to go to start thinking about these things.

And why not join us at Barkham Church this Easter as we consider these things as well? As ever, you'd be very, very welcome indeed.

David Horrocks

## **Barkham Village Hall**

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

From as little as £22/hr for both halls. £25/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 Neuhof on 9790296 or email [clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk)

## **Barkham and the George Washington connection - fact or fiction?**

### **Introduction**

Barkham residents will be familiar with the long-standing tradition that Colonel William Ball of Millenbeck (c.1615-1680), the first Virginian ancestor and grandfather of George Washington's mother, Mary Ball, was descended from the Ball family which lived in Barkham in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. This has never been substantiated, however. 'Colonel' William emigrated from England to Virginia with his family at some time during the later 1650s and the early 1660s.

Various historians have tried to trace the English ancestry of George Washington's mother, but without much success in identifying the genealogical 'missing link'. A major contributory factor is that families bearing the name 'Ball' were numerous and widespread in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, rather like 'Smith' today. The net result, unfortunately, has been the dissemination of a considerable body of misinformation.

The Rev.d P.H. Ditchfield, Rector of Barkham 1886-1930, included an essay on the subject in his collection of essays, *'Out of the Ivory Palaces'*, published in 1911. Ditchfield, who was an eminent historian, enthusiastically subscribed to the story that the ancestors of Mary Ball lived at Barkham in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, "when as lords of the ancient manor they ruled as long ago as A.D. 1480".

"Barkham can boast of many noble and illustrious sons, and its manor has been held by powerful

and important families, but the true greatness of our little village rests on the fact that here lived, four centuries ago, the ancestors of the gracious lady, the heroic mother of George Washington, who gave to America her independence."

### **Genealogical evidence**

The reputed father of Colonel William was William Ball of Lincoln's Inn, who was born at Wokingham around 1601-03. He recorded the family pedigree before the Heralds' Visitation of London in 1634. The family tree begins with the death of William Ball of Barkham in 1480, followed by the death of his son, Robert Ball of Barkham in 1543 (1546 according to the parish registers). The family, who were yeomen farmers or husbandmen, subsequently moved to Wokingham.

William Ball of Lincoln's Inn married Alice Waltham at St Gregory by St Paul in 1627 and became one of the four Attorneys of the Court of the Exchequer of Pleas. In 1633 he bought Lock's Farm in Wokingham for £685. He was an active supporter of the Parliamentary cause, becoming MP for Abingdon in January 1646 but he fell ill and died in late 1647.

Tradition has it that 'Colonel' William was born around 1615, and married Hannah Atherold of Burgh, Suffolk in London in 1638. If so, William Ball of Lincoln's Inn, the reputed father of Colonel William Ball of Millenbeck, was no more than 14, and perhaps only 12, when 'Colonel' William is said to have been born in 1615. In the absence of any record of William Ball of Lincoln's Inn marrying before 1627, 'Colonel' William could have been no older than ten when he is reputed to have married Hannah Atherold in

1638, if William Ball of Lincoln's Inn was his father.

There is no surviving record of the birth of any of the children of William Ball of Lincoln's Inn, but his will in 1647 mentions four daughters and two sons, neither called William. It transpires that there was, in fact, an elder son called William. The evidence is to be found in a 1641 deed of appointment of new Wokingham almshouse trustees, who include William Ball of Wokingham, gentleman, and William Ball, "sonne and heir apparant" of William Ball.

At variance with the tradition that William, son of William Ball of Lincoln's Inn, went to Virginia in the 1650s to found a new dynasty, surviving hearth tax returns, a subsequent trust deed, parish registers and Trinity College, Oxford records provide strong evidence that son William continued to live in the locality until at least 1687.

### **Joseph Ball II's researches**

Mary Ball's elder half-brother, Joseph Ball II (1689-1760), was very interested in his family history. He spent much of his adult life in England, marrying here and becoming a barrister. In 1743 he left Virginia permanently to live in England, and pursued his genealogical researches throughout the 1740s.

Joseph Ball II's quest to discover his family origins in England led in 1750 to a kinswoman called Mrs Johnson, who coincidentally was living at Wokingham. It seems that Mrs Johnson had in her possession a portrait and a pair of gloves, reputedly of an uncle of Colonel William. At the same time as he was in contact with Mrs Johnson, Joseph Ball II asked the vicar of Wokingham to enquire

whether the Balls were ever lords of the manor of Barkham.

It is clear from Joseph Ball II's letter book (now at the Library of Congress) that he felt there was a connection between the Virginia Balls and the Balls of Barkham, although with what degree of conviction is not known. Amongst the surviving family papers is a certified copy by the College of Arms dated 1748 of the pedigree recorded by William Ball of Lincoln's Inn in 1634, including a drawing of the arms of the Balls of Barkham (*see below*). The genealogical chart was most probably commissioned by Joseph Ball II.

### **Heraldic evidence**

When William Ball of Lincoln's Inn recorded his pedigree before the Heralds in 1634, he recorded his arms as four galtraps, with a crest in the form of a larger galtrap. (A galtrap is a small iron ball with four projecting spikes which was used in mediæval warfare to injure the hooves of advancing horses.)

The arms claimed by the Virginia Balls, on the other hand, feature a lion passant on the shield, with three silver stars on a black horizontal band across the top and a crest with a demi-lion rampant holding a globe. The shield matches the shield recorded by the Rev.d Richard Ball (1570-1631), son of Lawrence Ball of Northampton, at the College of Arms in 1613, while the crest matches the crest granted to him the same year. The shield also matches that of the Rev.d Robert Ball of Lichfield (1551-1613), who may have been a kinsman, whose shield appears amongst the stained glass arms of benefactors in the Hall of New College, Oxford.

Had there been a close connection between the Balls of Barkham and Wokingham and the Virginia Balls, one would have expected to find the arms of William Ball of Lincoln's Inn, or some close approximation to them, being used by the Virginia branch of the family. Instead, the arms used by the Virginia Balls (including the crest) match the entirely different arms of the Rev.d Richard Ball of Northampton. Joseph Ball II must have been well aware of the discrepancy.

### **Lordship of Barkham**

Although not mentioned in the pedigree recorded before the Heralds in 1634, subsequent Virginia Ball family trees invariably refer to William Ball of Barkham, who is said to have died in 1480, as lord of the manor. This misinformation is most likely attributable to Joseph Ball II.

There is no foundation at all for this claim. The Bullocks, lords of the manor of Arborfield, also became lords of the manor of Barkham from the 1330s, when Gilbert Bullock married Agnes de Neville, heiress of the manor of Barkham, until 1589, when the bankrupt Thomas Bullock sold the two manors to Edmond Standen, one of the Clerks of the Petty Bag of the Court of Chancery, for £4,000, as recounted in Chapter 7 of *'Barkham - A History'*.

The ownership of the lordships during this period by the Bullock family is well documented. The lord of the manor of Barkham in 1480 was Robert Bullock. All the surviving evidence indicates that the Ball family who lived at Barkham during the sixteenth century was a well-to-do yeoman family.

The stories which have grown up about the connection between George Washington's mother's family and Barkham also incorrectly assume that the manor house has always been located on the present Barkham Manor site, whereas in mediæval and Tudor times the manor house was located on a moated site adjacent to the parish church, and was known as Barkham Court (or the farm of Barkham). See Chapter 9 of *'Barkham - A History'*.

Ditchfield unwittingly describes the mediæval manor house thus: "There is an old farmhouse near the church; it has doubtless seen better days, and has been converted into cottages. An ancient moat encircles it as if some family of distinction once lived there and wished to guard themselves and their possessions from troublesome visitors."

### **Conclusion**

Whilst it would be very satisfying to be able to demonstrate a connection between Barkham and George Washington, on the basis of the genealogical evidence, as well as the heraldic evidence, there is nothing to suggest any link between the Balls of Barkham and the Virginia Balls.

Although the heraldic evidence instead strongly suggests a line of descent from the Balls of Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire, in the absence of any documentary evidence it cannot be excluded that Colonel William Ball of Millenbeck simply unilaterally assumed the arms of his armigerous namesakes.

For a fuller account of Barkham and the George Washington connection, please go to <http://www.maryballwashington.com>.

David French



## Social Matters

For the first time for what appears to be ages we have had a day of sunshine and relatively warm weather so may be spring might be round the corner. The daffodils have been in bud for sometime and the snowdrops have also made an appearance but the ground is so sodden that I am reluctant to buy any plants at the moment and knowing the climate here it will probably be wet and cold again before long.

Back last November we held another quiz evening again hosted by Stephen Rayner and his team

their name has been engraved on the new shield made for us by Jimmy McCarthy and I thank him for doing this for us. There are now three full shields above the serving hatch in the village hall. We have booked the village hall for Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup> so please put this date in your diaries. In fairness to everyone we can only have a maximum of 6 people per table and please, if you want a different menu than that advertised, make sure that it



and I am really grateful for him coming all the way from Dorset to do this for us. Last year's winners were Densa who had also won a few years ago and

is discussed when placing your booking.

In December we were very fortunate with Carols in the Park

and our thanks go to Berkshire Maestros Breakaway Band who accompanied us on the night and to Stewart Richardson who acted as Master of Ceremonies. We had a great turnout of over 100 residents and the carollers and band processed from The Woodlands to the hammerhead at the top of The Junipers singing all the way where they were met by the social committee serving mulled wine and mince pies. The committee erected and dismantled the ga-

zebo, made the mulled wine and distributed the mince pies and I am sure that all who attended were appreciative of their efforts.

Our next event will be the children's Easter Egg hunt on Easter **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March** at 3pm in The Junipers play area and we are hoping for fine weather. However if we have had rain recently please make sure that appropriate footwear is worn as the ground can be boggy. The price this year will be 50p per child and there will be two age groups as before. We will also be having a raffle for a large Egg at £1.00 per strip.

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May** is the next date for the village barn dance and again we will be dancing to Hullabaloo who we all enjoyed last year. Please join us for what

is a very enjoyable evening, with supper included at the ticket price of £8.00 or £5.00 for those still at primary school. This is a family occasion so we will be starting

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October** will be the family skittles evening in the village hall. More details will be in the next newsletter but please put this date in your diary now.

## Arborfield Local History Society

Our society continues to thrive, with over 80 members at the last count. Our regular meetings, generally held on the first Monday of each month, typically attract some 40 members and guests.

Our schedule of speakers for the coming year is being finalised and we look to have a mix of local and more general interests. In the coming months, we have a talk on the Kennett & Avon Canal on 4<sup>th</sup> March, followed by our AGM and a presentation on "The Walters" on 8<sup>th</sup> April. On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Gordon Brockman will be with us to discuss and value our antiques. Then Barbara Carr will on 3<sup>rd</sup> June present "Finding My Sister". Full details of all meetings for the coming year will be included in the next issue or can be found on our web site. One planned presentation which may be of particular interest to readers is "The Parish of Barkham" to be given early next year by Janet Firth.

We also have a social side, with a Garden Party in July, a planned trip to Portsmouth in August and our Annual Christmas Dinner.

Some events are "Members Only", but generally are open to all. They are held in the Arborfield Village Hall, commencing at 7.45 pm. Admission is free to members and guest are welcome for a nominal £2. Membership of the society is open to all and costs from £5-00 per year. Details are available on our web site [www.arborfieldhistory.org.uk](http://www.arborfieldhistory.org.uk).

Ray Hill  
[rayhill@aol.com](mailto:rayhill@aol.com)  
0118 9760784



I am sure that there are many of you in the village that have never been to one of our social events but if you cannot make a team at an event we can usually help you out. Please do not be shy as we are a friendly village and will make you welcome. Just ring or email me and I will try and sort something out for you.

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of the events.

Judith Collins 977 1579

at 7pm. As usual we will have a licensed bar and a raffle which helps keep our ticket prices down.



## The other love in my life

I fell in love at the age of thirteen. Love can make you romantic, sentimental, a bit dreamy and very vulnerable, but I have been faithful to my blue and white hooped team for 51 years. Being a Reading FC supporter was always about counting whatever blessings came your way and for the first 20 years believe me the blessings were few.

Being a Reading football club fan in 2013 is a lot easier than it used to be when I started in 1962. One had to rely on local newspapers to feed on as there was scant coverage of Reading in the nationals. A large proportion of fans today are of course TV football fans, but that is just for the softies who as often as not just want to jump on the bandwagon of success of a big club for a bit of self-Kudos. Living in Berkshire you are just as likely to meet a Chelsea, Spurs, Manchester Utd. / City, Liverpool / Everton or a Glasgow fan as you are a Reading fan, in fact you may even know a Barcelona fan these days.

The big difference between a fan and a supporter is that one actually supports their team by attending matches. The other one just dreams of being a supporter. You may only go to one match in a season but that will still count, you are then a supporter!

Now with all those top teams just down the road in London the question is why did I fall in love with Reading?

This is a question to wrestle with, isn't it? Not a question that troubles the supporters of the top teams. No one ever expects them to justify why. But constantly

if you are a Reading supporter you have to try to explain why! Now I have never been one to follow the herd, be it in my music tastes, drinking habits or my love of art, so being a Reading supporter seemed to fit in with my individual way of thinking.



The first professional game I attended was at the age of twelve I was taken by my dad to Highbury to see an Arsenal home match against Sheffield Wednesday (my dad was a bit of a Arsenal fan) it was ok but I felt no passion! Then some months later with a friend from school attended a floodlit game at the old Elm Park between Reading and Portsmouth. Reading lost 0-3 but I was hooked. The excitement, rivalry, passion and in the end disappointment was so strong that I just wanted more, I was in love.

I share the love of my club with a fellow long suffering, Reading supporting, brother who comes with me to all home games at the superb Madejski Stadium. This is a different world to the old Elm Park. My good wife tolerates my obsession but does not share it. She enjoys the match commentary on BBC Radio Berkshire which helps her to know whether

husband's mood is likely to be for the rest of the weekend.

Now there probably sits the answer to the question of why Reading. We all need something in our lives that helps us get away from the mundane and the problems

that life throws at us, what better than your local football team, a place to go and enjoy the companionship of others who like you, support a team you can identify with as you live in Barkham, a team that is currently in the big league, but still retains that small local club feeling.

As I write this Reading are in a struggle to stay in the Premier League, but whatever the outcome I shall keep the faith, and my love close to me for a good while yet.

*Mick Bullock*

## Carols Refreshed

Successful organisations recognise the importance of keeping their products fresh and in tune with their customers. If their offerings are allowed to become stale or lose appeal to sections of society, they tend to go into decline. The car companies are working on their next model even before its predecessor is launched. The sales life of a model of mobile phone is amazingly short.

The Carols in the Park event has been popular for a number of years. However, there is no reason to think the current format will work indefinitely. Do songs about King Wenceslas really resonate with today's youth – he's been dead for more than 1000 years? Erecting a gazebo in the recreation ground, in the middle of December, in the dark – what's that all about?

So we are looking for a team of people to revisit Barkham's winter event and give it a facelift. Is this something you would like to play a part in? Who knows, you may create something so good it goes global or maybe even viral.

It is important that the team applies its own creativity as it moulds the event, so I shall resist the temptation of suggesting too many ideas. However, I shall pose a few questions to show how much freedom there could be for those taking part and the possible scope.

Would it be better to hold the event elsewhere?

Should we try something other than brass instruments?

Is there a better way of catering? Not everyone likes mince pies. How do we avoid giving people horse meat?

Carols are strongly associated with Christianity. Should they be replaced with something more inclusive?

Reading song-sheets in the dark can be a bit tricky. Is there anything to be learnt from Karaoke?

How do we make sure the weather doesn't spoil the event? It affects how many people turn up, which makes catering a bit hit or miss. Could it be an on-line event perhaps?

If any of this has whetted your appetite and you are fired up to make your name in the village, come along to the inaugural meeting. It seems fitting to start from where we left off, so we'll meet in the park at the end of the Junipers, Monday April 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00. No obligation – you don't have to come again if you don't like how it goes.

Joe Kinnagan



The Citizens Advice Bureau is an independent charity. We help people to resolve their problems by providing free, confidential and impartial information and advice.

We recently bid for, in partnership with Help & Care (who are a registered charity, working with older people, carers and communities in the South of England), and have been awarded, the contract from Wokingham Borough Council to run Local Healthwatch.

So, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013, the CAB will be providing a service of information and signposting for clients on health and social care issues. This is in addition to our normal CAB activities.

We have recently been seeing more and more clients coming to us whose incomes are running out before the end of the week/month. We are increasingly referring clients to one of the local food banks. This is a worrying trend and we are now trying to establish the reasons behind it. To help with this we are planning a survey of all debt clients in March / April to see if we can work with partners to find some solutions.

The changes coming soon to the welfare benefit system are bound to affect more and more people, especially those on low incomes and who receive help with their rent and council tax. Each council will have their own schemes, so we are currently working with Wokingham Borough Council to understand how they are going to administer this so that we can help the clients who are affected as effectively as possible.

### WOKINGHAM

26-28 Market Place  
(next to WH Smith), RG40 2AP  
public@wokingham-cab.org.uk  
www.wokingham-cab.org.uk

### Hours:

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

Telephone assessments:

0844 499 4126

## Joint Concert in March

TCB will be hosting a joint Concert with Reading Music Centre Concert Band on Saturday 23rd March 2013, at 7:30pm in Leighton Park School,

are free when accompanied by a paying member of the audience.

For more information about the band, visit our website at [www.trinityband.co.uk](http://www.trinityband.co.uk)



Reading. There is ample car parking in the school grounds.

It should be an exciting evening and will feature “Invictus” by Philip Sparke, “October” by Eric Whitacre, “Paris Sketches” by Martin Ellerby and “Tuba Concerto” by Edward Gregson (1st Movement).

**Ticket Prices:** Tickets are £10 up to 24 hours before the concert, when purchased from the Box Office Tel. 0118 9690925, and £12 on the door. Children under 16 years

## April Concert

The theme of the Concert is Man’s Musical Fascination with the Heavens and will take place on Saturday 13th April 2013 at 7:30pm, in Trinity Church, Lower Earley.

The programme will include “Star Wars” by John Williams and “Jupiter” (from the Planets) by Gustav Holst.



Fans of **Tchaikovsky**’s music will be pleased to hear that the programme for our **Spring Concert** on **Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>** at **Wellington College**, features three of his works. We are delighted to welcome back **Jian Ren** as our soloist in the **Violin Concerto**,



following his dazzling performance of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with us last year. Jian, a former pupil at Chetham’s School of Music, is now studying at the Royal College of Music. Amongst his many accolades, he was awarded the Manoug Parikian Prize by the Musicians’ Benevolent Fund, as well as the Junior Award of Hattori Foundation, and has had master classes with violinists including the great virtuoso, Maxim Vengerov.

The programme also includes the lively ‘**Capriccio Italien**’, and **Symphony No.2** (‘**Little Russian**’). **Tickets** are now available from our usual outlets – **Traveltime** in Crowthorne and **Bookends** in Wokingham as well as via our website. They are £10

in advance or £12 at the door, but **free for children of 16 or under.**

On **Saturday 11th May, 2.30-5.30**, at **St John's Church Hall, Crowthorne**, the orchestra will be holding its annual **String Workshop** when we will be working on the **'Suite for String Orchestra' by Frank Bridge**. You do not have to be a member of the orchestra to participate in the workshop and it is always an enjoyable event - more details on our website.

If you are interested in joining the orchestra and are a competent player, even if you have taken a break from playing, please get in touch or come along to a rehearsal. We meet at **Our Lady's Prep School, The Avenue, Crowthorne 7.45-10pm on Monday evenings** in term time and we welcome anyone who would like to join us, subject to vacancies. We are always looking for string players and cellists are particularly welcome at the moment. Our website has lots more information and contact details: [www.crowthorneorchestra.com](http://www.crowthorneorchestra.com)

Chris Gadsby



WOKINGHAM CHORAL SOCIETY will be performing Fanshawe's African Sanctus on Saturday 15 June at Reading University Great Hall (London Road Campus)

Pre-concert talk at 6.30pm, concert at 7.30pm Bar available

Tickets £17.00 (£5.00 students and under 18s)

For details, see [tickets@wokingham-choral-society.org.uk](mailto:tickets@wokingham-choral-society.org.uk)

... and don't forget to join us for Faure's beautiful Requiem on March 9



## Sign up for free inclusion training with Me2 Club!

The Disability and Inclusion Training Project offers informative and practical courses aimed at increasing the inclusion and support of children and young people with additional needs within any mainstream, out of school, leisure setting.

If you lead or help out at a Wokingham Borough activity group and would like to increase your knowledge, skills or confidence then this free training is a great opportunity for you.

Courses include;

Autism  
Effective Communication with Children/ Young People with Additional Needs  
Epilepsy  
Inclusive Solutions in Mainstream Groups  
Introducing Disability to a Mainstream Group  
Making Mainstream Activities Inclusive to All  
Safeguarding Children (Universal) - with a focus on safeguarding children with disabilities  
Supporting Behaviour Difficulties

*"Me2 Club training has eased any worries I had of how to involve children"* Playworker

*"Brilliant – this will help me in the rest of my career, keep up the good work"* Outdoors activity leader

Me2 also offers bespoke sessions which will be tailored to help

you and your group to overcome any barriers to inclusion you are facing – struggling to develop strategies to manage behaviour difficulties? Not sure how to encourage your other group members to be understanding and inclusive? Thanks to subsidising from the Big Lottery Fund Me2 Club can help, at no charge to you!

<http://www.me2club.org.uk/Inclusion.htm>  
[info@me2club.org.uk](mailto:info@me2club.org.uk)

0118 969 6369

Facebook: Me2ClubCharity

Twitter: @Me2club



The Christmas Party was well attended. Everyone enjoyed the usual festivities.

In January, our New Year meal was held at the Café Rouge in Wokingham. It was a treat to be waited on and we could all relax. At the February meeting, Pam Edwards, one of our members, taught us how to make special greetings cards.

We held a Silent Auction in March, which raised money for the club. There have been several visits to Wokingham Theatre, which are always popular.

The meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month at approx. 7.30pm at Barkham Village Hall. For further details, contact our Chairperson, Pauline Vestey on 979 1714

Angela Hands

# Arborfield Gardening Association

The Christmas festivities for AGA were arranged thanks to Kate and Loraine with a traditional party having something for everyone - even local treasure Arthur Hands was hauled into a game, still sitting in his chair, by two enthusiastic ladies. Four volunteers were dressed as Christmas trees, complete with tinsel and baubles and hopefully the lady who stuck a cotton wool ball to her chin has managed to remove it now. Past secrets were divulged, we now know which member treated Douglas Bader, who was photographed with Bob Hope and Bing Crosby and who acted as a diversion to fool foreign security forces. Such fun, prizes were awarded to the best voices,



most sparkly outfit and biggest cheat, so I'll say no more....

The party is becoming a bit of a tradition in the club, so if you're looking for a friendly monthly club to join, do come along.

The programme for the year is under construction but ideas include a trip to Waterperry Garden in Oxford, a trip to Somerset to see some National Trust properties, a speaker from Send a Cow offering sustainable gardening techniques, and a Q & A session featuring advice from the experts.

Do join us - ring me, Jan on 9760243 for more information.



Calling all helpful people! The Green 'n' Tidy Gardening Scheme needs you!

Have you ever wanted a meaningful volunteer role on your doorstep that will really make a difference to your local community? Well, the Green 'n' Tidy Gardening Scheme could be the answer.

Operated by the Volunteer Centre in Wokingham and funded by Wokingham Borough Council, this scheme helps the Borough's elderly and disabled residents by providing a basic, low-cost gardening service. Our aim is to improve the quality of life and safety of vulnerable and elderly residents, as overgrown gardens are a magnet to rogue traders. Their quality of life is also improved as they don't look out on the jungle that used to be their

garden and see a daily reminder of what they can no longer do. Our project co-ordinator assesses individual needs, writes up a work plan and also refers clients to other agencies who can help with other problems. The volunteer gardeners visit regularly for general maintenance and provide some much needed contact with the outside world.

Sounds great? Well, it is, but we need to recruit more volunteers! Everyone knows we have an ageing population on our hands - the beauty of this project is that a relatively small group of people can make a big difference to the lives of people who have already 'done their bit' for society.

Not sure that you have the skills? Don't worry, you don't need to be a gardener! If you enjoy being outdoors and are sympathetic to disabled or older people, you are

just what we are looking for! We offer lawn mowing, strimming, hedge trimming and good old weeding, and volunteers can opt for the jobs they prefer. Volunteers will need to attend a short session at the Volunteer Centre to find out how the scheme will work and all travelling expenses will be covered.

Wonder what you should do next? Contact Libby (0118 979 1340 or email [wok-vol-gardening@bt-connect.com](mailto:wok-vol-gardening@bt-connect.com)) to find out more. We very much look forward to hearing from you!

**\*\*STOP PRESS\*\*** Come along the Green 'n' Tidy Plant Sale, Wednesday 17th April, 9am - 3pm, in Market Place, Wokingham! Stock up on all your gardening needs from seeds and seedlings, to cuttings and shrubs. Bargains galore and all proceeds to the Gardening Scheme hardship fund.

# *Arborfield Village Fete*

*Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013 12 – 5pm*

*Arborfield Park, Swallowfield Road, Arborfield, RG2 9JR*

Following the success of last year's Jubilee Fete the Committee are planning a Fete this year and welcome offers of help to build on last year's triumph. If you could spend a few hours putting together the articles and advertising for the Programme, co-ordinate the entertainment in the main arena, or offer help on the day please let us know.

The event held last year proved very popular and around 70% of the businesses advertising in our programme reported that they had received new enquiries as a result of their advertisement. We had attendees at the event from all the local villages as well as a large number from Reading and we hope that this year's event on 1st June will be even better.

If you would like to advertise your business, offer sponsorship or raffle prizes please let us know via the website. If you would like your club/group or business to have a stall please call Jan on 01 18 9760243 for details. Early booking is essential as we have had many stallholder enquiries already via the internet and hope to offer a wide variety of attractions. Already in the plan are;

*Circus Scene*

*Children's fairground rides*

*Bouncy Castle*

*Children's Races (inc a 'hobby-horse' race for tots!)*

*Hog Roast*

*Tea Tent*

*Pamper Tent (hairstylists, nails, candles etc)*

*British Legion Beer Stand*

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

## Farley Hill Bowls Club

The Who's, Why's and Wherefore's of Lawn Bowls.

### Who are we?

The Farley Hill Bowls Club was formed over 60 years ago as an offshoot of the Farley Hill Social Club, itself founded in 1919. The club has been successfully promoting lawn bowls in the south Berkshire countryside throughout the period and has produced a number of county players. We are a small friendly club with big ambitions to grow and advance the sport in the area.

### What do we do?

We meet throughout the summer up to three times a week to play lawn bowls or for social functions. The game is played according to the rules laid down by World Bowls Ltd. The sport is international and played throughout the world. The principle is very simple. You have to try to get your bowls closer to the jack (the little white ball) than the opposing team can. After the usual number of ends, (18 or 21), the team with the most points is declared the winner. The length of practice games are agreed between the players.

### How do we do it?

We play approx 50 matches a season against other local clubs, home or away, normally within a 15 mile radius. Each team has up to 15/16 members split into groups of 3 or 4. Each group has a mix of abilities and plays a similar group from the opposing club. After each match we sit down to a tea/supper and socialize with the opposition for the day.

## Why do we do it?

Numerous reasons come to mind including enjoyment, socializing, exercise and fresh air. Bowls can be for all ages from teenagers to octogenarians including handicapped players. Special equipment is available for those that find it difficult to get down to bowl. The social side of the club is very important and throughout the winter we hold functions such as club dinners and socials. All are well attended.

### Where do we do it?

Our green is situated at Victory Hall in Church Road Farley Hill RG7 1RT where all our home games are played. We maintain the green ourselves and we have exclusive use. The Victory Hall is managed by five local trustees and is used by a number of different organizations as well as the bowls club. The facilities include good parking, changing rooms, kitchen and a bar. The central heating has recently been updated and repairs to the roof are imminent if not already in progress. The trustees have a programme of ongoing improvements.

### Can we invite you to try it?

New members of all abilities are always welcome at the club and we have an open day planned on Sunday 5th May from 3.00pm. Coaching is available from experienced members to help beginners and all other levels of ability. Our annual fee is only £50.00, the lowest in the area. If you are interested you do not have to wait until May, contact us now.

John Atack – club secretary.  
Tel 0118 988 5611  
[attack@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:attack@hotmail.co.uk) [www.farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk](http://www.farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk)

## 3 steps to a greener home

Holding on to more of the heat you pay for is a sensible way to reduce your energy bills. In an older home 3 key steps will help to achieve this:

### 1. Draught-proofing

Start by draught-proofing doors, windows, letterboxes, keyholes and cat flaps. Install extractor fans in kitchens and bathrooms so you don't need to open windows.

### 2. Insulation

You've put 270mm in the loft - now to the walls. If they aren't cavity walls which are easily insulated, solid wall insulation may suit. Adding it externally should be easier following a recent change in planning advice. If not, internal wall insulation adds real comfort and is best installed just prior to redecorating. All these approaches are supported by the government's Green Deal.

### 3. Improved Glazing

Energy efficient glazing is now available to replace single glazing, even in original sash window frames. If upgrading isn't affordable, consider removable secondary glazing. Failing that a thick pair of curtains helps! You can see these and other improvements in exemplar homes in March and September when SuperHomers host free events around the country. For more information and to meet a homeowner who has already had the work done, see [www.superhomes.org.uk](http://www.superhomes.org.uk)

# FREE SPRING WORKSHOPS



Having recently celebrated 20 Years supporting residents of the Wokingham Borough in all aspects of job searching, the WJSC are focusing on offering professional, comprehensive workshops for residents of the Wokingham Borough who are actively seeking employment.

## CV Workshop

A practical workshop giving you the knowledge and confidence to create a winning CV.

## Interview Techniques Workshop

A comprehensive workshop covering all aspects of interviews including; planning and preparation, tackling difficult questions, increasing confidence, suitable attire plus much more.

## 50+ Workshop

A specialised workshop offering appropriate support to our 50 + clients. Designed to help you explore the potential of your transferrable skills and celebrate your wealth of knowledge and capabilities.

We also offer **FREE** access to:

1 to 1 Advisor Support  
1 to 1 CV writing  
1 to 1 Interview techniques/  
skills/mock  
Career Matching programme  
Microsoft Office / Internet access  
Stationary / printing / telephone  
Newspapers

**So please do come along to;**  
The Cornerstone, Norreys Avenue, Wokingham, RG40 1UE.  
Tel: 01189 770517  
Email: [Jobsearch@wjsc.org.uk](mailto:Jobsearch@wjsc.org.uk).  
Website: [www.wjsc.org.uk](http://www.wjsc.org.uk)

## Loddon Valley Ramblers



Everyone is welcome to join us on one of these walks. Just turn

up at the start or phone the leader for more details. Please wear appropriate clothing & footwear.

For more walks, please visit our website [www.lvra.org.uk](http://www.lvra.org.uk)

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March:** Pindar's Wood, Greys Court & Earl's Wood, 5 miles. 10.30 from Malsters Arms/St Nicholas Church, Rotherfield Greys after parking near church or in pub Car Park if visiting pub afterwards, RG9 4QD Leader – Barbara C. 07957 965460.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March:** Around Hose Hill Lake, fields & lanes north east of Sulhamstead, returning along the Kennet & Avon Canal, 5.5 miles. 10.00 from public Car Park by the swing bridge on the Kennet & Avon Canal, south of Theale, RG7 4AJ. Leader – Stewart M. 07901 514832.

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March:** An afternoon walk – Chapel Green & Luckley Path, 4.5 miles. 14.00 from Denmark Street, Wokingham Car Park, Library end, RG40 2BY. Leaders Graham S. & Karen D. 07966 002016.

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April:** Fleet Copse & Rectory Farm, 5.5 miles. 10.30 from California Country Park Car Park, (RG40 4HU) Leader – Ian M. 07429 337369.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April:** In search of early bluebells in Widefield Wood (a bit hilly), 5.5 miles. 10.00 from Thames Reach Road, ex-RAF estate, Medmenham after parking along the secluded road (SL72SF). Leader – Roger A. 07774 230784.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April:** The outskirts of Maidenhead on NT commons, farmland & woodland, 5.5 miles. 10.30 from the free NT Car Park off Pinkneys Drive, Pinkneys Green, (SL6 6QF). Leader – Ray S. 07761 251217.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April:** A Sonning figure of 8, 5.5 miles. 10.30 from Berkshire County Sports Car Park, Sonning Lane, Sonning, (RG4 6ST). Leader – Alan B. 07815 744756.

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April:** Another afternoon walk – Hartley Wintney & Warren Heath, 5 miles. 13.30 from free Car Park: after entering Hartley Wintney on A30 going west, turn right into Monachus Lane at sign for doctors surgery; free on Sunday Car Park is at end of this short lane, (RG27 8NN). Leader – David T. 07899 938397.

## CJM PLUMBING & DECORATING

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plumber, tiler & decorator**

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# Barkham Diary

12-Mar-13	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
12-Mar-13	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
12-Mar-13	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
13-Mar-13	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
23-Mar-13	Refuse Lorry	Junipers	8-11am
25-Mar-13	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
26-Mar-13	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
31-Mar-13	BVRA Easter Egg Hunt	Junipers	3pm
3-Apr-13	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
9-Apr-13	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
9-Apr-13	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
10-Apr-13	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
22-Apr-13	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
23-Apr-13	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
27-Apr-13	Refuse Lorry	Junipers	8-11am
1-May-13	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
8-May-13	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
14-May-13	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
14-May-13	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
17-May-13	Copy deadline for Summer Newsletter		
18-May-13	BVRA Barn Dance	BVH	7.00pm
25-May-13	Refuse Lorry	Junipers	8-11am
27-May-13	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
28-May-13	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
5-Jun-13	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
11-Jun-13	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
11-Jun-13	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
12-Jun-13	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
Weekly Events			
Mondays	Pilates Class	BVH	11.30am
Mondays	Dog Training	BVH	6.30pm
Tues-Fri	Barkham Pre-School	BVH	9.00am
Thursdays	Pilates Class	BVH	6.15pm
Fridays	Youth Club	BVH	6.30pm

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

## The Quiz - answers

1. She was a contestant on "I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here"
2. Father of the House (of Commons)
3. David Willets
4. 650
5. Dennis Skinner
6. John Bercow (Speakers of the House of Commons)
7. A floating duck house/Island
8. Glenda Jackson for Women in Love (1969) and A Touch of Class (1973)
9. Chris Huhne
10. Baby of the House (the youngest MP). David Steel was famously known as "the boy David".

## Useful Numbers

### Police

Wokingham Police Station  
0845 8 505 505

Crimestoppers            0800 555 111

### Council

Wokingham Borough Council 974 6000  
Environmental health        974 6384  
Social Services                978 9800  
Trading Standards            974 6400  
24hr out of hours            0800 212 111

Wokingham Town Council    978 3185  
Citizen's Advice              0844 499 4126  
Wokingham Library            978 1368  
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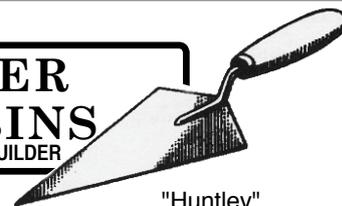
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