

Beenham News - February 2023

The Parishes Magazine will not be published this month, and a few of us decided that it was important to maintain a regular newsletter delivered to everyone in Beenham. Whilst many people get all the news they need from social media or the “school gate”, there are other people who will only find out what is going on by a printed newsletter. You may recall that a few editions were printed during lockdown.

Nothing in Beenham News should be taken as the opinion of the Parish Council.

The Magazine Committee of the Benefice of Aldermaston and Woolhampton said:

“As you are probably aware we have had to cease printing the magazine as we have been unable to obtain sufficient advertising. This is not surprising with the current financial crisis the country is facing.

We do hope to be able to reinstate some form of the paper magazine in the future, but in the meantime we will have an online magazine which can be reached via our website and will be sent out via email. This will cover all church and schools news.”

This month’s edition is a rush job, with no funding! We hope to get more organised next month, and to decide whether it is feasible to continue. We envisage that Beenham News would be up to a maximum of 16 pages, in black and white. It would be funded by advertising and by contributions from councils, local trusts, and individual contributions.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

- **Editor.** This mainly involves chasing people to produce articles.
- **Village Diary.** We will have a diary listing everything that people want listed. This needs somebody to coordinate.
- **Compiler.** Probably somebody with experience of producing reports at work. At the moment it is done on Word, but it could progress to something else.
- **Advertising manager.** Finding local businesses and hoping they will be willing to support us.
- **Finance.** There will be very simple accounts, but somebody has to do it.
- **Writers.** We hope that many people will want to contribute to Beenham News. In addition to reports of activities at the school/preschool/WI/Village Market etc., we hope there will be articles on nature, sport, music in Beenham, reminiscences of life in Beenham, local walks, jokes etc.
- **Distributors.** Thank you to the team that has delivered the magazine for many years, and has agreed to continue with the Beenham News. If you would like to join the team, or be put on the reserve list, then please get in touch.

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM – FEBRUARY 2023

Who said nothing happens in Beenham?

Event/Activity	Date	where	contact
Scottish Country Dancing	Monday evenings 7.30 – 10.00pm	Victory Hall	Katrina:9713331
Art Group	Tuesday mornings 10.00 – 12noon	Victory Hall	Sunny: 9712255
Badminton Club	Tuesday evenings 8 – 9.30pm	School Hall	Ernie: 07954 127 771
Yoga: Unstoppable Rhythms	Tuesdays 6.30pm Thurs 10.15am	Victory Hall	Ben du Bernard: 07763 292 050 unstoppablerythms@gmail.com
Beenham Walking Group	Thursday Feb 9 th Thursday Feb 23 rd	Victory Hall start at 9.30am	John: 9713580
Church working party	Saturday 4 th Feb 10.00 – 12.00	St Mary's Church	Janette:07917 818 283
Monthly Doggy Brunch and walk around Awberry Farm	Saturday 4 th Feb 10.00am – coffee Brunch on return from walk	The Six Bells	Six Bells: 9713368
Family Holy Communion led by Rev Derek Spears	Sunday 5 th Feb 9.15 – 10.15 followed by refreshments	St Mary's Church	Janette:07917 818 283
WI	Wednesday 8 th Feb 7.30pm	Community Hall Speaker for Feb: Makaton sign Language	Margaret:9713944
Quiz night	Thursday 9 th Feb 8pm Teams of up to 6 £3 per person	Six Bells Money raised is split between local charities	Six Bells: 9713368 to book
Village Market	Saturday 11 th Feb 2.00 – 3.30pm	Victory Hall	Claire: 9713574
Repair Shop at the Village Market	Saturday 11 th Feb 2.00 – 3.30pm	Victory Hall	Claire: 9713574
Morning Praise led by Janette Hammond	Sunday 12 th Feb 9.15 – 9.50am refreshments	St Mary's church	Janette:07917 818 283

Beenham Friendship Club for over 55s	Wednesday 15 th Feb 2pm – 4pm	Victory Hall	Marion:9713094 Carolyn:9710164
Film night	Thursday 16 th Feb 7.30pm £4 adult £3 under 18s	Victory Hall “Emily” - Cert 15 - 2022 drama; the imagined life of Emily Bronte	Claire: 9713574
Coffee morning	Friday 17 th Feb 10.30am	Six Bells	Janette:07917 818 283
Live music and Acoustic night	Saturday 18 th Feb 7.30pm	Beenham club	
Holy Communion led by Rev Jane Manley	Sunday 19 th Feb 9.15 – 10.15 followed by refreshments	St Mary’s Church	Janette:07917 818 283
Lee Wallace Memorial Darts Knockout	Saturday 25 th Feb 3pm	Beenham Club The club opens at 1pm	
Live Music Georgie Rose	Saturday 25 th 8pm	The Six Bells Upbeat and pop music	Six Bells: 9713368
Beenham Tearoom	Tuesday 28 th Feb 2pm – 3.30pm	Victory Hall	Dru: 07815 055 040 Pat: 07947 478 840
World Day of Prayer	Friday March 3 rd 2pm	St Mary’s Church	Janette:07917 818 283

FUTURE DATES FOR THE DIARY:

Event/Activity	Date	where
Live Music Ma Bessie	Sat evening, May 6th Coronation Day!	Beenham Club

Coronation of King Charles III – Saturday 6th May 2023

Beenham Village Events is planning to have an event to celebrate the Coronation (sometime over the long weekend).

If anyone or any organisation has anything already planned, would they be willing to share this so we can arrange a table of events.

Please contact Pat Owen 07947478840 patowen0@hotmail.com

WOOLHAMPTON LUNCH CLUB

"Come and join our Lunch Club!"

If you live in the benefice and would like to meet other locals, come and join us on the 4th Wednesday of every month at Woolhampton Village Hall for a 2 course home-cooked meal and friendly chat. We would love to get to know you. Please contact Catharine Deller on 07551 903374 if you would like to find out more."



Wanted! IS THIS YOU?

Community focussed villager, looking to contribute to supporting village life and Historical Community Assets for the benefit of Beenham. Interested in joining the team of Trustees of the Victory Hall Charity, in the voluntary role of Booking Manager and /or Caretaker.

After nearly 12 years of service Nola is retiring for a well-earned rest but will be available to mentor any willing applicant. The applicant needs to be computer literate and have Microsoft 365 compatible Word and Excel software installed on their computer.

If you are interested, or looking for further information, please contact Nola on Tel: 01189714822 or email: nolesandfrank@hotmail.co.uk.

Tim LeBlonde, Chairman, Victory Hall Beenham

WOODLAND REGENERATION- REPLANTING FOR THE FUTURE.



Early winter saw volunteers replanting the area that had been clear felled last August with 240 saplings and young trees transplanted from other areas of Greyfield Wood. The broadleaf species included sweet chestnut, wild cherry, oak and hazel. Over the past ten years we have replanted over half of what was non-native conifer woodland.

Some of the 40cm saplings planted 8~10 years ago are now four metres high, thanks to regular TLC by our volunteer groups. Our long term aim is to replant the conifer plantations with a broadleaf mix and continue to evolve Greyfield Wood for the benefit of wildlife and as a social amenity.

NATURE NOTES

I always enjoyed Stella Nesbit's nature articles in the old church magazine. She could find so many interesting things to say each month. We would love to hear from you about the things you see around Beenham.

This morning there was another beautiful winter sunrise. I don't see the sunrise very often in summer, but at this time of year I can enjoy the scene as it slowly changes from dark to light. The bare trees are silhouetted against the light, and the kites are doing their first graceful circles in search of breakfast.

BEENHAM MEMORIES

There have been some fascinating posts on Facebook, with memories of Beenham from long ago. We would love to hear your stories of life in Beenham in the last century, to see how much has changed and how much is the same.

I am sure many people have memories of the old school, either as a pupil or a parent. I don't think I ever went inside the classrooms, but my memories as a parent are:

- ❖ Running down the lane as we were late for school (again)
- ❖ Being crammed in to the terrapin for a school play in the summer – it was so hot!
- ❖ The PTA saving up for their first BBC computer. This was much more advanced than anything I could afford.

BEENHAM ONLINE www.beenhamonline.org

Beenham Online is the website for Beenham. It has information about the village, and news of recent events. At the moment there are photos of the Advent Windows that brightened the village last month.

On the home page of the website you can sign up to the Email Newsletter. This will send you emails with local news (events, road closures etc) and advance copies of the Parish Council Meeting Notes and this Beenham News.

SPORTS REPORT

We would love to hear about local sports, or local people involved in sports further afield. Maybe your report will get someone interested in trying it.

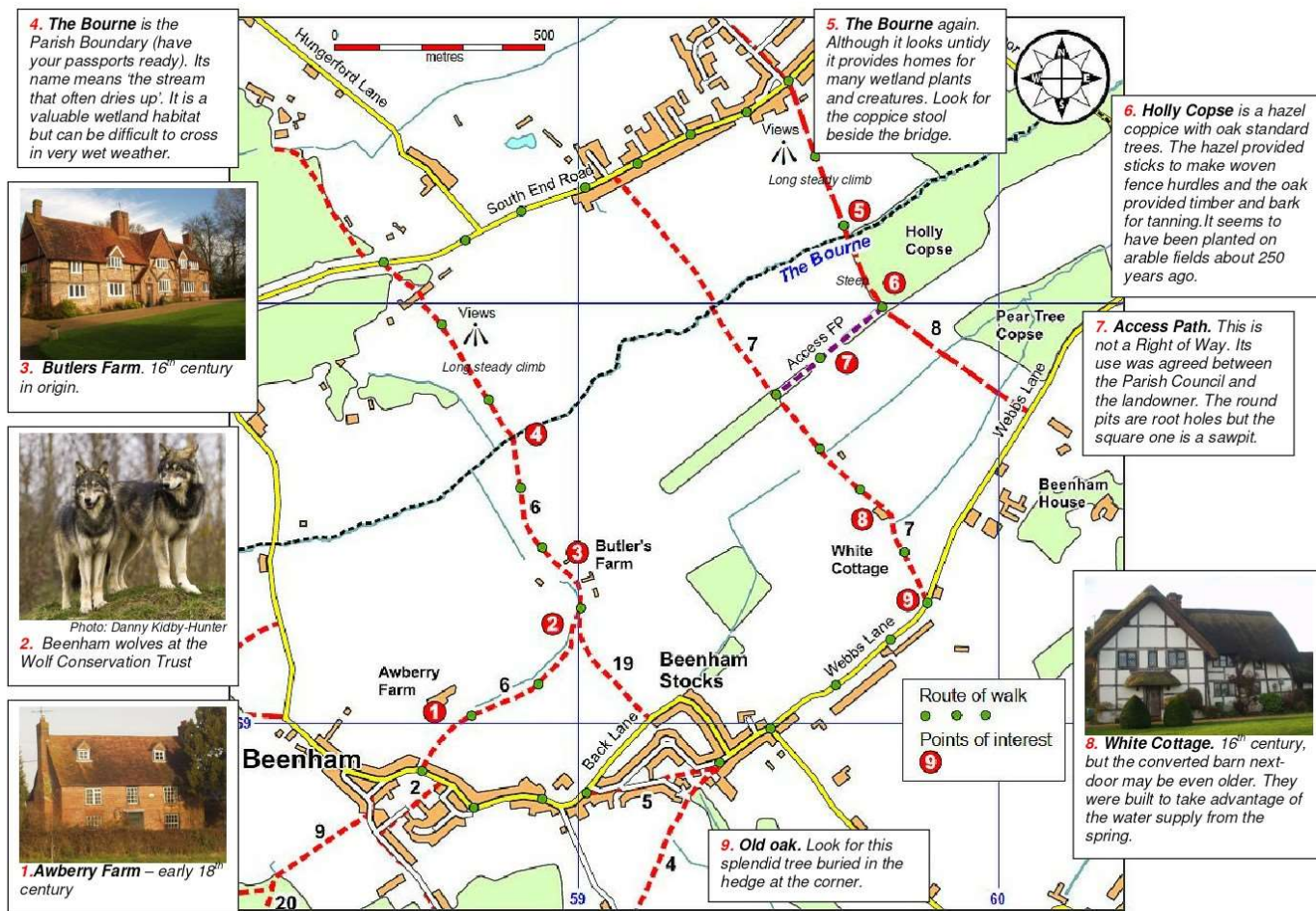
- ❖ All ages – children and adult
- ❖ Football, rugby etc – what goes on at Douai Park?
- ❖ Horse riding, orienteering, park run
- ❖ Badminton, tennis
- ❖ Bridge, whist, bowls – the list goes on!

BEENHAM WALKS

We are lucky to have so many fine walks around Beenham (although many of them are too wet at the moment). Why not tell us about your favourite walk?

There are three pamphlets which describe the footpaths in the Beenham area: Beenham Toddle (a walk around the village); Beenham Stroll (the circular walk to Southend Bradfield); Beenham Paths (the wider area). An extract from Beenham Stroll is reproduced below.

The pamphlets can be downloaded from the Home Page of Beenham Online.



If you have any local news for the next edition please send to

Pat Owen patowen0@hotmail.com

or Peter McEwen p.mcewen@beenham-pc.gov.uk .