



Barkham Newsletter

£1, free to Members

Issue 107 Spring 2014

from the Barkham Village Residents Association

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

Easter Egg Hunt
Easter Sunday 20 April 3pm
Junipers Play Area - see Page 10



New Forum facility on BVRA website – see page 5

New Secondary School for South Wokingham (inc. Barkham)
Join the consultation to ensure the concerns of Barkham’s parents are taken into consideration. More details on pages 6 and 8 and attend the meeting at Finchampstead Baptist Centre on 19 March at 7.30pm

2014 Subscriptions

2014 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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The Quiz

Answers on page 19

As I write this a storm has just finished but another one is due in tonight. The Lodden is overflowing everywhere and we can only think ourselves lucky we don't live on the Somerset Levels at the moment. So....a topic for the quiz springs to mind – the weather! As ever, the connections between the topic and the questions may be tenuous!

1. Who had a hit in 1982 with "It's raining men"?
2. George RR Martin's book series "A Song of Ice and Fire" has been made for television under what title?
3. How are TV presenters Peter and Dan Snow related? For a bonus point what is the connection between Peter's news journalist cousin and the answer to question 2 above?
4. What links the hurricane which devastated New Orleans in 2005 and the UK winner of the Eurovision Song Contest in 1997?
5. What is this a definition of; "a part of the ocean near the equator abounding in calms, squalls, and light shifting winds"?
6. "The Fog" is a 1980 horror film (remade in 2005) from the director of "Halloween". What is his name?
7. Zero degrees Fahrenheit is pretty cold, but what (to the nearest degree) is that in Centigrade?
8. Windy Miller is a character in which children's TV series?
9. Superintendent Mullett appeared in which long running TV police drama?
10. Which band collaborated with David Baddiel and Frank Skinner on the England football song "Three Lions"?

Advertising and Newsletter Contributions

Newsletter articles / contributions for the Spring edition should be in by 16 May 2014. It helps if these can be submitted in electronic form by email to newsletter@barkham.org.uk. They may also be hand written, 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, 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 2014/15 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Editorial

Welcome to the spring 2014 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 20 page edition with a wide range of articles.

There is news from the parish council (including the annual Parish Clean-up on 23 March) and also from our WBC councillor, John Kaiser. Laurence Heath reports on progress with the Arborfield Garrison Development Plans. A key issue all the council representatives raise is the planning for a new secondary school for the south of the Borough (including Barkham) and the need for interested Barkham parents to attend a meeting which will take place at the Finchampstead Baptist Centre on 19 March at 7.30pm. This is the third in a series of meetings set up by WBC to discuss with parents and facilitate discussion about possible ways a new school could be opened. It is especially important that as many Barkham parents as possible should attend, as with the meeting venue inevitably led to

the discussions at the first meeting being biased towards the needs of Finchampstead.

Thanks also to my regular contributors covering gardening, rambling, church, music, history and other local societies.

As always, we have a quiz, this time on a "weather" theme!

You will also see that we have decided to introduce a "forum" facility to the BVRA website. This is described by our webmaster, Dave Clements on page 5. We hope that residents will use this to discuss topics of local concern and where appropriate, suggest actions to resolve these concerns. This will only work if residents take the chance to air their views so we encourage everyone to get involved!

Finally, 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.

Stewart Richardson
Editor



Information for Families and Adults

The Wokingham Information Network (WIN) is a free online and telephone guide to services and organisations in the Wokingham Borough: www.wokingham.gov.uk/win

For Families

- Advice and support
- Children with additional needs
- Childcare and early years
- Health and wellbeing
- Holiday schemes
- Learning and development
- Leisure and activities
- Young people

For Adults

- Carers
- Day care & short breaks
- Community Services
- Health and wellbeing
- Home and personal help
- Learning and development
- Leisure and activities
- Transport and housing

If you offer a service and would like to be included in WIN you can register and submit your information on our website.

e. info.families@wokingham.gov.uk
t. (0118) 935 2255

e. info.win@wokingham.gov.uk
t. (0118) 974 6772

www.wokingham.gov.uk/win



The Christmas Party was well attended and everyone enjoyed the delicious food. We all received a gift from the Bran Tub. In January we went for a meal at the Café Rouge in Wokingham. February was our AGM and Silent Auction, which raises funds for the club.

We look forward to welcoming new members, as we are a friendly group and have been in existence for many years.

The meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.45pm at Barkham Village Hall. For further details, please contact Pauline Vestey on 979 1714.

Angela Hands



News from Your Parish Council

Arborfield Garrison Development

Lawrence Heath describes the latest developments on page 6.

Plans for a new Secondary School

The Borough Council have been organising meetings to discuss the proposed new secondary school. The next meeting will be:

Wednesday 19th March 7.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m. at Finchampstead Baptist Centre, Gorse Ride, Finchampstead

This is your chance to give your views in the creation of the proposed new school to serve the south of the Borough (including Finchampstead, Arborfield and Barkham). Key issues for discussion will include

- The impact of the strategic development locations
- Will children get into preferred schools in future?
- More detail about the possible ways a new school could be opened
- More depth discussion of site issues like accessibility

More information from earlier meetings can be viewed on the Council's web site at www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools/review

Please take this opportunity to attend as this will affect your children.

Parish Clean Up – 23rd March

This year's Clean Up will be held on Sunday 23rd March. We meet at the Village Hall between 9.30 – 12.00, sacks, jackets and litter pickers will all be provided, we just need you. If you could spare one hour to help clear our verges of the litter which is thrown from cars or dropped this would be much appreciated. If you have children we will allocate you a safe road or park. You don't even have to bring the rubbish back, just leave the sack at the road side and we will collect them all in a trailer. We will then invite you to join us for a warming drink, bacon rolls and homemade cakes.

Barkham History Book

The Parish Council are delighted to tell you that having completely sold out of our very successful history book we are having more printed. If you are new to the area and would like to find out more about the history of Barkham you will find this fascinating. The book was written by our local historians David French and Janet Firth and this new edition will contain a piece about the forthcoming move of the Garrison to Lyneham. If you would like a copy please contact the Clerk who will be delighted to sell you one for a small sum.

The Junipers Park

We are trying to improve the play facilities at the Park for our young people, some planned improvements will be a new climbing frame, and the swing is to be modified to contain one flat seat and one cradle seat, this will enable an older child to swing

at the same time as a toddler. In the past we have tried to provide this as residents have requested but Health & Safety regulations prevented us from doing so, we are delighted to inform you that regulations have now changed to permit the two different seats to be mounted in the same frame. The youth shelter has been a huge success, for some time now the radio/blue tooth and solar light have not been working. Unfortunately the parts to repair the radio/bluetooth are now obsolete and cannot be repaired, the light is due to be replaced with a new working unit. Apologies for the lack of radio but this was beyond our control.

Judith Neuhofer
Clerk to
Barkham Parish Council

Savings and loans?

It's easier to get into debt than out of it. Short-term loan providers often charge huge interest rates and other sources of loans are not always available. However, residents in Wokingham now have access to an alternative through the Community Savings and Loans Credit Union for Berkshire. Members need to save before they can borrow and establish they can afford repayments on loans.

CSL has an HQ in Reading and access via offices in various parts of the county. Locally CSL provides a service at Finchampstead's FBC Centre in Gorse Ride North (RG40 4ES) every Thursday 14:00 to 16:00. For full details of the way in which CSL works visit www.cslberks.org or ring 0118 958 5803.

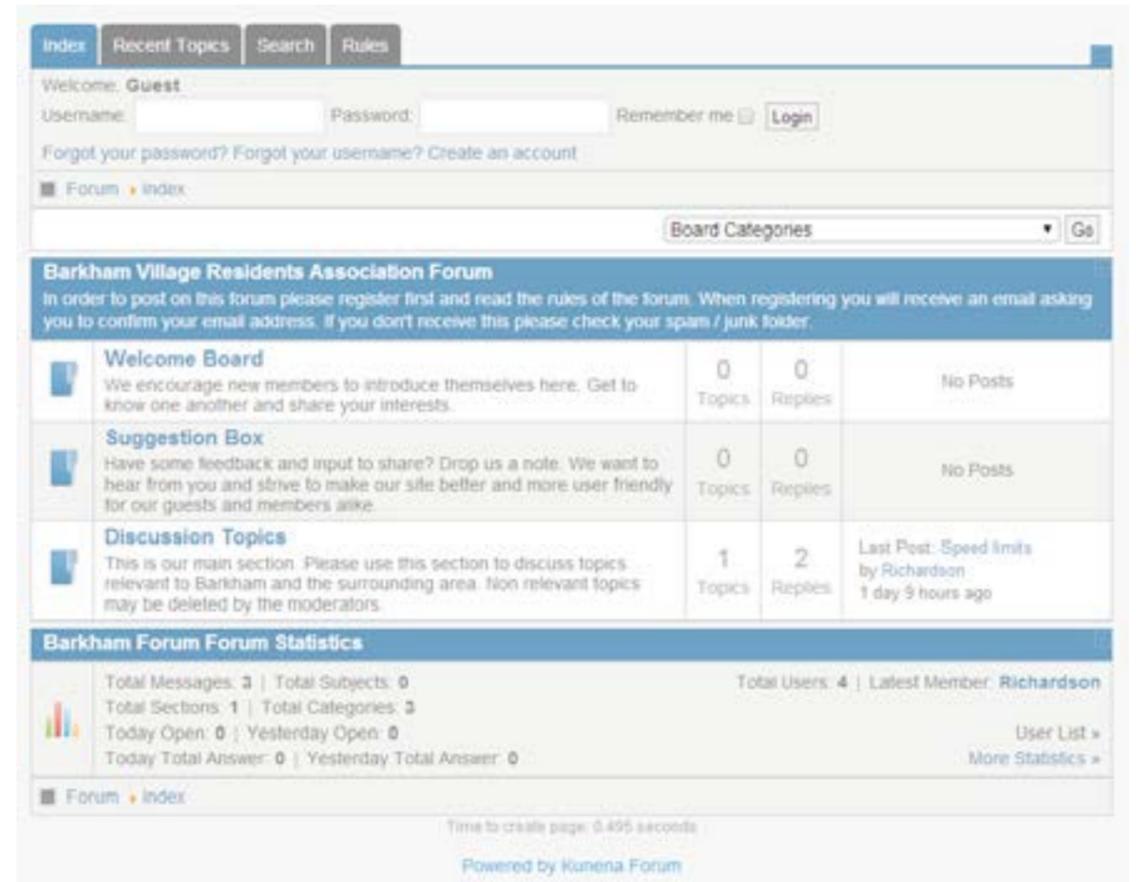
Ken Lane

Community Savings and Loans members are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

Voice your opinions about Barkham

The Barkham Village Residents Association website was re-launched last year. Since then we have focused on bringing you the latest news about Barkham. The next stage of the website has now been launched. This new feature will allow you to take part in discussions about matters that affect you in Barkham.

To access the forum visit <http://barkham.org.uk> and select the 'forum' option from the menu at the top of the page. You will then see a screen like this.



Access to the forum is available to everybody but if you want to post on the forum you will need to register. Registration consists of telling us your username, name and email address. To ensure only real people register you will then receive an email asking you to confirm your email address. Should you not receive an email please check your junk / spam folder. Once you have confirmed your email address you will be able to post on the forum.

The forum is for topics about Barkham and the surrounding area and we ask you to keep to topics on this. Also please respect other people's views which may not be the same as yours. The forum has a set of rules and will be moderated. Posts that break the rules may be removed.

We look forward to some lively discussion.

Dave Clements
Webmaster



Update on Arborfield Garrison Development Plans

Planning Application

Barkham Parish Council has had further meetings with both Crest Nicholson, who are the main developers, and with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) planners. The first piece of news is that the new application is unlikely to be submitted before August 2014. This is because Crest have decided that they want to review the previous plans in their entirety. However we are expecting that they will reveal some of the supporting documents in advance and will share their thoughts on some of the main issues well before the application is finally submitted. Construction is still expected to start at the beginning of 2016.

Vacating the Site

The REME are advancing their plans to vacate the base by the end of 2015. Training is scheduled to end in October 2015 and to resume at Lyneham in January 2016. This will allow time to arrange the transfer of staff and equipment which will be an intricate logistical exercise.

The Garrison Church will remain but the stained glass windows will be removed and replaced with clear glass. The memorial garden will be relocated to the

back of the church. Trees which have been planted in memory of soldiers will be retained. The REME museum will be moved to Lyneham, but the possibility of setting up a small heritage centre in the Infirmary Stables is being considered – see below. A small number of personnel who work at Aldershot will remain in the existing military housing.

Transport

Planning for the road network is still at an early stage. At the moment consultants are working on a traffic modelling exercise which will cover a wide area between the M4 and M3, east as far as Bracknell and west beyond the A33. Taking into account the many other developments in Wokingham and neighbouring authorities, this is obviously a complex exercise. Importantly the consultants involved are taking into account the planned Arborfield bypass – their predecessors appeared to studiously ignore this proposal!

On the subject of the bypass, I have seen a provisional timetable for building the road. It is expected to go to the WBC Executive for approval in March. A detailed examination of the proposed route, including any engineering implications and land ownership, will then be carried out. This will then be followed by the formal planning process and tendering for contractors. Construction should be completed by the end of 2019.

Flooding

Flooding, not surprisingly, has risen up the agenda as an issue to resolve. Areas that have flooded in recent weeks in and around the site have been noted; for example a section of Biggs Lane

was flooded. It will be necessary to improve watercourses and importantly to prepare locations for water capture to reduce the downstream flows. As a target it should be possible to ensure that run-off from the site is not increased and even a significant reduction ought to be achievable. The lake to the east of Biggs Lane will provide a useful water holding area but more will need to be done.

Secondary School

It is anticipated that Crest will soon have some news on their proposals for a secondary school within the development area, in particular the proposed location. A new secondary school is urgently required for the southern part of the borough. As part of the planning application, the developers would be expected to provide school sites for a secondary school and two primary schools. They will also be expected to provide partial funding for the secondary school (as it will not serve exclusively the development site) and full funding of the primary schools.

WBC, meanwhile, have taken the trouble to set up some meetings with parents to facilitate discussion about possible ways a new school could be opened. The third in this series of meetings will take place at the Finchampstead Baptist Centre on 19 March at 7.30pm.

The quickest way to open a new school under current regulations is by creating a free school that is funded by the Department for Education. A group has been set up with the aim of progressing a free school proposal, using the acronym SOW (South of Wokingham). This would have been most encouraging but unfor-

tunately their plan is to take over West Court, which is currently an officers' mess. It is located well to the south of the Garrison towards Eversley and it is doubtful whether this building and its site have adequate capacity. The relative remoteness of this location and poor access will not be attractive to Barkham parents.

Barkham Parish Council would welcome the opportunity to have a meaningful discussion with the SOW group but lines of communication have become very strained.

There is a great danger that if the whole process of school provision is mismanaged, then the area could still end up without a new secondary school. Consequently I urge any parents who did not attend the two previous meetings to attend the meeting on 19th March. It is especially important that as many Barkham parents as possible should attend, as the meeting venue inevitably led to the discussions at the first meeting being biased towards the needs of Finchampstead.

Utilities

Plans are beginning to emerge regarding necessary upgrades to utilities for the site. In particular we have learned that Thames Water intend to upgrade the existing sewage works (on the edge of The Coombes at Wood Lane) within its current footprint. At this stage the time scale for this work is not known and also it is unclear whether any ancillary projects, such as additional pipelines, are required.

Garrison Stables

The future of the stable blocks in the Garrison is under consideration. These buildings are

adjacent to Tope Crescent and can be viewed externally. They were designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument in 1979 and are currently on the English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register. This means that they are in a serious state of dilapidation but they cannot be demolished.

The stables were built just before the First World War when the garrison was established as an Army Remount Depot. Especially in view of the centenary of the war, it is appropriate that these buildings should be restored and put to good use. It is hoped that the grass area in front of the stables which was formerly a paddock will be retained.

The obvious solution would be to use part of the buildings as a museum, perhaps with a "War Horse" theme. Other ideas, which could co-exist with a museum, would be to include a cafe and may be some small craft or retail units. With the new village centre located nearby, this could be a workable proposition. Alternatively they could be returned to their original use as stables, should any of the local horse riding groups be interested in leasing them.

Without question, the biggest problem will be how to raise the money for restoration and conversion, along with finding a viable long term solution. Barkham Parish Council has agreed to take the lead investigating possible financing sources, such as lottery funding, heritage grants or development funds. Clearly this is something else to keep us busy!

Laurence Heath
Vice Chairman
Barkham Parish Council

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 Neuhofer on 979 0296 or email clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk

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



the requirements with regards to accessibility and must provide an excellent environment which meets the full requirements of educational needs academically at the same time offers a full range of sports facilities. It is also important that any new school has the capacity to grow to support future requirements in the south of the borough.

A recent meeting at Finchampstead Baptist Church gathered together a group of some seventy parents and councilors from the parishes and WBC to discuss what sort of school we would like and where we would like it to be and there are a number of additional meetings planned going forward details of which can be obtained from the education department at Wokingham Borough Council (WBC).

Investing in the Borough's future despite tough challenges

WBC faces continued financial pressures following expected ongoing reductions in government funding of approximately £3.3million and has released its detailed budget proposals for 2014/15.

The budget sets out how much money is available for the council to deliver its services during the next three years, and how that money will be spent. And despite central government's austerity programme with local authorities bearing the brunt of this, WBC is still ploughing £80.4million capital into its key vision priorities of education, infrastructure, country parks, leisure and housing during the coming year. In addition we are protecting frontline services once again, as the council is set to increase its investment to protect its vulnerable adults.

At the February council meeting, WBC agreed its share of the overall council tax for 2014/15 at £1,246.21 for Band D, representing a 1.9% rise or a rise of 46pence per week. Wokingham remains the lowest funded unitary authority in the country. The average council receives 46.5% funding – nearly double what Wokingham Borough receives (24%) - the rest is raised through council tax even so the council saw a reduction of just under 10% on its main grant.

Wokingham Borough will get around £28million general grant from the government, while the remainder of its budget is raised through council tax (£85million) – meaning approx. 24 pence in every pound comes from the government. With approx. £2million inflation, more than £3million statutory spending pressures and a reduction in government grant of more than £3million, this leaves a deficit of around £8million. As the public purse shrinks and we face huge financial pressures as well as an ever increasing demand on our services. The council will have to save in excess of £20million over the next three years to balance its books. This does not include future potential changes to social care legislation which could increase this amount by a further £4million.

Interesting Financial Facts

The majority of council services are statutory (80% of budget - £90million) and include adult social care, children's services, waste collection and disposal and highways. Non-statutory services (20% - £23million of budget) include libraries, leisure facilities, parks and open spaces and bus subsidies.

The way in which government allocates money to local authorities has changed.

Previously money was allocated to what was known as the formula grant. From 2014/15, the government has introduced a settlement funding assessment which is made up of the formula grant (which wasn't ring-fenced meaning it could be spent on any council services) plus previous ring-fenced grants which have to be used for specific activities.

Under the old formula grant process, the council receives from central government just £71.47 per person compared, for example, with Slough which gets £289.13, and Reading £247.58. The unitary average is £265.36 based on formula grant calculations).

Under the new settlement funding assessment, the council receives from central government just £174.76 per person compared, for example, with Slough which gets £409.92, and Reading £384.67. The unitary average is £395.16. The council has saved approx. £25million since March 2010 (up to March 2015) and each member of council staff serves approx. 185 residents – the council's believes this is the lowest in the country

Please remember if you require any help or information with regards to issues you may have with regards to local or council matters please do not hesitate to contact me at john.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk or 0771 4192352

All the best

John Kaiser (Cllr)
Wokingham Borough Council
Barkham Ward



SAVE THE CHILDREN WOKINGHAM BRANCH IS HOLDING A

QUIZ NIGHT

ON
SATURDAY 5TH APRIL

AT THE CORNERSTONE
ALL SAINTS CHURCH
NORREYS AVENUE WOKINGHAM

DOORS OPEN 6.45 P.M. FOR 7PM START

FOR TICKETS AT £12.50 EACH (INCLUDING A FISH AND CHIP SUPPER) PLEASE CALL 0118 9734806. B.Y.O. DRINKS AND CONDIMENTS

Registered Charity Number: 213890



We are a lively ladies' group who meet in the village hall on the first Wednesday in the month at 7.45pm.

Please come and join us for interesting talks, theatre visits, outings and other events.

Contact Pauline on 979 1714 for more details.



the evening. You get a point for each correct answer and if you play your joker then the score is multiplied by the number on the card. The winners were DENSA

had cleared up before the rain returned.

Now we have to look forward to the future. At the moment we

SOCIAL MATTERS

As I sit here writing this the rain is pouring down and the wind blowing. This seems to have been going on for ages and although it is inconvenient for us, we have not suffered as those in other parts of the country. It is hard to imagine having your property flooded for even one day let alone weeks or months at a time. Let us hope that their lives can get back to normal soon and that this never happens again.

In amongst all this wet weather it is surprising how the bulbs are surviving – I would have thought that they would have rotted away in the wet. The daffodils in the garden are in bud and I am hoping that we will not get a very cold spell to destroy them.

Back last November about 100 people gathered in the village hall for our quiz night. We battled through the dingbats and the questions set by the quiz master Stephen Rayner, deciding when we should play our jokers. The latter, I think, is the skill of



so why not come along this year (Saturday 22nd November) and see if you can beat them.

The final function of the year was the Carols in the Park and again we were lucky with the weather. The committee had erected the gazebo in the afternoon but when we returned later it was upside down – obviously a gust of wind must have blown it over. However, once it was re-erected, and tied to a tree, we were able to heat the mulled wine. The carollers accompanied by the Breakaway Brass could be heard singing carols from The Woodlands to the hammerhead in The Junipers where we were able to join in with them. After enjoying mulled wine and mince pies a few more carols were sung. Luckily we

have the Children's Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday 20th April planned. For those who are new to the area, this is for children up to the age of 14. We gather in The Junipers play area at 3pm where the children are sent off to find tokens which they collect and exchange for small eggs. There are two colours in different areas so that the little ones are not knocked over by the older children. There is also a raffle for a larger egg. So please come and join us – 50p per child.

We, your committee have been trying to organise a social event for you within the next few months but unluckily for us, but good for the village, the hall is well booked. We have therefore decided to book well in advance and are finalising dates for 2015. This year, for something different we have decided to hold a Family Beetle Drive on Saturday 13th September so put this date in your diary now! For those of you that do not know the game – numbers on the dice thrown enables the participant to draw a beetle and when the first person in the room has a complete insect the

game stops and scores are added. The lowest person goes to the next table and the highest in the opposite direction. We will also provide a supper but see the next newsletter and on the website for more information.

Future dates for your diary are:

Sunday 20th April – Easter Egg Hunt – The Junipers

Saturday 13th September – Beetle Drive in Village Hall

Saturday 22nd November – Quiz night

Carols in the Park – December – date to be advised

We look forward to seeing you at one, or more of these events. If you have any other ideas we are always open to suggestions.

Judith Collins
977 1579

social@barkham.org.uk





'Good Question!'

'There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life.'

'There definitely is a God. So join the Christian Party and enjoy your life.'

Is it a good or a bad sign when discussion of some of the most important questions any of us will ever face gets reduced to slogans on the side of London buses? I'm not sure. And I'm certainly not sure that believing in God means you have to join the Christian Party.

It's strange, though. We're constantly being told that we live in an age that doesn't really believe in the idea of actual, 'everyone-should-believe-this' truth any more, and when it's supposed to be the height of rudeness to challenge someone else's beliefs. And yet it turns out that an awful lot of people find it very hard just to let go of the idea of that kind of truth, and stop challenging one another's ideas in this way.

So we've got to be ready to talk about truth – haven't we? Surely we need to hang on to the art of respectfully asking questions about each other's beliefs, before we forget how to do that altogether.

Jesus was fascinating. I don't think it's possible to imagine anyone more sure of what he

believed – both about who he was and what he'd come to do. But there must have been something about him that invited questions. He was asked so many: 'Who are you?' 'Which is the greatest commandment in the law?' 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?' 'Who then can be saved?' And many, many more...

Again, that's strange. In our experience, it's often the people with very fixed views about things who most hate being questioned about those views. But Jesus was different. He never hid away from challenge. He had no interest at all in blind, unthinking faith, but expected people to use their minds as they grappled with and probed away at the claims he made and the things he did.

One of the sad things about working for a church is meeting people with all kinds of big questions about life and meaning, who would love to come along to engage with and even challenge the Christian answers to those questions, but fear they simply won't be welcome if they do.

We so don't want to be like that at Barkham Church. In fact, roughly around the time this article goes to print, we will be running a week of events entitled 'Good Question!', engaging with some of the main questions people today have about Christianity, and providing opportunities for them to ask plenty more.

Missed those events? Or simply don't believe us? Why not come along one Sunday, and try us? I think I can promise – no serious question will be ignored or turned away. So what's to lose?!

David Horrocks

Arborfield Local History Society

Save Our Society!

The Society is now in its twelfth year and is in danger of folding for want of a Chairman. Barry Salter was its instigator and has been in the driving seat for a number of years. Not unreasonably, he is now looking to stand down as Chairman and if we cannot find someone to take his place, we will have to rethink where we go from here.

Not wishing to demean Barry, this position is not too onerous and involves running individual meetings and three or four committee meetings each year. More importantly, whoever takes this on needs to be prepared to become the driving force for the Society. We have a strong committee but unfortunately, nobody feels able to take this position on. Whoever takes this role on can be assured the full support of the committee. We are also seeking someone to take over as Secretary, which entails taking notes and preparing minutes and agendas for the committee meetings.

So, let's be hearing from you!

The Society is essentially strong with some 70 members and most of our regular meetings attract some 30 to 40 members. We have a comprehensive programme for the coming year, with hopefully something for everyone. More details in the next magazine.

We held our Christmas Dinner at the Bearwood Lakes Golf Club, when over 50 members and guests attended and enjoyed both the venue and the food.

On January 6th, Ray Lancaster gave an entertaining talk entitled "Things Ceremonial" covering

his army experiences and subsequent involvement with the British Legion.

3rd February – Steve Bacon gave a talk on Sarah and Thomas Hargreaves of Arborfield Hall – This could have been subtitled Paragon vs. Playboy! Until recently, we knew little about Thomas, but he kept a mistress at Bishopstoke near Southampton and took his a steam schooner around the fashionable Mediterranean resorts. Both Sarah and Thomas were fabulously wealthy, so could afford to live separate lives. Sarah out-lived Thomas by a quarter of a century, remaining at Arborfield Hall as a widow until her death in 1918.

Future meetings include:-

7th April: AGM then a DVD "Wokingham Past and Present"

13th May: Group visit to Silchester Roman Ruins and Church – floods and weather permitting,

Our programme for the remainder of the year is almost finalised and will be detailed in the next issue. This will include a river cruise and visit to Mapledurham and our regular garden party.

We look forward to seeing you at any of these meetings and hopefully, someone will come forward to volunteer as Chairman to ensure the future of the Society. Membership is open to all and if you wish to come to a specific meeting, a £2-00 charge on the night will be made. Meetings are usually held in the Arborfield Village Hall, beginning at 7:45 pm.

Ray Hill
976 0784
rayfhill@aol.com

Arborfield Gardening Association (AGA)

At our recent AGM, I was elected as the new AGA Chairperson, taking over from Jan Heard who has done an amazing job over the last 4 years. Jan was thanked for her dedication & hard work during her long term in office (she was Treasurer for 3 yrs before this) & presented with a permanent reminder of our gratitude (a stone Buddha for the garden).

We were also delighted to elect Angela Hands (from Barkham)



Angela Hands and Catherine Breen

as our new Honorary President. Angela is a long-standing member of AGA & has devoted many years of valuable service to our association.

After wine, cheese & nibbles the AGM concluded with a session of craftwork - macramé hanging plant pot holders. Some of these will be available for sale at the Arborfield Village Plant Sale in the spring... so do come!

The Committee is planning the year ahead, with the help of suggestions from the members. Meanwhile, the next meeting (13th March) will be a joint venture with Shinfield & Swallowfield Garden Associations & held in Shinfield Village Hall. Coming from Barkham / Arborfield towards Reading this is left at the

Esso roundabout, then first right. The topic will be basket making, ably demonstrated by Christine Brewster.

Please do join us if this is of interest – you will be made very welcome. I can be contacted at: catherinebreen@ymail.com, or on 976 1848.

Best wishes
Catherine Breen

Finchampstead Flower Club

We meet on the fourth Monday of every month at the California Ratepayer's Hall at 7.45pm. Visitors are always welcome to the demonstrations and workshops [£4.50]. Current programme:

Mar. 24th 'Seagulls and Flamingos' by Kathryn Goddard

April. Workshop. Date and demonstration to be arranged

May. Club dinner. Date and venue to be arranged.

June 23rd 'Bamboozle' by Jenny Clark.

July 28th 'A load of old Tate' by Cheri Mendez

For further information please contact Bronwen Best on 979 1618

Heartstart Swallowfield

What is Heartstart? It is a British Heart Foundation initiative which teaches people what to do in a life-threatening emergency – simple skills that save lives. It aims to facilitate and support Emergency Life Support (ELS) skills training in the community. We are the nearest Heartstart Scheme for all around Wokingham, including Barkham. Depending on numbers we are always willing to travel and deliver the courses locally.

Every year around 124,000 people in the UK suffer a heart attack. Many of these people then suffer a cardiac arrest and die before reaching hospital. Without resuscitation, cardiac arrest is always fatal. Performing CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) immediately can double the person's chances of survival.

Heartstart Swallowfield is able to teach members of the public Emergency Life Skills (ELS). ELS Skills are actions that are required to keep someone alive until further professional medical assistance arrives on the scene.

Training is free, although donations to cover our running costs are welcomed, and can be attended by anyone over the age of ten.

Training sessions take place between Swallowfield Parish Hall and Spencers Wood Pavilion and booking is essential as we can only cater for 12 delegates. We can, upon request, also conduct a training session for a particular group of people or company.

The course normally lasts for 2.5 hours and anyone above the age of 10 can attend. (contact us if you

are a school or club who wish to have training).

Topics covered include:

- Priorities / the conscious casualty
- The unconscious casualty
- Cardiac arrest
- Suspected heart attack
- Choking
- Introduction to the AED

The course is delivered as a mixture of practical, theory and video so no previous experience / knowledge is required. At the end of the training, providing you complete the course, you will be presented with a certificate.

Recent comments have included:

"Thank you for a brilliant HeartStart course last week – you have given me the confidence to help in an emergency. Fantastic teaching – very clear and hands on. Everyone should go on one!"

"Excellent training session and trainers were very approachable. Easy to ask questions and be involved in practice exercises."

"Both Nick and I thought it was really good. We have both said that it was delivered in a very friendly and informative way and we both feel that we would be confident to do what they have taught us to do in an emergency situation."

People can either contact via our website www.heartstartswallowfield.co.uk or via myself on 07768068270.

Gary Clark

Walk the Path

Explore a natural hidden gem in all its spring glory

The Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust (BVCT) is offering outdoor fans a special opportunity – to walk a stretch of one of this area's most delightful natural features, the Blackwater Valley Path, including a few special sections not normally open to the public.

The River Blackwater is a hidden gem right on our doorstep. On Sunday 27th April participants in Walk the Path 2014 will be able to enjoy the last 17 kilometres (10 miles) of its Path, from Sandhurst to Swallowfield – a riverside walk through beautiful rural countryside in all its spring glory.

This highly successful event – now in its ninth year – is organised by the Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust – and pre-booking is essential. Places are limited and last year's event sold out. Taking part costs just £6 for BVCT members and £10 per person for non-members.

Other features of this event include:

- transport at either the walk start or finish (because it's a linear walk);
- refreshment points en route;
- a collection service if you are unable to finish the walk for whatever reason;
- variable start times from 9.15am to 11am to avoid congestion;
- a walk leader, back marker and designated walk guides;
- route maps so you can walk at your own pace;
- dogs welcome but due to minibuses regulations you'll

need to make your own transport arrangements.

If you've never explored this part of the Berkshire/Hampshire borders, this is the perfect opportunity to do so. The Blackwater Valley is maintained as an open space along the borders of the counties of Berkshire, Hampshire and Surrey. It runs for approximately 30 km, from the source of the River Blackwater at Rowhill Nature Reserve near Aldershot in the south, northwards to Swallowfield where the river joins the River Whitewater and then the Loddon.

Full details including a downloadable booking form can be found on the Trust website www.bvct.org.uk. Alternatively leave a message on 07825 469108.



At the beginning of April we will be moving to the top floor of Waterford House in Erfstadt Court (near Argos and the Brown Bag), just off Denmark Street. We will be closed for business during the move for 6 or 7 days. However, we will still be open as normal at Woodley (Monday & Wednesday: 9.30am - 3.30pm)

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(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

Loddon Valley Ramblers' Walks



Everyone is welcome to join Loddon Valley Ramblers on any of these walks. Just turn up at the start or phone the leader for more details. Please wear appropriate clothing & footwear. For more walks visit www.lvra.org.uk

- Sunday 16th March: Wick Hill & Longwater Lane, 6½ miles.** 10.00 from CP behind shops at California Crossroads, junction of Finchampstead Road (B3016) & Nine Mile Ride, (RG40 3RB). Leader – Judith C. 07765 064650.
- Thursday 20th March: East of Henley – Remenham Hill, Culham Deer Park & Aston, 5 miles.** 10.30 from Remenham Church after parking around the church, (RG9 3DD). Leader – Dougal M. 07719 450283.
- Sunday 23rd March: Henley, Greys Court & Lambridge Woods, 5.6 miles.** 10.30 from Henley Town Hall steps after parking in one of the nearby public CPs, (RG9 2AQ). Leader – Cathy O'N. 07940801261.
- Thursday 3rd April: Dinton Pastures Country Park, Woodley, 5 miles.** 10.30 from Dinton Pastures free CP in Mohawk Way, Woodley (by Berkshire Aviation Museum), (RG5 4PA). Leader – Ralph L. 0118 969 1228.
- Sunday 6th April: A lovely afternoon walk – East Garston to Woodlands St Mary, 5 miles.** 14.00 from CP of East Garston Village Hall (a green wooden building, permission obtained), Back Street, East Garston, (RG17 7EX). And tea, cake & antiques afterwards! Leaders – Graham S. & Karen D. 07966 002016.
- Thursday 10th April: Tyle Mill Lock, Kennet Canal, Aldermaston Wharf & Ufton Green, 5 miles.** 10.30 from public CP at Tyle Mill Lock, Kennet Canal, Sulhampstead, SU_626692 (RG7 4BS). Leader – Gerry C. 07805 356708.
- Sunday 13th April: Swallowfield & part of the Wokingham Way, 6½ miles.** 10.00 from Riseley Memorial Hall CP, Odiham Road, (RG7 1SD). Leader – David T. 07899 938397.
- Sunday 20th April: Cookham Dean to Winter Hill & back, 5½ miles.** 10.30 from The Pound, free NT CP near Cookham Dean, (SL6 9SB). Leader – John W. 0118 932 0127.
- Thursday 24th April: Beech Hill & Devil's Highway, 5¾ miles.** 10.30 from Beech Hill Memorial Hall CP, off Wood Lane (permission obtained), (RG7 2BB). Leader – John A. 0118 977 4183.

What will you do this year?

Are you looking to make a change that will improve your health and happiness? Volunteering is a fantastic way to make a difference in your local community. Wokingham Volunteer Centre is one of a network across the Thames Valley, working with hundreds of charities to find effective volunteers.

Different roles suit different people. Charities are badly in need of hands-on volunteers as well as trustees with business experience in a range of disciplines.

It's easy to get locked into the "rat-race" of life but volunteering can bring a better balance - it may just turn out to be the best thing you ever did!

Contact Christine or Helena on 977 0749, wok-vol@btconnect.com or www.volunteercentrewokingham.org.uk



Do you work at or support a Wokingham borough mainstream activity group or club for children and young people? Would you like to sign up to FREE training?

Me2 Club's Inclusion Training Project offers free training sessions on a variety of topics, to increase the knowledge, skills and confidence of activity leaders to include children with disabilities and additional needs. The sessions offer insight and practical training on a variety of interesting and relevant topics such as Autism, Epilepsy, Supporting Behaviour and more.

If you would like to find out more or book onto the training, go to www.me2club.org.uk/inclusion.htm and download Me2 Club's inclusion training brochure. Alternatively send an email to info@me2club.org.uk or give Me2 Club a call 969 6369 for more information.

CROWTHORNE Symphony ORCHESTRA

Our Easter Concert, "A Night at the Opera", to be held in Yateley on Saturday 29th March promises to be an exciting evening and a departure from our usual programmes. With popular overtures, arias and choruses from operas by Puccini, Verdi, Wagner, Tchaikovsky, Borodin, Mascagni, Bizet and others there should be something for everyone to enjoy. This is a joint venture with Yateley Choral Society and their chorus master Richard Bannan. If you love pieces such as 'The Pearl Fishers' Duet', 'Nessun Dorma' or the 'Polovtsian Dances' from 'Prince Igor' this is an evening not to be missed as these and many other favourites will be featured. We have a change of venue – please note that the concert will now take place at Fyson Blum Hall, Yateley Manor School, Reading Road, Yateley GU467UQ (and not at St Swithun's church as previously advertised). There should be plenty of parking spaces there. The concert will start at 7.45pm which is earlier than our normal start time. We hope lots of you will join us for what should be a very enjoyable evening. More details are available on our website.

Tickets are available from Travel-time travel agents in Crowthorne High Street, and Bookends Bookshop in Peach Street Wokingham or from members of the orchestra; also on-line via the orchestra's website (£10 in advance or £12 on the door).

We are delighted that a number of new players have joined the orchestra recently and we continue to welcome anyone who would

like to join us, subject to vacancies. We are a friendly bunch and have members of all ages and from all walks of life, so if you are interested and are a competent player, even if you have taken a break from playing, please get in touch or come along to a rehearsal. Our rehearsals are on Monday evenings 7.45-10pm in term time at Our Lady's Prep School in The Avenue, Crowthorne. Our website has lots more information and contact details: www.crowthorneorchestra.com

Chris Gadsby



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www.trinityband.co.uk

Wokingham Choral Society

DONT DELAY!

Choral Workshop
Saturday 5 April 2014

We will be covering a medley of songs from Les Miserables and popular opera choruses. £20.00 per person (£15.00 under 18s and students) Application forms (by 14 March please) can be found on our web site.

Verdi's Requiem

Saturday 28 June 2014 7.30pm
The Great Hall, University of Reading

Tickets £ 17.00 (£15.00 over 60s, £5.00 students and under 18s). Details: www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk



It's probably because of the incredible extreme weather we've been having since the end of Christmas that events have been slow to arrange since the beginning of the year. With trees down and the flooding of the Thames and Loddon it has not been encouraging to take to the road as often as we'd like. The annual New Year's day car enthusiast's gathering at the Phoenix in Hartley Wintney was almost washed out by the awful weather that day, with only a few hardy souls from our club attending.

One event of our own that did take place and didn't need the dusting or polishing of our pride and joy cars was the club's annual New Year dinner which was held as before at the Walter Arms. This took place on January 18th and was yet again a very enjoyable evening and our thanks go out to Martin Dipper who had looked after the arrangements.

One of the important local events of the past four years has been the Bearwood College Classic Car show, which usually takes place during May but as yet no date has yet been finalised. Look out for posters nearer the time. Other events will soon follow as it's rumoured that Spring is on its way.

For details of the club including a gallery of the members' cars please visit www.badccc.co.uk.

Bernie Hicks.

FARLEY HILL BOWLS CLUB WILL WELCOME YOU!

To our 2014 OPEN DAY on
SUNDAY 4TH MAY
Anytime between 2.00pm to 6.00pm

Our club is in Church Road, Farley Hill,
(Between Arborfield & Swallowfield) Reading, Postcode RG7 1TR
Please come along and try your hand at Lawn Bowls!

All you need is a pair of flat shoes (to protect the green).
Club bowls will be available and a member will show you what to do.
Afterwards we will provide you with some refreshments and explain everything about the club and how we operate.

All ages welcome!

For further information please call:

Club Captain	John Atack	01189 885611
Club Secretary	Bill Dowling	01344 772130

or E-mail : billdowling@farleyhillbowlsclub.org.uk



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The Quiz - Answers

1. The Weather Girls
2. A Game of Thrones
3. Father (Peter) and son (Dan).
Jon Snow (Channel 4 News) is
Peter's cousin and Jon Snow is
also a character in A Game of
Thrones.
4. Hurricane Katrina/Katrina
and the Waves
5. The Dolmans
6. John Carpenter
7. Minus 18°C. ((°F -32)*5/9 =
°C)
8. Camberwick Green
9. A Touch of Frost
10. The Lightning Seeds

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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
Job Support Centre 977 0517

Barkham Diary

11-Mar-14	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
11-Mar-14	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
12-Mar-14	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
22-Mar-14	Refuse Lorry	Junipers	8-11am
23-Mar-14	Parish Clean Up	BVH	9.30-12
24-Mar-14	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
25-Mar-14	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
2-Apr-14	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
8-Apr-14	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
8-Apr-14	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
9-Apr-14	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
20-Apr-14	BVRA Easter Egg Hunt	Junipers	3pm
22-Apr-14	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
26-Apr-14	Refuse Lorry	Junipers	8-11am
28-Apr-14	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
7-May-14	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
13-May-14	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
13-May-14	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
14-May-14	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm
16-May-14	Copy deadline for Summer Newsletter		
24-May-14	Refuse Lorry	Junipers	8-11am
26-May-14	Finchampstead Flower Club	CRH	7.30pm
27-May-14	Parish Council Planning Review	BVH	7.30pm
4-Jun-14	Barkham Ladies Social Club	BVH	7.45pm
10-Jun-14	Barkham Parish Council	BVH	8.00pm
10-Jun-14	Dinton Pastures Walkers Group	BVH	7.30pm
11-Jun-14	Bonsai Club	BVH	7.30pm

AVH is Arborfield Village Hall BVH is Barkham Village Hall
CRH is California Ratepayers Hall FMH is Finchampstead Memorial Hall

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