



**BARKHAM &
ARBORFIELD GREEN**

Village
INFO

June/July 2021

Contents

Village INFO

Free to all residents in Barkham and most of Arborfield Green.

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Pam Stubbs (BPC Chairman), Mike Bundred (Editor) and Ellen Tims (Parish Clerk).

Village INFO and the Parish web site aim to keep residents informed of issues and opportunities affecting the area.

See web site for the Council's meetings (every month except August) at the Arborfield Green Community Centre.

www.barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk

Contact Ellen Tims, Barkham Parish Clerk, for details of advertising and frequency.

Tel: 0118 9762089

Arborfield Green Community Centre, Sheerlands Road, Arborfield, RG2 9ND.

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Please note the office is currently closed due to the ongoing pandemic.

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Highlights



Speed Watch

New committee formed to encompass all aspects of Road Safety



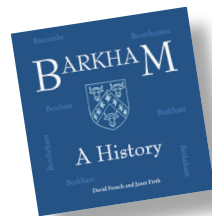
California Country Park

The upgraded play area is now open



Barkham Solar Farm

An update on the Barkham Solar Farm



History of Barkham

Find out about the early history of the Parish



Sports Horse Mare

Arborfield Horse Sculptures unveiled at Arborfield Green

On Friday 11th June 2021, 3 Horse Sculptures, created as a tribute to Arborfield Garrison's long association with horses and to celebrate its rich history, were officially unveiled.

Crest Nicholson commissioned Amy Goodman, a local artist, in 2018 to create the life size sculptures of the horses, to celebrate the history of the former Arborfield Garrison, which was originally established as a horse hospital for the Remount Depot in 1904. During WW1 many thousands of Horses passed through the centre, which is now marked by the restored stables opposite the Community Centre in Arborfield Green. The Statues pay homage to the horses that served in WW1 and were cared for on the site, as well as recognising the horses of today and the future.

David Hnyda, Director of Sales and Marketing at Crest Nicholson Chiltern said "Arborfield Green began life as Arborfield Garrison as a Remount Depot and Horse Infirmary, which supplied the military with horses for operational use from 1904. During that period, over 100,000 horses are said to have passed through the Depot, which remained open throughout both the first and second world wars.

After the eventual closure of the Depot, the Garrison became home to a number of technical schools,

where approximately 50,000 trainees completed their apprenticeships. To commemorate the sites distinguished history, today we are unveiling three life-sized horse sculptures titled Icarus, Sports Horse Mare and Youngster.

It is important to us and our partners at the Defence Infrastructure Organisation that as we regenerate this area into a new garden village, we also conserve and commemorate the site's past history. These statues are one very visual example of how we are doing this and are on the development for everyone to enjoy."

The Statues can be seen at Watermans Gate, which is located off Biggs Lane, Arborfield Green, Reading RG2 9LL.



The three horse sculptures at Watermans Gate

Speedwatch gets Greater Recognition

Speed Watch will now come under a Road Safety Committee. This is a newly formed sub-committee within Barkham Parish Council. Initially it will have four members who are all Speed watch coordinators. Its principal aim is to improve the local road network and safety of its users.

Not only will it promote public awareness and education of road safety initiatives through Speed Watch activities, but will also support other road safety measures. This will include pedestrian crossings, street signs and other traffic calming solutions, through regular liaison with the Borough's Traffic Management unit. Other road issues, such as Potholes and Drains will be dealt by another newly formed sub-committee referred to as the Highways Committee. This will also include anything to do with Greenways.

Even though formal Speed Watch speed monitoring has been prevented by the pandemic restrictions, the Team has been out and about most of this year

pursuing speed watch activities by moving their Data Logger and Speed Indication Device around Barkham collecting statistics of driver's behaviour on our roads. This information can then be shared with WBC and the police to support possible changes to speed limits and other traffic interventions.

Our Speed Indication Device (SID) has outstanding visibility and works very well when deployed as a semi-permanent activation sign in slowing down traffic. This was clearly demonstrated over a 2-week period in March when both the SID and our Data logger were deployed on Barkham Road near each other. The Data Logger, being much less visible than the SID, was there for the entire 2 weeks while the SID was only deployed in the 2nd week. In a week-by-week analysis we noticed a 50% reduction in the number of those vehicles traveling in excess of 40 mph in the week when the SID was deployed. This means the visual effect of flashing up speeds has a marked effect in slowing down the traffic.



SID installed on Biggs Lane

Following recent discussions with WBC traffic management, we can confirm that provision has now been made for two pedestrian crossings on Biggs Lane. One of these will be in the vicinity of the new primary school, which we hope will be in place in time for its opening in Sept 2021. The other Pegasus crossing is to be constructed in the vicinity of Hazebrouck Meadows, but the exact position and timing on this is uncertain, as this will be dependent on the rate of build-out of the SDL.

You may have noticed that Barkham Street and Barkham Ride have recently been resurfaced and new state of the art solar powered cat's eyes have been put down on a trial basis. We are told that by using ultra bright LED lighting, the projected light from each solar stud is ten times greater than the traditional retro-reflective road studs and unlike these, the solar studs do not rely on headlight efficiency to perform effectively. At a speed of around 60 mph this can increase a drivers reaction distance from 80 metres to 800 metres. We are told this has shown a proven reduction in night-time accidents by over 70%. Barkham is the first parish in the Borough to have them and if successful WBC will roll them out on other roads.

It is expected that Thames Valley Police (TVP) will soon allow us to resume Community Speed Watch activities and the plan is to carry out bi-weekly speed watch sessions starting in the summer. In the meantime, the speed watch team are in the process of completing a training video for any new volunteers.

Volunteers still needed

As previously mentioned, we can always do with more volunteers, so if you are interested in participating in this important initiative and can spare just an hour or so once a month, then please contact us as per the details below.

Ellen, the parish clerk, on clerk@barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk and **Chris**, as Speed Watch coordinator, will be more than happy to talk with you and answer any questions.

It will not take up too much of your time!



New LED Cat's Eyes on Barkham Street





The Sensory Garden area

New Play Area at California Country Park

The new play area at California Country Park, Finchampstead re-opened on the 24th April 2021 following a major overhaul. Since the 17th May, following Governments easing of restrictions, there is no need to book. However, everyone visiting should respect social distancing guidelines and use hand sanitiser before and after using the play area. For those looking to visit at a quieter time the park recommends weekdays, or before 10am and after 4pm.

The new play area can be roughly split into two areas – the Sensory Garden and the Wild Wood.

The Sensory Garden is designed with younger children in mind, although most of the equipment is suitable for a range of ages and abilities, including a variety of imaginative water play equipment. It provides a

space where children can investigate and discover their world through creative play or test their physical abilities in more active play.

The Wild Wood is designed to physically challenge older children and teenagers. It includes three different tree houses of varying heights and level of challenge wrapped around existing pine trees. There's a rope and pole agility course climbing pyramid and a zip wire, as well as sound cushions and carved woodland animals at ground level to add interest for younger children.

Throughout the play area, natural elements such as logs, boulders, water, timber and the trees help create a space that connects children to nature and provide a sense of wellbeing. The play area includes a range of inclusive and interactive equipment – including a spinning disc, swings, musical chime walkway and a trampoline that are suitable for wheelchair users.

Additional seating has been created, for parents and carers as well as visitors using of the paddling pool. Other improvements to the café, public toilets and car parks were completed in preparation for the new play area earlier in the year, including a changing places facility for disabled users.

The play area is designed to have year-round appeal for local families and their children. Accessibility has also been improved with new surfaced paths to the paddling pool, café and toilets. It was built by our partners Green Play Project.

Where is the play area?

The children's play area is located near the lake front and café. There is a circular path around Longmoor Lake providing easy access for pushchairs. The play area is also just a short walk away from the orange bog and heathland, which forms part of our Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI) status for the park.

Boardwalk and laid paths provide easy access across the bog. Interesting wildlife such as sphagnum moss, springtime orchids, adders, and silver studded blue butterflies, can be found here and on the heathland.



The Wild Wood area

For more details and frequently asked questions, including parking arrangements and how the park will be run at peak times, visit the Dinton Pastures Website:
www.dinton-pastures.co.uk/california/
 Source: Wokingham Borough Council News Centre
 Photos courtesy of Stewart Turkington, Wokingham Borough Council

BVRA Social Events 2021

The Family Skittles evening on Saturday October 2nd at 7.00 at Barkham Village Hall.

A ploughman's supper will be provided, and there will be a licensed bar. This is always a fun, family event so do come and join us.

The Annual Quiz night is on Saturday November 27th at Barkham Village Hall. This includes a fish and chip supper and licensed bar. This is always a very popular event.

Carols in The Park will take place on Friday December 17th at Junipers Park. This is a lovely event for families just before Christmas, and not to be missed.

Tickets for all events can be obtained from Gill Powell by, preferably, emailing social@barkham.org.uk, or by telephone on 0118 9783373. For more information on any of these events please see our website www.barkham.org.uk. Further details will also be in the BVRA newsletter.

An update from Barkham Ward Councillor - John Kaiser

Somewhere decent for people to live is important to ensure we all have a stable society, and everybody should have access to good quality housing as having a home should be a fundamental human right and nobody living in UK should be without somewhere to live which is safe and warm. This is especially true in a place as affluent as Wokingham. Alas this is not always the case and although we talk about lower percentage of homelessness in the borough, to be homeless is to be 100% homeless and we as a council should do all in our power to help residents avoid having nowhere to live.

Access to decent housing has the effect of changing people's lives forever.

We have driven the number of homeless down in the borough and have next to no rough sleepers. The council housing waiting list is low with the number of people with real need being matched by the number of affordable homes which have been built over the last few years.

The council have also developed their housing companies, which have delivered affordable homes across the borough and are engaged in our most ambitious project to date: the delivery of over 200

affordable new homes on Gorse ride estate in Finchampstead to replace the old and poor-quality homes already there and, to top it all, the council's housing companies make a profit rather than cost the council, profits which can be reinvested in services in the council.

Good quality homes give more to residents than somewhere to live it creates an environment to bring up and educate children and brings stability to their lives and helps to avoid poverty.

I also wanted to talk about the impact that Covid has had over the last 12 months and although it is difficult to ascertain the long-term problems it may leave the borough with, the council is dealing with the short-term issues as they arise so, hopefully, we should help residents avoid any long-term impacts.

The council will continue to work with charities and residents to avoid and eradicate true homelessness in the borough and look to improve lifestyles for the most vulnerable. This includes other areas such as expanding council tax discounts where possible. We have no rough sleepers on our streets by choice, and it is important to ensure that this continues. The policy of the council is not just to ensure people have somewhere to live but that somewhere should reflect the fact that people are living in one of the best and healthiest places to live in the UK and allow people to enjoy the benefits of living in Wokingham to the full. As an indication of that commitment the percentage of our social housing stock that meet the Decent Homes Standard is now 100%

This can only be achieved by ensuring that a full range of housing both affordable and social in addition to full market homes continue to meet the demands of the residents and for the next generation who choose Wokingham as their home.

Poverty and inequality have no place in our Borough, and the council will do all that's possible eradicating it wherever it is found. Facts and figures are bandied about showing how well councils cope with housing issues but even one person homeless is one person too many and, as I say, if you are homeless you are 100% homeless.

The politicising of poverty and the despair it brings to those unfortunate enough to fall on hard times does nothing to solve the problem and yes unfortunately there will always somebody who needs help, and it should be our objective to recognise that need and ensure that the council works closely with the charity sector and residents to work towards eradicating that need, especially in these complex

and difficult times. We owe it to the residents of the borough to ensure everybody has somewhere safe and warm to live and the right houses are delivered in the right place at an affordable price.

If you have any question or need any help with regards to what goes on at the borough council, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Stay safe.

Councillor John Kaiser

Member for Barkham

Wokingham Borough Council

Tel: 0771 419 2352

Email: john.kaiser@wokingham.gov.uk

Possible Tree Planting Opportunity



Bearwood Rd Veteran Tree

Chairman, Pam Stubbs, has been looking into ways in which Barkham Parish Council can help Wokingham Borough Council with its plans to plant 250,000 trees in the borough. Below she explores the possible locations in Barkham, and the possible options for residents to take part.

Residents of Barkham are lucky as it would seem that we have an abundance of trees within the Parish and we are generally able to walk freely amongst the areas of woodland. Barkham also has the greatest number of Veteran trees and trees of note within the Borough. This is a feature of which we should be very proud, but it also leaves our mature tree population at greater risk in old age. When sites are cleared for housing, large trees are the first to go. Sadly, they cannot be replaced by planting another when a new house is completed. A tree will take decades to reach maturity and in the case of an Oak, centuries.

Our country needs more trees as part of our fight against the climate emergency we are all facing.

Continued over...



The woodlands in Barkham are becoming neglected and uncared for. Trees are falling and are not replaced at the same rate as they are dying. Woods such as The Coombes and Foxhills Woodland are not being given the chance of regeneration. We have our own small area of woodland on the Juniper Field, which contains just two trees. These are the Centenary Oaks, donated by Wokingham Borough Council and planted in 2012 for the occasion of H.M. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. They are growing well but look lonely in front of the woodland.

Wokingham have been gifted 250,000 new trees by the Woodland Trust, and our Parish Council have agreed that they would wish to plant many of these trees on the centenary garden, so that any of our residents who have lost a loved one during the recent past and particularly during the pandemic might be able to dedicate a tree in their memory.



Rooks Nest Sang Oak



Lime Avenue in Summer

On the opposite side of the field, behind the play areas, there is a walking area for dogs. This field, I have been assured, used to be full of trees which have fallen and never been replaced. It now contains just three Silver Birches, fast growing areas of Blubells and bracken, plus the occasional dog walker with their dog. With advice from the experts at Wokingham Borough Council, we would wish to repopulate this area to provide a pleasant area where people and dogs could walk without being attacked by nettles and ferns.

The Junipers Field has grown in popularity during the past year of lock downs and it might encourage all our 'lock down' walkers to keep on walking and looking at our trees, although my own dog shows absolutely no interest in any tree unless he can see a sign that it contains a squirrel!

Pam Stubbs, BPC Chairman

Photos courtesy of Derek Oxbrough, Barkham Tree Warden, Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association

Barkham Solar Farm Update

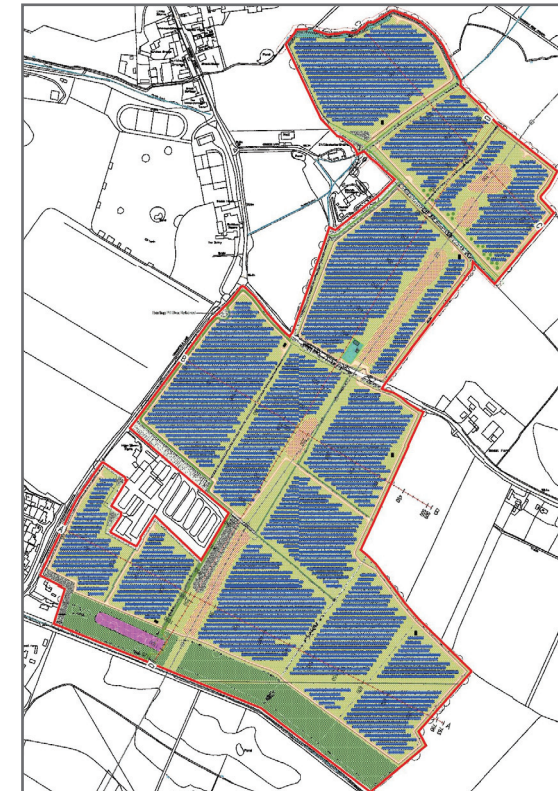
Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) have submitted their full planning application number 211081 for the installation of the solar farm in Barkham. The planning application consists of over 100 documents and includes a number of changes from the original opinion scoping document and the information that was included in the Barkham Parish Council (BPC) survey.

The major changes and additional information include:

- The proposed size of the site has been increased to 48 hectares and extended east into Rooks Nest Farm with an increased 35 MW output from 83,000 panels. This also allows discussions to take place between WBC and the existing farmer to see if there is a way that he can continue his dairy business.
- The period of use has been reduced from 40 years to 25 years. BPC is unclear as to how this will affect the economic payback of the project and are requesting clarification.
- The solar farm will now be connected to the grid via an underground cable from Edneys Hill to the sub-station on Barkham Road opposite the Leathern Bittel public house. The construction work for this cable is estimated to take 20 weeks.
- In terms of the proposed Greenway improvement, BPC are working with WBC to provide a safe crossing on Barkham Ride so that the footpaths north and south are connected and provide a safe route from Arborfield Green all the way to Doles Lane via proposed Greenway Route D.
- The construction of the solar farm will take 10 months and the resulting traffic will be using Barkham Ride, Barkham Street, Barkham Road,

Langley Common Road and then via Observer Way to Shinfield and the M4. This will mean the suspension of the current width restriction on Barkham Street to allow HGV traffic to access the site entrances on Barkham Ride and this is an area of great concern to BPC.

BPC will be pushing WBC on a number of mitigations including improving the site screening, minimising the impact on our heritage assets, creating the best route for a new Greenway, siting of a safe crossing on Barkham Ride, impact of construction traffic, helping the farmer and provision of some extra land for St James Church.



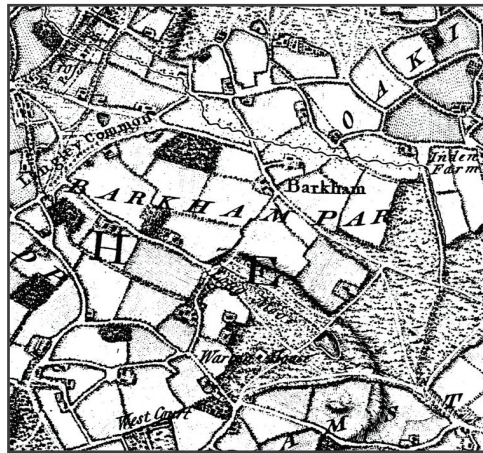
Updated Solar Farm Site Layout

The History of Barkham

This is the first in a series of articles which will cover the history of Barkham from its Anglo-Saxon roots to the current period.

Early History

The Anglo-Saxon name recorded in AD 952 for Barkham was Beorchamme; the spelling of this changed in later records, but has remained as Barkham since the mid- sixteenth century. This means 'birch-tree meadow', a clearing made in the woodland for hay. Gradually, the forest, which dominated the area since the last Ice Age, became full of fields cleared for meadow, pasture and arable. In Barkham Parish, woodland was of distinct importance to the economy even into the twentieth century.



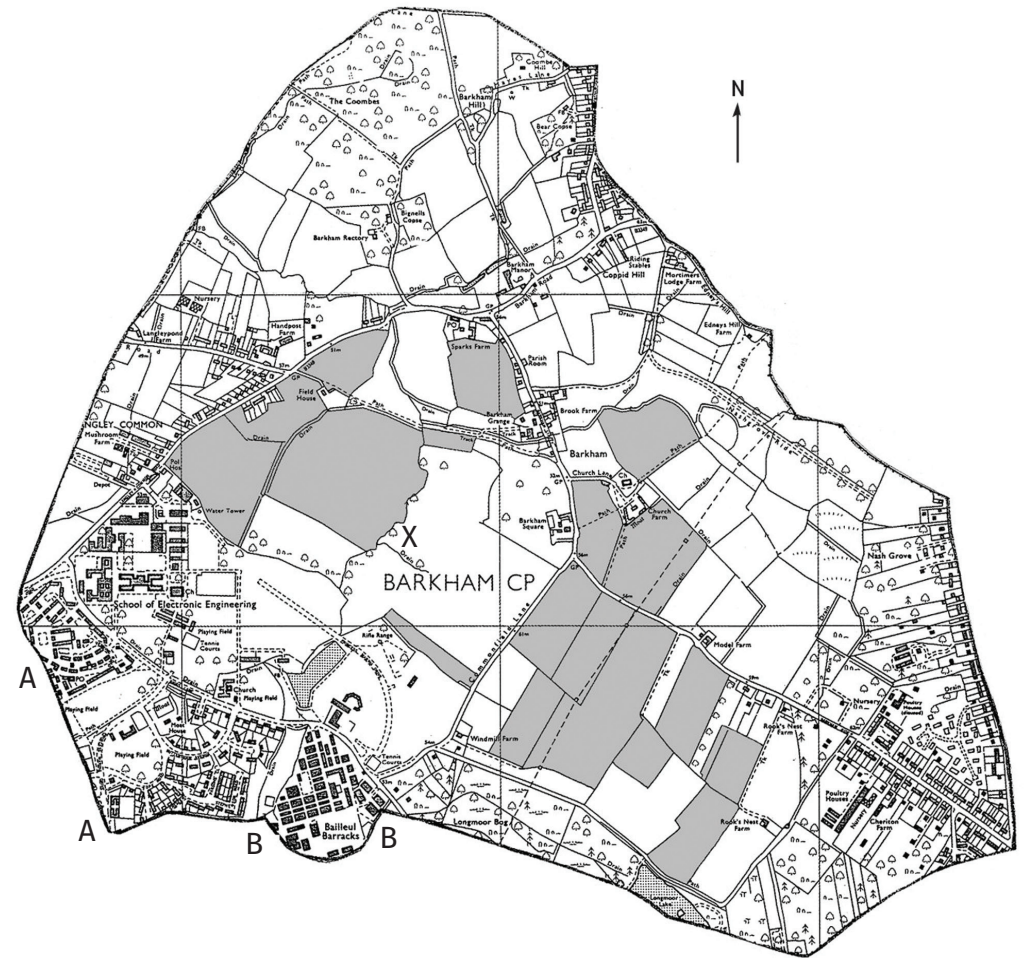
Extract from John Rocque's Map of Berkshire (1761)

Barkham is one of the smallest parishes within the former Berkshire and Windsor Forest and lies on the western fringe of the royal hunting preserve of Windsor. In 1227, populous northern valleys of Berkshire paid money to the Crown to be disafforested, but apparently poorer, more sparsely populated land closer to Windsor remained under forest law.

Dominated as it was by woodland (incidentally, the parish to the north, Hurst, means wood), Barkham was not a rich agricultural area unlike the adjacent 'feld' or 'field' parishes further west, namely Arborfield, Swallowfield and Shinfield. These are generally understood to have been cleared and used for pasture and later ploughed by the early Saxon period, if not earlier. Newland was a clearing in Hurst ploughed in the thirteenth century and Barkham's neighbour on the east, the town of Wokingham, was 'planted' in the parish of Hurst also in the thirteenth century. Finchampstead to the south, beside the river Blackwater, was cleared and settled in prehistory and particularly in the Romano-British period.

There is no definite archaeological evidence yet to suggest that Barkham was anything other than a scattered settlement. This type of settlement is more typical of the landscape of England than might be supposed, especially in woodland areas. There are two fields and one dwelling in the parish where a little more pottery has been found than elsewhere, dating to long periods of time, but it is not clear if these provide evidence for occupation. There were only two small concentrations of housing at the time of the survey carried out for the Inclosure Map of 1821, the earliest map to show this amount of detail. These were along that part of Barkham Lane that is now Barkham Street, and Coombs Hill or Rutt Hill Lane, now Hayes Lane. These had diminished by the time of the Tithe Award in 1840 but they remained the foci.

Content for this article has been extracted from **Barkham – A History, by David French and Janet Firth**, 163pp, ISBN 0-9537960-0-0, available from Henry Street Garden Centre and other retailers as well as direct from Barkham Parish Council.



The parish of Barkham before 1986

Scale 1:10,000 (reduced)

Key

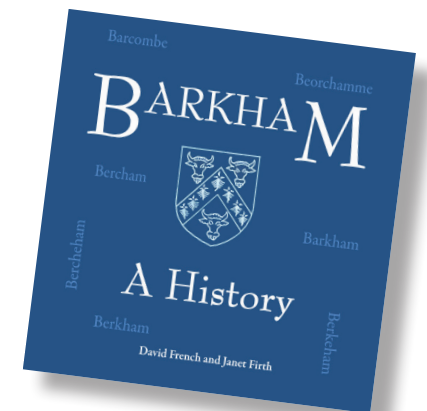
Shaded areas: fields walked archaeologically

X: Bronze Age burnt mound

A-A: Boundary possibly adjacent to former road

B-B: Boundary following a stream

Reproduced from **Ordnance Survey mapping** on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. MC 031018



Book available from Henry Steet Garden Centre

Meet your Councillor

Barkham Parish Council consists of 10 Councillors, there is currently 1 vacancy. Barkham also has a Ward Councillor, who represents the residents at Wokingham Borough Council, the Ward Councillor is separate from the Parish Council.

Over the next few issues, we will be introducing you to the Councillors for Barkham Parish. In this issue, we introduce you to Pam Stubbs, Chairman; Chris Heyliger; and Allan Wrobel.

Pam Stubbs, Chairman



We moved to Barkham in 1987 after Martin had spent his career in the Bank of England and I had been teaching for almost twenty years. We bought the Post Office and spent the next 12 years on a completely different but fascinating career path together.

After Martin passed away in 1999, I took over the shop and Post Office, beginning the long struggle to rebuild them. Sadly, I was never able to complete the task before I had to sell the business and move to my present home.

Events of the last few years are now common knowledge and I joined many other Sub Postmasters in waiting for Justice from the Post Office.

I have served on Barkham Parish Council and also Wokingham Borough Council during this time, aiming to preserve and protect the best of Barkham Parish.

Chris Heyliger



Chris is formerly from Jamaica but was educated in the UK, he is married to Laura and has been living in Barkham since 1986. He is a retired Investment Banker having worked in the City with HSBC for many years.

Chris has been a Councillor for Barkham since 2008 and is passionate about protecting the environment and road safety around Barkham. He is a keen cyclist and enjoys travelling extensively.

Allan Wrobel



Allan is born and bred in Barkham, and loves the area.

He aims to help retain the parish's special character through the structural changes we see in the area every day.

Barkham Parish Councillors

Pam Stubbs, Chairman	Alan Scott, Councillor	Chris Heyliger, Councillor	Majid Alborzpour, Councillor	Allan Wrobel, Councillor
Mike Bundred, Vice Chairman	Graeme Dexter, Councillor	Roger Loader, Councillor	Sue Edwards, Councillor	John Kaiser, Ward Councillor, WBC



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Village INFO

www.barkham-parishcouncil.org.uk has a host of information about police, Drs contacts, etc under local information and directory. A few of the contacts are reproduced here. Let Ellen Tims (Parish Clerk) know if you would like a local organisation, club etc, to be highlighted here in a future issue.

Barkham Parochial Charities

providing help to those in need - Malcolm Clark via Parish Clerk

Barkham Pre School

www.barkhampreschool.net

Barkham St James Church

www.achurchnearyou.com

BVRA residents' association

www.barkham.org.uk

Barkham Village Store

01189 799131.
barkhamvillagestore@hotmail.co.uk

1st Wokingham Beaver, Cub and Scout Group

www.firstwokingham.org.uk

The Bull at Barkham

www.thebullbarkham.com

The Coombes CE Primary School.

www.thecoombes.com

Wokingham Job Support Centre

www.wjsc.org.uk

Wokingham Citizens Advice Bureau

www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk

Wokingham Cancer Care Trust

www.wdctt.org

Shine WBC activities for the over 50s

www.wokingham.gov.uk

Reach Wokingham

www.reachwokingham.com



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A1 Loo Hire

We not only provide facility hire but offer an unrivalled waste disposal service which has catered for many of the UK's major outdoor events. The A1 group has delivered total waste management solutions for over 15 years and has developed A1 Loo Hire to meet significant growth in line with increasing client requirements.



A1 Wet Waste

Wokingham Wet Waste is one of the countries leading Waste Management companies in the UK, embracing new technology and the very latest equipment available in order to deliver real added value to our clients.



A1 Metal Recycling

Investment in the very latest processing capabilities has seen Wokingham Metal Recycling acquire two SEDA Fixed Station De-pollution rigs. Top prices paid for your scrap metal, scrap cars and MoT failures. We also supply high quality scrap metal at great prices.

Contact us for more information or visit Highland Avenue, Wokingham

Tel: 0118 978 5143 www.a1groupuk.com

