

# BARKWAY BULLETIN



A Quarterly Newsletter from the Parish Council of Barkway

Issue No. 1

March 2010

## Chairman's Column

We all live busy lives and it can be easy to forget that whilst you might not see us, the Parish Council is working daily behind the scenes on village matters to keep the Parish in full working order. We do not see many of the community at the monthly Parish Council meeting, so it is important that we keep you abreast of what we have been doing on your behalf.

We trust that you will find "Barkway Bulletin" informative and beneficial but, as always, we invite you to the monthly Parish Council Meetings, held in the Reading Room.

We are here to serve the community, so I ask you to give us your views or opinions and share your concerns with us, either by contacting a Parish Councillor, or at one of our surgeries (as mentioned below), or at a Parish Council meeting, or via our forum or "contact us" page on our village website [www.barkway-village.co.uk](http://www.barkway-village.co.uk)

**Dr Robert Davidson**  
Chairman, Barkway Parish Council

## Plans for the future.....

Barkway Parish Council is working on a series of actions which will, in the medium to long term, provide huge benefit to the continued and future development of the Parish. These plans include:-

- *the setting up of monthly Parish Council surgeries where members of the public can "drop in" and discuss issues with one of the Councillors*
- *the development and implementation of a Parish Plan*
- *the research into funding for improvements to village facilities and amenities*
- *the creation of affordable homes*
- *the development of the "pavilion project"*
- *the continued engagement with the community to ensure that the Parish Council is kept aware of the needs of the community*
- *working for the greater benefit of the Parish*

## Dates for your Diary.....

Parish Council meetings: Tues 9th March, Tues 13th April, Tues 11th May. In the Reading Room at 7.30pm. Members of the public welcome.

Parish Council Surgeries: to be held monthly in the Reading Room. Commencing Saturday 27th March 10am to 11am

Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday: 26th May at 7.00pm in Barkway Village Hall. Guest speaker Julian Dollar, Newsells Park Stud.

**Welcome** to this first edition of "Barkway Bulletin". This newsletter will be published quarterly and delivered to every household in the villages of Barkway and Newsells. "Barkway Bulletin" aims to provide you with the latest information about the activities of the Parish Council in the last quarter and what may be coming up in the future.

## What is a Parish Councillor?

Being a Parish Councillor is a voluntary position, we do not get paid for our work, so it does take a special kind of person to take up the reins of office and in doing so, we make a huge personal commitment and provide a benefit to our community.

Barkway Parish Council has seven councillors of varying ages, who come from all aspects of life and from very different backgrounds, but we all have that one common factor — we love and care for our community and want to do our bit to make a difference.

Barkway is a wonderful village and whilst progress cannot be stopped we, as your Parish Councillors, can do our best to ensure that any proposals for changes to the Parish are controlled to find the best possible option. No one likes change, but change is inevitable if small villages are to continue to survive, so it is our aim to ensure that any changes that may come, do present themselves as appropriate and beneficial to our Parish.

## The Reading Room—temporary closure

*Following a recent Health and Safety Inspection, several issues were identified that forced the Reading Room to be closed as a meeting place and "book exchange" centre. It is hoped that the closure will not be too long. Necessary electrical, heating and insulation work is to be carried out and your Parish Council has been actively seeking funds to cover the costs of the work. As a first step, we are extremely grateful to our County Councillor, Tony Hunter, for agreeing to fund a large proportion of the money required from his "locality budget". Councillors Ken McCormick and Gordon Baker are managing the project and residents will be kept fully informed as to the progress. We plan to have the Reading Room up and running as a pivotal centre of village life as quickly as possible.*

## Get to know your Parish Council.....



**Dr Robert Davidson, Chairman. Responsible for Planning and Traffic**

My wife Jenny and I moved to Barkway from Derbyshire in October 2005, and settled here, in our new spiritual home, the beautiful little village that we call Barkway. I got involved in local affairs when the proposals for travellers sites arose. I dedicated my time to the team campaigning against the proposals and shortly after the successful campaign, I was delighted when I was asked to join the Parish Council. I did not hesitate to accept and since then have tried to do my very best for our community and residents. My aim is to make the Parish an even better place to live, through working with the community, the village groups and societies, our councillors, agencies and local authorities to make this the best village it possibly can be.



**Ken McCormick. Responsible for Special Projects**

My wife Anne and I moved to Barkway twelve years ago from Vancouver Island on the west coast of Canada. I lived in Canada for thirty years and received my university education there.

I have been a Parish Councillor since 2002 and recently stepped down as Chairman after serving for three years. I am a member of Barkway Church, where I served as Treasurer and as a member of the Village Church Council, and I was a Site Marshall for the Barkway Market for several years. My portfolio is 'Special Projects' which currently includes the refurbishment of the Reading Room.



**Jo Cockerton. Responsible for Young People**

I have been a Parish Councillor since May 2007 and my portfolio is "Young People". As well as being a mum to three children, I am also the Parent Governor for Barkway VA First School, so have daily contact with the School and children, as well as being in regular contact with the Playgroup and Baby & Toddler group. I also have contact with the Youth Club, the Good News Club run by Barkway Chapel and the Discovery Sunday group at the Church. I see my role as a Parish Councillor to be approachable for the parents and children of the village for them to voice ideas and comments to enhance their life in the village.



**Gordon Baker, Vice Chairman. Responsible for Grants, Funding and Communication**

My wife and I moved to Barkway in October 2007 from Ashwell, having previously lived in Suffolk for 8 years. Born in London, I spent 30 years in the City working for a leading bank—the last 15 years of that time in a strategic marketing role. We moved to Barkway because of the peaceful and rural setting and the promise of an active village life. I became involved with local matters when I was asked to redesign the village website and, when a vacancy on the Parish Council arose, I applied and was successful. In December 2009, I was elected Vice Chairman and although the job can at times be demanding, the rewards in knowing that you are helping to influence the future development of the Parish can be very satisfying.



**Tony Terry. Responsible for Recreation and Leisure**

I moved to Barkway 11 years ago. I lived in North London and ran a newsagents in Oxford Circus for 32 years. I have been a Parish Councillor for 4 years and my portfolio is the upkeep of the pavilion and recreation ground. I am involved with bonfire night and "music on the rec". I also help with the annual pantomime and the youth club. My hope is to develop the pavilion and extend it to accommodate a new youth club.



**Vince Styles. Responsible for Police Matters**

I have lived in Barkway with my wife Julie and my two sons since 2005 and enjoy being part of a village community. I was co-opted to the Parish Council in December 2008 and my current portfolio covers working with the Police and disseminating information to the community to help the Police in their efforts in solving crime. I am also involved on behalf of the Parish Council in matters relating to the development and running of the youth club, which in my view is an important organisation forming part of an active village community. Outside of my Parish Council work, I have an interest in photography and imagery.



**Graham Penning. Responsible for the Environment.** I have been a Parish Councillor since March 2004, holding the environment portfolio. I moved into 26 High Street in January

1985 and quickly became involved in village activities. I took up church bell ringing in 1986 and was on the committee of the long defunct Barkway Society. For several years I served on the committee of the Friends of Barkway Church and have taken part many times in the annual church sponsored bike ride to raise funds for the church. One of my most enjoyable current jobs is being the treasurer of that great venerable institution, the Barkway Social Club. I enjoy walking in the countryside and, occasionally, leading walks. As a result, I was approached by the Parish Council in 2002 with the idea of working for the Council to set up P3 (Parish Paths Partnership). This involves a liaison with CMS (Countryside Management Services) to obtain funding for projects concerned with rights of way and various amenity works. I was then elected on to the Council when a vacancy occurred. Funding over the years has given us a variety of improvements to rights of way and, in recent times, a Parish map board and walks leaflets. I have always found the village to have a friendly environment and get pleasure from the company of many friends and colleagues. I enjoy council work, and the opportunity to improve our environment for the benefit of all.



**Catharine Toms. Parish Clerk**

My family and I moved to Barkway in 1996, having previously lived in Ware. Our two sons attended Barkway First School and, during that time, I got involved with Friends of Barkway School by fundraising to help the school. I lead a fairly busy life working as a freelance bookkeeper, which I have been doing for the past 16 years. Six years ago I was persuaded to join the Village Hall Committee as Treasurer, a role that I have been doing ever since. It has enabled us to really get involved with village life and, as a result of which, we have also made some very good friends. Very recently I have become the new Parish Clerk, having filled the post temporarily over the past six months. I am looking forward to this new challenge and just hope that I can continue to do the job as well as my predecessor did.

**Please let us know your thoughts on Barkway Bulletin.**

**Tell us what you would like to hear about in coming issues.**

**You can do this by emailing the editor at**

**[gordon.baker@barkway-village.co.uk](mailto:gordon.baker@barkway-village.co.uk)**

**We are always interested in hearing what you have to say.**