

BARKWAY BULLETIN

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL OF BARKWAY



ISSUE 17

OCTOBER 2013

WELCOME to the third edition in 2013 of the Barkway Bulletin. We hope that you find the articles informative and if you have any questions please pass them to the Parish Clerk. I am very pleased to welcome Sonia Falaschi-Ray to the Council. Following the resignation of Suzie Bates, due to work commitments, we will have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor to be filled in the near future. As a Parish Council we have a number of important issues that we must progress over the coming months, especially the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. There will be a village meeting on November 28th, convening at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start in the Village Hall, which will give the opportunity for the Council to present exactly what is involved in a Neighbourhood Plan and the central role that consultation, with all the residents of the village, plays in its development.



NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR AN INTRODUCTION TO THE REVEREND SONIA FALASCHI-RAY

I have lived in Barkway since 1993, and am a priest in the Church of England, though for much of my adult life I was an agnostic, coming to a living faith on an Alpha Course at Holy Trinity Brompton in 1998. Having had careers in mechanical engineering and stockbroking, where for 17 years I was an investment analyst, I then studied Theology at the University of Cambridge.

I am married to Professor John Ray, an Egyptologist and we have two golden retrievers Quintus and Rufus. I have written two books, *Harry Potter: a Christian Chronicle* and *Missing: Three Days in Jerusalem*, and am working on a third, provisionally titled *The Lost Letters*. I will focus on the Neighbourhood Plan, which will be the community's proposal to the Government regarding future housing and other building developments as well as the aspirations as to additional services and amenities in our parish.

POTHoles

Potholes are unfortunately a nuisance to us all, and the larger ones can be dangerous, particularly to cyclists. Any member of the public can report a pothole, or any other Highways problem, by calling 0300 123 4047. There is also a web link which you will find on the village website.

TREES

The removal of 14 dead and diseased trees along Cambridge Road is scheduled to take place over 4 days at the end of October, starting on October 28th. There will be traffic control measures in place i.e. traffic lights, but it should not be necessary to close the road completely. The contractors will be felling the trees, but will leave them as large chunks, rather than chopping them into small pieces. *If* we can make arrangements for the trees to be removed from the roadside, we are hopeful that we can make arrangements for the chunks to be chopped into small logs, and make them available to villagers for firewood. Watch the website for details. We have also secured 105 saplings from the Woodland Trust. We intend to plant some of them along Cambridge Road, replacing those being removed. The rest we will use around the north and east perimeters of the Recreation Ground, in hedgerows and as screening. The provisional date for the planting is the weekend of 16th/17th November, so if you would like to help, please contact the Parish Clerk.

BONFIRE NIGHT

The usual Bonfire Night celebration will take place on Tuesday 5th November on the Recreation Ground. Gates open at 6pm, the bonfire will be lit at around 6.30pm and the fireworks will start at 7pm. There is always a fantastic firework display, and entry is free, although you are encouraged to make a donation via the bucket collection, proceeds of which go towards the cost of the fireworks. Delicious refreshments will be available, proceeds in aid of the school/pre-school.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Parish Council meetings in the Reading Room at 7.30pm, 11th November and 9th December. Members of the public are welcome.

PARISH MATTERS.....

RED PHONE BOX RESTORATION

Restoration of the Red Phone Box is well underway, we are still waiting for the glass before the final push. There are a number of ideas for how to use the phone box on completion. One idea is to put some local reference materials inside the phone box and possibly a chair! Another is to use it to promote the many village organisations. A third is to offer the space to local artists to create a unique piece of art, something like "the fourth plinth" as in Trafalgar Square. Every three months an artist/sculptor could exhibit in the telephone box, and it would be down to their flair and imagination as to how they use it to their advantage. All of these ideas are up for discussion, and we are open to new ideas as well, so if you have one, please email it to the Parish Clerk for consideration.

FOOTPATHS & PAVEMENTS

The problem with straw blocking drains continues, with no simple solution. The council road clearing vehicle comes through the village regularly but with so many cars parked on the road, it is difficult for it to do a thorough job. We do ask people to move their cars to the opposite side of the road on street sweeping days, but compliance is patchy. Many residents keep the piece of road/gutter directly outside their own property clear, which seems to be the best solution, so we would ask everybody to please do the same. When it comes to the winter, sadly not far off now, the problem is icy roads and footpaths. The roads are normally gritted by the council and salted by a local resident, but footpaths have not been. NHDC are providing a new salt bin and initial supply of salt. We are building a team of volunteers to help salt & de-ice the footpaths, particularly around the school. We are also looking for emergency volunteers to help rescue stranded motorists in the event of heavy snow. If you can help, please contact us by Email, phone or through the website.

WAGON WASH AND VILLAGE POND

Barkway Parish Council are pleased to announce that a new bench seat has been installed on the Village Green, overlooking the pond. This will allow residents and visitors to sit and enjoy this beautiful part of the village. The seat was purchased using Section 106 monies, obtained through NHDC.

In August, a team from the village helped to clear the Wagon Wash of vegetation and remove rubbish that had been thrown into the water. We also installed a new grill on the sluice gate which the Parish Council had constructed using grant money provided by NHDC. It is hoped that the new grill will help to reduce the possibility of flooding during heavy rain.

The Environment Agency was informed, by the Parish Council, of an incident of approximately 20 dead fish being seen in the Wagon Wash on 15th October. They have confirmed that they have begun an investigation and will inform us of their conclusions over the next week.

SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Thank you to all those people who completed the online survey. The 'definitive' map has been published. There are areas which already have superfast, and then those where it will be delivered soon. Royston is included, but extends only as far as Newsells Stud. In areas where 2mb is already generally available no work is planned in the short term. There are also areas which require further investigation. Barkway is in neither of these groups. What does this mean? The short answer is that we are not included in phase 1 for superfast, but we are in the programme to extend 2Mb into all areas of the exchange. The work is scheduled to start in 2015 at the latest. The delay is due to both funding and new technologies which are not yet ready to roll out. So we will have to wait a little longer for a fast, reliable broadband connection.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Steve Alsop: (Chair) Environment
Jim Dalton: (Vice Chair) Highways
Andrew Murphy: Property & Leisure
Fiona Tomkins: Community Liaison and Communication
Vacant: Legal, Governance & Grants
Jenny Warren: Planning
Sonia Falaschi-Ray: Neighbourhood Plan
Catharine Toms: Parish Clerk

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The Parish Council is very sad to pass on the news of the recent death of Richard Atkins. Richard served as a Barkway Parish Councillor for some years and more recently acted as our Internal Auditor. We would like to offer our sincere condolences to his wife and family.

If you have any comments on the content of this edition of Barkway Bulletin, please contact the editor, Fiona Tomkins at fiona.tomkins@barkway-village.co.uk - we are always interested in hearing your views.

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