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# Villages' News



# Useful Contacts

Non-emergency numbers:

NHS 111

Police 101

Environment Agency hotline (eg for flooding, pollution): 0800 80 70 60

Problems with roads (eg potholes), footpaths etc:

[www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem)

Doctors 'surgeries:

Chapel Row Surgery: 0118 971 3252

Holmwood Surgery: 0118 981 4166

Mobile library: 01635 519827

District Councillors:

Woolhampton/Midgham: Chris Read: 07768 793 155

Aldermaston/Beenham/Brimpton: Dominic Boeck: 07956 546 506

Parish Councils: Clerks' details:

Aldermaston: Des Farndell: [parishclerk@aldermaston.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@aldermaston.co.uk)

Beenham: Lauren West : 07919 916 125

Brimpton: Christine McGarvie: 0118 970 1576

Midgham: Alice Owens: 07896 321 058

Woolhampton: Alice Owens: 07896 321 058

Village Halls:

Aldermaston: [aldermastonparishhall@gmail.com](mailto:aldermastonparishhall@gmail.com)

Beenham: 07793 116 937

Brimpton: 0118 971 3731

Midgham: 07941 093 853

Woolhampton: [bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com](mailto:bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com)

Churches:

Aldermaston & Woolhampton Benefice: [www.awb.org.uk](http://www.awb.org.uk)

For local contacts please see church notice boards

Brimpton Baptist Church: 0118 971 2059

Douai Abbey: 0118 971 5300

Magazine advertising:

Brenda Scott: 0118 971 3113 [mrsbsscott@btinternet.com](mailto:mrsbsscott@btinternet.com)

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Thattham RG19 4QB . Tel: 01635 876498

## Committee Comments

As I write this the sun is shining and, looking around the garden with plants like fuchsia and geraniums in full bloom, you would think that late Summer is still with us. However, the trees in full Autumn colour remind us that the nights are drawing in and that Christmas will be upon us all too rapidly. By the time this edition of the magazine is distributed our gardens will have been “put to bed” for the Winter and we’ll be fully focused on the December festivities.

I’d like to pause for reflect on the achievements of our Villages’ News magazine. It has had its second successful year, and the committee would like to thank everyone for their input over 2024. We have continued to be well supported by many people; from the advertisers and contributors to our printer and the volunteers who distribute the magazine to the deliverers, who pop your magazine through your letter box every month. What a very well organised and thankfully willing team!

We don’t have a magazine in January, so this gives all our hardworking distributors and deliverers a bit of break. The deadline for February’s magazine will be 17<sup>th</sup> January.

FINALLY we would like to wish everyone the VERY best of season’s greetings and a Happy New Year!

### ARTICLES FOR THE MAGAZINE

Please send articles for the magazine to

For the villages of Aldermaston and Wasing

[cathy.jones@ukmessage.com](mailto:cathy.jones@ukmessage.com)

For the village of Brimpton [brimptoncommon@aol.co.uk](mailto:brimptoncommon@aol.co.uk)

For the village of Beenham [patowen0@hotmail.com](mailto:patowen0@hotmail.com)

For the villages of Midgham and Woolhampton

[henderson.sarah.c.@outlook.com](mailto:henderson.sarah.c.@outlook.com)

Please send articles relevant to the all the villages to:

[brimptoncommon@aol.co.uk](mailto:brimptoncommon@aol.co.uk) and [henderson.sarah.c.@outlook.com](mailto:henderson.sarah.c.@outlook.com)

**Please note the deadline for receipt of articles is noon on the 17<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

Advertising enquiries can be sent to [mrsbscott@btinternet.com](mailto:mrsbscott@btinternet.com)

“Articles will be included and/or edited at the Editor’s discretion”

We hope you enjoy reading your magazine.

## Woolhampton News

### WOOLHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL – APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEER TRUSTEES

Following its opening in 2006, The Village Hall has become a thriving centre of our community with a variety of regular group activities and one-off events for all ages. Run by a collection of volunteers, who form the Village Hall Management Committee, additional volunteers are needed to become Village Hall Trustees and protect the longevity of this unique resource for the village.

If you feel you are able to commit to attending 4 evening meetings per year then please contact our Chair of Trustees, Nikki Jordan, for more information at: [npm151924@gmail.com](mailto:npm151924@gmail.com)

### What's on in Woolhampton Village Hall

**Village Hall Market – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month from 10am until 12 noon.**

**Mondays:** Dance Class (Ballroom/Line Dance) – 2pm until 4pm.

Dance Fit with Lorraine – 5.45pm Pilates with Lorraine 6.35pm

**Tuesdays:** Stroke Care – 9am until 3pm

Kool Kids Dance – children's combo dance class at 5pm

Dance Studio Reading – adult beginners Ballroom & Latin at 6pm

Women's Institute – 7.30pm until 9.30pm, every second Tuesday of each month

**Wednesdays :** Lunch Club - 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 12 noon

**Thursdays:** Flexercise – 10am until 12pm

Art Class – 1.30pm until 3.30pm and 7pm until 9pm. Releve Dance – 4pm until 6pm.

**Fridays:** Bowls – 2.30pm until 5pm.

For any further information please visit: [www.woolhamptonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.woolhamptonvillagehall.co.uk)

[Bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com](mailto:Bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com)

### Annual Show 2025

Yes, it's early but here's a quick 'heads up' regarding the date of next year's Annual Village Show which will be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

Categories, classes and format have yet to be decided but almost certainly there will be

- 1) the potato-growing competition, and
- 2) the Woolhampton Village Sunflower competition.

The ever-popular potato-growing competition is fun and open to all, you do not have to have a garden, just a large (-ish) container, bag or pot.

The Sunflower Competition seems to have become a feature and will be held again, open to everyone.

More details on both competitions in the February magazine (as there is no magazine in January).



**St Peter's Church, Woolhampton**  
**3.00 p.m. Christmas Eve**  
**Crib Service**



**Please come and help act out the Christmas Story dressed as angels, shepherds, kings or anything you think will help us tell the story – or borrow our costumes.**

**We will sing well known carols as the story is told, and the service will last no longer than 45 minutes.**

**Everyone is welcome!**

**For further details contact Rev'd Jane**

**on 0118 9712 891**

**NATURE NOTES**

The evenings are getting colder and, as I write, there is a hint of snow for next week. I wonder! It does mean that now is the time to take note of the water birds on our local lakes. There will be the usuals of course but keep an eye out for anything unusual passing through, such as pochards, tufted ducks and scaups. And there will usually be grebes and dabchicks. Take your book with you. On land we must watch out for redwings and fieldfares; these will certainly enjoy apples if you have any to spare. Midgham, in recent years, has enjoyed visiting waxwings. If you don't go bird-watching, you can still enjoy the birds on your feeders. You may see a rare one. Our local retired gamekeeper has reported that on one of his walks with his terrier, at 3am(!) a badger appeared and began to play with the dog! They are usually arch enemies. And don't forget to collect your holly early. We may get cold weather.

*Stella Nesbit*

## **Village Market**

It's here, the BIG ONE! The Christmas Market will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 10a.m. to 12noon in the Village Hall. (Might Santa be prepared to call in to wish everyone a Merry Christmas? Of course he will!!)



Our regular stallholders will be able to offer a great variety of perhaps unusual Christmas presents, particularly in jewellery, soft furnishings, and so forth. Come along to see just what is available.

There will also be 2 FREE raffle draws so make sure that you collect your raffle ticket as you enter the Hall to join in the fun.

All visitors are welcome to this monthly community event – no entrance fee, refreshments (including hot bacon rolls) are available. Look forward to seeing you.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas, Best Wishes for the New Year and thank you for your support Please note that there is no Market in January, the next one being on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025.

## **District Councillor's Surgery in Woolhampton Village Hall**

After holding successful surgeries on the last Saturday of the month during the past year (the last one being 30<sup>th</sup> November), our District Councillor, Mr Chris Read, intends to continue with them during 2025, starting on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January from 9 to 11a.m. Thereafter on the last Saturday of each month at the same time. He welcomes interaction from local residents about issues of concern for our environment.

## **Recycling**

It will greatly help our wonderful school's funds if you would consider the following recyclable items:

a) Empty ink cartridges

Please note that the Woolhampton Village School can now accept empty ink cartridges to recycle. If you have any to dispose of, please bring them the Market and we will arrange for them to get to the school.

b) Fabrics

There are also recycling bins in the School playground for clean fabric, clothing, paired shoes, handbags, etc., but unfortunately NOT bedding (e.g. pillows, duvets, etc.).

If you are unable to get to the School, then please bag up your donation and bring it along to the monthly Village market held in the Village Hall.

## **Stamps and Milk Carton Tops**

Please note that, with Christmas post nearing, used stamps will be welcomed by the ladies supporting the Air Ambulance. These dedicated ladies are regular attendees at the monthly Village Market.

Milk carton tops are happily taken by Hazel (bird-food stall at the market) to be recycled.

## Woolhampton School

We're fully immersed in Autumn now, and it's been an exciting time with a variety of activities for the children. We've had cross-country events, forest school sessions, our Remembrance Service, trips to Elstree for Design and Technology, and, of course, our fantastic Firework Event fundraiser! The Friends of Woolhampton School (FOWS) did an outstanding job of bringing the local community together with our second firework display, held on Saturday, 6th November, at Padworth Village Hall. It was truly a community event, with Primary Schools from Mortimer and Aldermaston joining us to support the fundraising efforts. We had fairground rides, a hook-a-duck game, a variety of food vans, and plenty of fun light-up novelties to enjoy. We were overwhelmed by the turnout, with attendees coming from as far as Woking after seeing the event advertised online! A huge thank you to our sponsors Bradfield College, Lex Marquees, Chancellors Estate Agents, Berkshire Print Store, Veolia & Glendoning Signs — this event wouldn't have been possible without you.



Over 20 volunteers from our school, along with others from Aldermaston and Mortimer, came together to make the event a true team effort. However, as we all know, such events don't just come together on the night—they require months of planning and hard work. We are incredibly fortunate to have an exceptional team leading the charge, with Laura as Chair, Jenette as Co-Chair, and Jen as Treasurer, all of whom dedicated a tremendous amount of time and effort to ensure the event was a huge success. As we write this article, we are still finalizing the total amount raised, but we are

confident that it will make a significant contribution to our fundraising efforts for the revamp of our playground. Our goal is to create a playground that maximizes every available space, providing our children with an enriching outdoor environment where they can thrive and fully engage with their play. We're already looking forward to next year's event on Saturday 8th November 2025 so be sure to pop the date in your diary and come and join us!



## Aldermaston News

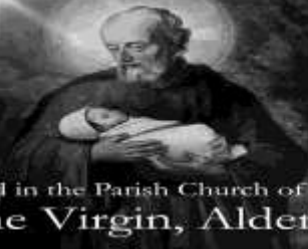
### 1<sup>st</sup> ALDERMASTON SCOUT GROUP

1st Aldermaston Scout group were well represented in the Remembrance Sunday Service at St Mary's and all those who took part showcased our group incredibly. Thank you!



We are also fortunate enough to have been selected as one of the chosen groups for the Co-op's community funding, to raise much needed funds for more exciting opportunities for our young people. We want to replace aging equipment and build a new HQ. Our group provides skills for life for the young people of Aldermaston, Padworth and surrounding areas. More information and ways to support our fundraising can be found here— <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/88771?otlSelected=true> If you are interested in finding out more about our various groups, please email [grouplead@aldermastonscouts.org.uk](mailto:grouplead@aldermastonscouts.org.uk)

## The 68th year of the *York Nativity Play*



Held in the Parish Church of  
St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 8:00pm

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 8:00pm

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 7:00pm

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 7:00pm

### For free tickets

Online at [www.aldermastonnativity.co.uk](http://www.aldermastonnativity.co.uk)  
Email at [tickets@aldermastonnativity.co.uk](mailto:tickets@aldermastonnativity.co.uk)  
Or send an S.A.E to



York Nativity Play, Church Lodge, Aldermaston, Berks RG7 4LT



## ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term, our value for Collective Worship is 'Courage' and we are exploring what this means, through bible stories, current events and wider school life. In every class, children are trying to follow the example of our Thinker Learning Hero who solves problems by using a creative and imaginative approach.

The theme of anti-bullying week is 'Choose Respect'. It focuses on the power we all have as individuals (children and adults) to make positive choices to help others and prevent, address and resolve bullying situations through respectful and kind behaviour. A key theme is children asking the adults in their lives to lead by example, both online and offline. As always, we are committed to taking part in this annual event. It allows us to revisit our school definition of bullying and ensure children know how to get help if they witness or are subject to bullying behaviour. Our approach to bullying is linked to our expectations that everyone in the school should feel safe, happy and able to learn. Bullying is a type of anti-social behaviour which is repetitive, intentional and involves an imbalance of power. We want every child to be able to tell a trusted adult if they come across this type of behaviour. The School Council has some work planned around this topic. We will also be talking to all children about having courage to stop bullying in a whole school collective worship as well as finding out what learning they have completed in class to help keep everyone safe.

We marked Remembrance in school with a Collective Worship during which a minute's silence was held. On Armistice Day our Year 6 children visited the Lychgate at St. Mary's Church (Aldermaston's War Memorial) and laid a wreath from each class, made in school, to mark the 11am silence and pay their respects. The names of the Fallen were read out. Poppies and other merchandise have been available in school for the children and adults to buy and a good amount has been raised for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

The PTA's disco was a great success, and we also enjoyed the Fireworks event, where we joined with other local schools, led by Woolhampton Primary School's PTA.

This is the last Villages' News magazine of the year so I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year, from all of us at the Primary School.

*Cathy Jones,*



## St Mary's Aldermaston

**CRIB SERVICE at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve**

Everyone is welcome!

For further details contact Rev'd Jane  
on 0118 9712 891

### Aldermaston Allotments


In the New Year we should have allotments for rent. If interested please phone 0118 971 2803, we have an answerphone.

### THE ALDERMASTON CHARITY

A local Charity that manages four Alms Houses and provides relief for residents in need of the Parish of Aldermaston.


Would you be interested in part-time employment as the Clerk to the Charity, responsible for supporting the Trustees and some property management. Working hours would need to be flexible for approx. 10 hours per month at £15 per hour. A high level of confidentiality would be required. The successful candidate will need their own computer and appropriate skills and access to their own transport. The closing date for applications has been extended to: 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

For further information please contact: Angela Boott: [ange@kennetonline.co.uk](mailto:ange@kennetonline.co.uk) or Cynthia Newman: [cmnewman2021@outlook.com](mailto:cmnewman2021@outlook.com)



**ALDERMASTON HISTORY GROUP**

*proud to have created and maintain  
Aldermaston History Online  
<https://aldermastonhistory.uk>*



**NEXT MEETING**

**Weds 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 , 7:30pm**

**Officer's Mess, The Hinds Head**

talk

**“GWR - Kennet Valley Railway History”**

**By Dr Richard Marks**

*Free to members , non members £5*

For more information on Aldermaston History Group Membership visit: <https://group.aldermastonhistory.uk>

Aldermaston Toddler Group  
Tuesdays 9.30 to 11  
term time only  
Aldermaston Parish Hall



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Aldermaston Toddler group is looking for volunteers to continue running the play group.

No special experience is needed—just a bit of time, enthusiasm, and a love for creating fun, welcoming spaces for little ones and their families. If you're interested or know someone who might be, please reach out



[Aldermastontoddlergroup@gmail.com](mailto:Aldermastontoddlergroup@gmail.com)

## Aldermaston Parish Council –12<sup>th</sup> November 2024

There were several representations in Open Forum.

The meeting began with an update on the Manor House situation by Cllr Revd Jane Manley. As you are probably aware, Praxis have recently closed our access following a serious Security issue. Jane has reestablished the car parking access for the Church, but Praxis are holding firm on their ban of access on foot. We are well aware of the 20 years rule (whereby we don't qualify for Right of Way access by virtue of Praxis using a Grant of Access) but nevertheless the Parish Council will write asking for access to be restored to Villagers.

Perhaps because of this, Jane mentioned her intention to resign from the Parish Council quoting pressure of work. The chairman thanked Jane for her wise counsel during the 5 years she was in office and announced the vacancy would be posted on the Noticeboards, **so if you wish to join this worthwhile organisation you know what to do!**

Our support was requested by the lease-holders of the 4x4 site on Paice's Hill, who were trying to evict a tenant (the lease had several years to run). Later in the meeting we decided not to offer our support, as we didn't want to get involved in such disputes, and neither party was offering our preferred solution, which was to restore the woodland to its original purpose (ie the home of ancient trees)

We were joined by a representative of Sascron, who explained their reasons why they had to build their unauthorised building, and hoped that APC would look favourably at their retrospective planning application. Although he had great admiration for the police, he was disappointed at their apparent unwillingness to visit the site, which he put down to lack of resources. Several members of APC reminded him of the importance of reporting of all incidents to the police, so that they recognise their problem areas.

Lastly in Open Forum we were faced with a proposal to reduce the speed limit on local roads from 30mph to 20mph. We doubted whether this could be applied to the A.340, though WBC claimed there was majority support from local residents for the initiative. We will step up our speed camera work to find out whether motorists observe the current speed limits

On planning, we agreed not to Object to i) a replacement dwelling at Strawberry Farm, Burghfield Road and ii) demolition work at AWE. We will, however, Object to a significant development of apartments at Silchester Road, Tadley on the grounds of DEPZ. In the last month, WBC have Approved improved facilities at Falcon Garage, but have Refused additional caravans at Four Acre Farm.

We agreed a £500 library contribution. Any thoughts on how to spend our £50k CIL money?

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th December at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. As usual, your presence is welcomed!

For full information on Parish Council matters, please visit our (new) website at [www.aldermaston.co.uk](http://www.aldermaston.co.uk) Dave Shirt tel. 0118 971 2549

## Beenham News

### Beenham Primary School

It is hard to believe that the autumn term has nearly drawn to its conclusion. Since September, life at Beenham Primary School has been action-packed and it has been incredible to see how well the school has settled back into routine. From the start of the school year, we have worked hard as a staff team to secure our *Beenham Way* of being kind, safe and proud in everything that we do. The autumn term has particularly focussed on kindness and we have enjoyed putting our words into actions by building bird, bug and mouse houses for the local environment, inviting the community to a 'Kindness Tea Party' and sharing what makes everyone special during our 'positive noticing day'.

In the classrooms, the children have enjoyed studying their topics of *Me and My Community*, *Through the Ages* and *Dynamic Dynasties*. These engaging topics have encouraged the children and staff to get creative and develop new knowledge and skills. In Tala Class, our lovely new phonics scheme has meant that the children are all making progress with their reading and writing and they are embedding a love of learning in their play-based 'Busy Room'.

Beyond the classroom, the children have participated in many other learning experiences. We have been very happy to re-introduce swimming lessons at Bradfield College for Torak and Tundra Classes, and Tala are looking forward to their sessions in the summer term. In November, we welcomed Small Fire, Big Adventure back to our school to deliver bushcraft sessions for all the children. As well as this, the teaching team participated in an outdoor learning training session from Learning Through Landscapes, with the plan to include curriculum-based, purposeful outdoor learning at least twice a term for every class from January.

Looking ahead, we are excited to perform our Christmas production, *The Fleece Force*, on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December. The run up to Christmas is always a magical time in primary school and we have lots to look forward to over the coming weeks.

We are still welcoming visits to our school for families looking for places for their children for September 2025 – please do contact the school office to book a tour before the application deadline on 15<sup>th</sup> January.

We hope you all have a very merry Christmas, and a peaceful and happy new year!

## **Notes from Beenham Parish Council Meeting: Monday November 4th**

Stall holders for the Monthly Market will be asked to park in the school car park after unloading.

The footpath near The Strouds is in poor condition. WBC Streetcare to be contacted.

The Six Bells is under new management and it was important for the Community to support it.

Land near Cod's Hill is used to store many commercial vehicles. PC to contact WBC Planning.

Clay Lane, Bath Rd to Hall Place Farm is flooded and impassable on foot. PC to contact WBC Footpaths.

### **Councillors**

About 50 people attended Affordable Housing parishioner meeting following the recent survey. Results illustrate a definite need. Points raised were the insecure rental housing, limited opportunities to downsize and the School needing to attract more children. Maps of Beenham were annotated by attendees with preferred, potential sites. After full analysis of these preferences, the PC may begin to approach the landowners of those sites.

Parking on the pavements around Back Lane and Mallard Way, Aldermaston Wharf. PCSO will visit to see the extent of the problem that pedestrians are encountering.

The changes to the bus services were discussed - see separate article. District Councillor to take up issues with WBC.

A 20mph speed limit in the vicinity of the school was discussed. The PC would like to hear parishioners' views. Comments may be sent to the PC Clerk on the email address below.

### **Planning Matters**

-24/02020/FUL : A4 Metal Recycling Grange Lane. Erection of replacement buildings and storage of skips. The PC objects and has drafted a full objection document to submit to WBC. District Counsellor to take up matter with WBC.

-Reduced size Grundon Solar Farm: It remains within the AONB and there are concerns should it expand. The PC will not object but will express these concerns. District Counsellor to take to WBC.

### **Parish Council Assets**

WiFi use by private hirers of the Community Room and School Hall was considered. Two sets of passwords to be established. One for PC the other for hirers with conditions of use.

### **Other Matters**

Once per year WBC provides a budget of up to £5000 to District Councillors for capital projects that deliver the Council Strategy Priorities. This is known as the Member Bidding Process. It opened on November 1st and closes next Spring. Parishioners may submit their requests for consideration by the District Councillor. Please submit these to the PC Clerk on the email address.

### **And finally...**

It is with great sadness that Graham Bowsher advised everyone of the passing of Winston.

The White Park Steer who had become a mascot of Beenham was loved by so many parishioners. RIP Winston.



Next PC meeting will be on Mon Dec 2nd at 7.00pm in the Community Room.

Full details of the Councillors (including email addresses) are on the website at [beenham-pc.gov.uk/councillors/](http://beenham-pc.gov.uk/councillors/). Email for Clerk: [clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk)

**Beenham Village Market** is next taking place on Saturday December 14th from 2pm to 3.30pm. The number of stalls is increasing all the time and it's well worth your time to drop in and browse. Need some last minute stocking fillers? Or a lovely coat for the colder weather? Or some delicious meat from our local herd? You can buy cards, gift bags, candles, jewellery, and so much more. Or pop in for a cuppa and a piece of home made cake! Or bring your items for repair, whether it's a broken vacuum cleaner or a ripped jacket...The market raises funds to support the Village Hall.

Markets take place on the second Saturday of each month. If you are interested in having a stall, please contact Sally Pellow on 0777 625 1228 or [mrssallypellow@gmail.com](mailto:mrssallypellow@gmail.com).

**Beenham WI** enjoyed a speaker on the History of the Quiz Show this month, and were greatly amused. Our next two meetings are for members only: we have our Christmas meeting on 11 December, and then on 8 January we discuss the proposals for the WI national campaign for 2025/6. Our next open meeting is on 12 February when our speaker will be talking about Uzbekistan. Visitors are welcome to that meeting for a contribution of £4 towards running costs.

We are planning a crafting meeting in January where we will be making items for donation to the Royal Berkshire Hospital: we will be making a number of items that the hospital has requested, both sewn and knitted or crocheted. We'd love others to join us: please watch the village Facebook pages for more information as it becomes available, or contact us on the details below.

Beenham WI is part of the national organisation of Women's Institutes, which has a long and successful history of campaigning on matters of national interest to women. This year's national campaign is aimed at improving the provision of NHS based dental care across the country, specifically addressing the chronic shortage of NHS dentists. The WI also provides free online learning to its members ranging from crafts to history to computer literacy courses, and, at regional and local level, offers a variety of activities and groups for entertainment, friendship and inspiration. If you would like to know more about Beenham WI, please contact Sally Pellow on 0777 625 1228 or [mrssallypellow@gmail.com](mailto:mrssallypellow@gmail.com).

### **UNDER 8s FOOTBALL IN BEENHAM**

Little Feat are moving to Beenham School Hall for the winter indoor season. Little Feat is a professional football coaching company offering enjoyable and interactive group coaching sessions for 3-7 year olds in West Berks. Little Feat is in partnership with Reading YMCA FC and offers a natural pathway through to youth football.

There are two sessions on Saturday mornings 9-11am. Come and see if you are interested, or look at their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/littlefeatltd](https://www.facebook.com/littlefeatltd)

## **BUS SERVICES TO BEENHAM (AND OTHER VILLAGES)**

The 41 and 44 bus services to Thatcham were abruptly suspended at the beginning of November. In their place is an on-demand service to Thatcham, together with a small number of timetabled services. The on-demand service (called Community Connect) is a pre-bookable, on-demand service that operates from 9am to 2.24pm, Monday to Friday. Full details can be found at [www.westberks.gov.uk/communityconnect](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/communityconnect). Bookings can be made through an App on a smartphone, or by phoning 01635 519650 (10am to 2pm). I suggest you use the helpful phone line at first, as it does seem complicated until you get used to it.

The scheduled services for Beenham include one afternoon bus from Thatcham Monday – Friday, and a return service to Thatcham via Aldermaston and Brimpton on Thursday only. A useful addition is a mid-morning shopper service on Monday and Wednesday to Sainsburys Calcot, giving 1.5 hours at Calcot. The bus goes Thatcham – Brimpton – Aldermaston – Beenham – Bradfield- Theale – Calcot.

Don't forget the Friday Carebus service to Newbury. This picks up at Theale, Beenham, Stanford Dingley, Chapel Row and Upper Bucklebury between 9 and 10am, and returns at lunchtime. It can take you to West Berks Hospital, Newbury Parkway and Newbury Retail Park. Places must be booked on the Thursday before 6pm by phoning 0118 9304837.

## **BEENHAM PRE-SCHOOL**

Well, the excitement of Christmas is upon us for sure as we rehearse our Nativity Play and begin to think about all the things which always accompany this special time of year. Rehearsals are going well with some of the older children learning their lines and all of us learning to sing and Makaton sign our Nativity songs. We are so proud that even our very youngest children, at only just two years of age, are able to take part and enjoy themselves.

We have had lots of excitement this term with visits from the West Berkshire Library Van, a Bushcraft session provided by Beenham Primary School (many thanks to them for offering that opportunity) and visits from Pop Up Play Village and Outdoor Explorers. Some of the children from the Primary School visited us to share some stories which they had written and illustrated themselves.

Our role play areas this term have varied from the very familiar such as kitchens and “classrooms” and “baby rooms” to those which require a little more imagination (such as caves) and some which are just downright noisy (like our Performance Stage). Our learning at Pre-School is play-based and we are lucky to have our large garden and wide range of resources which we can use to follow the children's interests and extend their learning.

We would like to wish all our families, staff, committee and friends in Beenham and the local villages a very happy festive season and a good start to 2025.

Paula Read (Beenham Pre-School Manager) Telephone: 07793 116937

Email: [info@beenhampreschool.org](mailto:info@beenhampreschool.org)

## BELLE CANTO TRIO

*Helen Marlow, Heather Sims and Gabriele McKeown*



*Come and enjoy our Christmas concert*

### **“Christmas Cheer”**

**at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024**  
**St Mary's Church, Beenham RG7 5NN**

*Tickets £12.50 from*

*janette@janettehamond.co.uk or patowen0@hotmail.com*

*or on the door*

*to include mulled wine and mince pies at the interval*

*Proceeds to St Mary's Church Renovation Project*

#### **ENCHANTING SINGING FOR EVERY OCCASION**

*Public and private events, fund-raising concerts, wedding receptions and church services.  
Our extensive repertoire showcases spirituals, songs, hymns,  
party-songs, music hall and more*

#### **TAILORED PROGRAMMES TO SUIT YOUR EVENT**

*For more information please see [facebook.com/bellecantotrio](https://www.facebook.com/bellecantotrio)  
or contact us on [janette@janettehamond.co.uk](mailto:janette@janettehamond.co.uk) or 0777 471 4834*

## Greyfield Wood

Hello from Greyfield Wood!

Well, despite all being ready for the major felling that should have been completed by now, I regret to say that the weather got the better of us!

With the significant rainfall in October the ground has been just too wet to bring in heavy duty felling equipment. With the water table being so high at present, even with a few weeks of dryish weather, it looks unlikely that we will get the felling done this year.

However, there is always much to do in Greyfield Wood.



We have now completed the felling in Upper Withy Copse and you will see that the loading area is beginning to fill with extracted 2.5m lengths of logs, that will eventually be sold on in bulk, 25 tons of it!

You will also notice that we have, regretfully, had to close some permissive paths in the Withy Copse and lower stream area due to danger of falling trees; diseased with Ash dieback. We know this will affect the paths some of you walk, but it is for all of our safety....

By the time you read this, the Christmas tree will have been felled and erected in its usual position near the School and our thoughts will be on festive preparations.

The directors of Beenham Wood CIC would like to thank all volunteers and those of you who enjoy and support the wood and wish you a safe, peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Although there is no Villages' News in January, I will continue to post updates on the Beenham Village and Community Facebook pages.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the wood, or our work, please feel free to speak with myself or any of the other directors.

In the meantime, please continue to enjoy our woodland.

John Hammond

[john@meadvale-bays.com](mailto:john@meadvale-bays.com)

07818 400440



## BEENHAM VILLAGE EVENTS

The beautiful **BEENHAM 2025 CALENDARS** will be on sale at the Christmas Market on December 14th. We have sold over half already so make sure you come along and purchase yours.

They're £5 each and if you would like to pre-order/order one, please call Janette (07917818283) or Pat (07947478840)

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 1st

**4pm** Christingle in St Mary's – please get there early to be certain of a seat.

**5pm** Beenham tree lighting outside the school.

Followed by the traditional village mulled wine and mince pies in the Community Hall, with The **DO COME AND PLAY ORCHESTRA**

(**Da Capo**) playing carols. **From 6pm** Supper at the Six Bells!



**IF ANYONE IS WILLING TO DONATE/MAKE MINCE PIES FOR THE TREE LIGHTING EVENT PLEASE LET ME KNOW OR LEAVE THEM IN THE BOX IN NOLA'S PORCH AT FERNWOOD OPPOSITE THE SCHOOL FROM NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>. MANY THANKS**



### MONDAY DECEMBER 16th

**Father Christmas will be visiting Beenham again this year!**

He will be stopping at:

**5.00pm: The Six Bells    5.30pm: The Strouds    5.45pm: Stoneyfield – 2 stops**

**6.00pm: The Warings    6.15pm: Back Lane**

**Father Christmas would love to receive any Christmas letters to make sure he has everything in order for the big day so come out and see him J**

**TO VOLUNTEER to help at any of these events please contact: [patowen0@hotmail.com](mailto:patowen0@hotmail.com) 07947478840**



## Beenham Primary School Christmas Fayre

Friday 6th December, 5-7pm

We are delighted to be holding our Christmas Fayre again this year, with a selection of stalls providing unique gifts and treats, plus raffles with prizes to be won, and festive refreshments available.

The children won't want to miss catching up with our extra special guest to make sure he knows exactly what they are wishing for on the big day!

Please join us to enjoy the community spirit and get in the festive mood.

If you are interested in having a stall at the event, please contact [chairbeenham@hotmail.com](mailto:chairbeenham@hotmail.com) for further details.



## DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM – DECEMBER 2024

Date	Event	where	contact
<b>Tuesdays</b>	Art Group 10am-12pm	Victory Hall	Sunny: 9712255
<b>Tuesdays</b>	Badminton Club 8pm – 9.30pm	School Hall	Ernie: 07954 127 771
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	4pm Christingle	St Mary's	Janette:07917818283
	5pm Tree Lighting	Church	Pat 07947 478 840
	Mulled wine, mince pies, carol singing	Outside school Community Hall	
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Parish Council Meeting 7pm	Community Rm	
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	Bel Canto Trio, "Christmas Cheer" concert 6.30pm	St Mary's Church	Janette:07917818283 Pat: 07947 478 840
Thu 5 <sup>th</sup>	Beenham Walkers: walk to Englefield, back along Canal.	Victory Hall meet at 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	School Christmas Fair 5 – 7pm	School	01189713397
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	Church Working Party. All help is most welcome	St Mary's Church 10am	Janette:07917818 283
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	Ma Bessie's Christmas Prohibition Party - £10 entry	Beenham Club 7.30pm	Committee@beenhamclub.co.uk
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	Dress rehearsal for School Play. Villagers very welcome: 1.30pm	School Hall	01189713397 for tickets
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	WI – 7.30pm members only this month	Community Rm	Sally:07776251228
Thu 12 <sup>th</sup>	Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6 - £3/person	Six Bells	9713368 to book
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	Calleva Stick Dressers 9am–2pm	Victory Hall	David:07864 180 648
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	Village Market and repair shop 2-3.30pm	Victory Hall	01183430548
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Rock n Roll Bingo 7pm £10	Beenham Club	Committee@beenhamclub.co.uk
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>	Father Christmas visits the Village	Stops on posters	Pat: 07947 478 840
Tue 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CHRISTMAS</b> Tearoom 2pm – 3.30pm	Victory Hall	Dru:07815 055 040 Pat:07947 478 840
Thu 19 <sup>th</sup>	Beenham Walkers: car share to Yattenden, walk calling at the Pantry for a Christmas Treat!	Victory Hall meet at 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	Live Music and Acoustic Night 7.30pm	Beenham Club	9713991
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Carols by Candlelight 4pm	St Mary's	Janette:07917818283
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>		
Thu 26 <sup>th</sup>	John Larkcom Memorial Darts KO 1pm	Beenham club	Committee@beenhamclub.co.uk

If you would like to add anything to the village diary, please contact [patowen0@hotmail.com](mailto:patowen0@hotmail.com) or 07947478840

## Brimpton News

Rosemarie Thomas (Snelling) a resident of Brimpton for over 36 years sadly passed away at Bartlett's Residential Care Home, Stone, Aylesbury on 30th October 2024, aged 84. Rosemarie's much loved and cherished 4 children were by her side. Rosemarie was an involved and popular resident of the parish, a member for the parish council for 42 years, and a good friend and neighbour to many in Aldermaston, Wasing, Brimpton and beyond. Rosemarie, formerly the Appeals Secretary for the Douglas Bader Foundation, led an interesting and fun life, with community at the heart of all she did, raising her 4 children alone, and volunteering much of her spare time to good causes and to others. Rosemarie the Mother, was an inspiration, who will be deeply missed by her children, and forever fondly loved and remembered.



### Brimpton Church

## CAROL SERVICE



**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6pm**

**followed by mince pies and mulled wine**



*Offers of help  
gratefully received*

*Patricia Brims 0118 9714065*

[pcbrims@hotmail.com](mailto:pcbrims@hotmail.com)

*Brenda Scott 0118 9713113*

[mrsbscott@btinternet.com](mailto:mrsbscott@btinternet.com)

**Please join our informal**

***Choir from Scratch***

*Sue Moore 07801 720824,*

[susanmoore50@hotmail.com](mailto:susanmoore50@hotmail.com)



**One practice – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 9.30 am**

**All ages and all voices welcome**

## **Brimpton Parish Council**

### **Roads**

- The road sign at the crossroads of the B3051 and Brimpton Lane has been knocked over and damaged. We have reported this to West Berkshire Council.
- The litter along Brimpton Lane, where it is too dangerous for residents to collect, has been reported to West Berkshire Council. The wall surrounding the War Memorial has been damaged by a car reversing into it. We will arrange a repair.

### **Planning & Development**

- We had no objection to an application from Rose Cottage, 18 Brimpton Common, The company operating the Kennetholme Quarry has asked for a variation to its existing planning permission. Concern was raised that the deadline for completion of the work is being extended for another year, we decided not to object.

### **Brimpton Common Planning Enforcement Issues**

- The application on Plot E for a change to equestrian use has been refused. In advance of the Twin Paddocks Appeal Hearing, a Case Management Conference took place on 25<sup>th</sup> October. The Hearing will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Draft Waste Management Strategy Consultation**

- West Berkshire Council is proposing to reduce the general waste (black bin) collection frequency to 3 weekly. We are concerned about overflowing rubbish bins and an increase in fly tipping and so agreed to object to this proposal.
- West Berkshire Council is also reviewing household waste containers. We are concerned that any change to household waste containers needs to consider that in rural areas it might not be easy to move containers from the home to the collection point. There will be an increase in the types of material that can be recycled to include foil, plastic film and cartons. WBC may also introduce a service to collect small electrical items for recycling. Because of central government policy the former is inevitable and we welcomed the latter.

### **Budget 2025/26**

We discussed the draft budget for the next financial year. The main focus of the discussion was an offer of “additional services” that West Berkshire Council has suggested the Parish Council may like to purchase. Before reaching a final decision on whether we want to pay for additional gulley cleansing and ditch clearing, we will ask West Berkshire Council how often it currently cleans the gulleys at Able Bridge, which is the main trouble spot in the parish.

The Parish Council will meet again on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The agenda will include a presentation on the structural problems affecting the spire of St Peter's Church and the financial implications of repairing this iconic local landmark. You can receive Parish Council news and more about local events if you receive by email the Parish Update. If you would like to do so, please let me know at [jhicks@brimpton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:jhicks@brimpton-pc.gov.uk) .



**COFFEE MORNING**  
**(SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH)**  
**IN BRIMPTON CHURCH**  
**DROP IN ANY TIME BETWEEN 10:00 am-11:30 am**  
**WEDNESDAY, 11 DECEMBER**  
**WEDNESDAY, 8 JANUARY 2025**  
**12 FEBRUARY 2025 12 MARCH 2025**  
**Everyone (including dogs) welcome**



### **Bonfire at Brimpton Baptist Church - 2nd November, 2024**

When I was growing up, Bonfire Night was synonymous with homemade effigies (“Penny for the Guy”) and slightly damp rockets and Catherine Wheels fizzing in a back garden. There would be sparklers and if you were really good and your name was short enough, you might just avoid burning your fingers before the final letter was spelled out in front of you. Towns would hold municipal displays where you could have your toes trampled and develop neck-ache from looking upwards at the colours flashing in the sky, but apart from being wowed in the short term by what I saw and heard, I never felt particularly enriched by the experience. Not once did I walk away having been given something to think about.

The first time this actually happened was recently and in Brimpton! Thanks to the good people of Brimpton Baptist Church and in particular, Deacons Natalio Ortiz and Robert Marsh, I now see Bonfire Night celebrations as a time to give thanks for many things, starting with the fact that the failure of the Gunpowder Plot meant the survival of King James I. As we know, he went on to commission the translation of the bible into English - a version which became the standard in the Church of England until the 20th Century. The King James Bible went on to inspire poets, artists and composer/musicians down the centuries, including Handel and Elgar. Without the failure of the Gunpowder Plot, we might not have Handel’s ‘Messiah’ - what a thought.

The evening itself was wonderful. We were made to feel incredibly welcome and the love and care of the church family was evident in both word and deed. We were offered hot drinks by smiling teenagers and feasted on chilli con carne made for the congregation’s annual chilli competition. Brimpton’s own John Dolphin was on the judging panel which saw the top three chefs coming from three generations of the congregation: a grand-father winning first place, a mum winning second and a brother and sister of young but indeterminate age taking third. The food was great, the company was friendly, the fireworks were spectacular and the bonfire blazed - the whole event was fabulous. Thank you, Brimpton Baptists for inviting the village to your bonfire - those of us who were able to attend, loved it and I for one found myself enriched.

## BRIMPTON WI NEWS

In our programme November's entry succinctly stated "Newbury Soup Kitchen". Hidden behind these simple words, was the story of a mother and her family's concern for the homeless and destitute, living in our local town. In 2017, home-made hot soup was served from the boot of a car to those found sleeping rough.



It has now grown into a volunteer organisation using premises equipped for cooking and serving hot meals. Our Speaker Meryl Praill and her family have built up an organisation dedicated to helping those who have fallen on very hard times.

Today's organisation has grown following the realisation of the needs of the homeless. It no longer just serves food, but also acts as a catalyst towards helping people to help themselves to improve their lives. Isolation and homelessness can adversely affect mental health and physical wellbeing. Having the opportunity to be in contact with non-judgemental people to whom they can talk is a start. Offers of outreach services such as hair cutting (by a local hairdresser) vouchers issued for clothes washing at a local laundrette, and special opening times for free use of the showers at the Northcroft Centre help improve their self-worth.

When homeless, many 'normal' life opportunities can be denied because a fixed address and a bank account are required to undertake paid work, or to see a GP. The Soup Kitchen has helped obtain free Vet services via the Dogs' Trust.

They have contacts with major supermarkets, who donate frozen meats, fish, bakery products, fruit and vegetables. Donations of food with a longer shelf life are distributed to those who have the facilities to prepare their own meals. Fundraising efforts by local volunteers bring donations from across the community.

It was an inspirational talk with many moving stories recounted. The Soup Kitchen will be open Christmas morning and a major local restaurant will provide the meal.

**Our next meeting** will be on Tuesday 10 December and will be our annual Christmas buffet for Members and their guests.

**Contacts:** To find out more about our activities, please contact our President Shelley Bassil (0118 971 0563) or our Secretary Annette Dolphin (0118 971 0090) or via e-mail [brimptonwi@berkshirewi.co.uk](mailto:brimptonwi@berkshirewi.co.uk) Gwynedd Roberts WI correspondent

*Aldermaston*  
Coffee Club

Drop by for a chat, a chance to meet old friends and to make new ones.  
Join us in the conservatory area of Hilliers' café on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday  
of each month, any time from 10.00am – 11.30am.  
Everyone is welcome – just come along.  
For further details contact Cynthia Newman 0118 971 3525.

## Midgham News

### Ride and Stride

This year we raised the magnificent sum of £2000, congratulations to all those who took part and their sponsors. Half the money goes to St Matthew's and the other half towards other churches that might need help with repairs etc.



Hope to see you all next year.

### Woolhampton and Midgham WI

**A Very Happy Christmas to all our readers. Light, Love and Joy in the New Year.**

The Autumn weather has been unseasonably mild up to now but the forecast as I write is for much colder weather in the coming week. We might even get our first snow flurries of the winter. Keep warm, stay safe.

The meeting this month focused on 'What to do in a medical emergency' – First Aid. We learned how to stop a person from choking, how to stop bleeding, how to help when someone has a seizure, how to spot the signs of a stroke and how to react, and, of course, we practiced resuscitation on the mannikin. It was a lively, hands-on meeting and we all enjoyed taking part.

We have had a visit to the National Needlework Exhibition at Greenham Park. Reports back were full of praise for the exhibits, so much so that another visit by a different group plan to go this week. Another group made the trip to Aldershot Royal Garrison Church to view the exhibition – The Longest Yarn. This depicts the events which took place on D-Day, The Longest Day. The exhibition was displayed in glass cases and was 80 metres long. It had been put together by a team of over 1000 French ladies – **who knitted every little bit of it.** It was simply outstanding.



Our Christmas starts with the Lunch Club which is on 4<sup>th</sup> December in the Village Hall at 12.30pm. After that we have our own Christmas party –



always a jolly affair with lots of lovely food made by the members and, of course, Secret Santa! We then visit the Yew Tree Garden centre for a lovely lunch out on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Plans for the New Year are already in hand. We look forward to celebrating the New Year with a dinner locally towards the end of January. Our committee work so hard at this time organising all the activities.

If this has whet your appetite we meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Village Hall at 7.30pm Visitors are always very welcome. Mrs Beryl Smith 01635 861374 or email : berylsmith6@btinternet.com.

## Midgham Village Hall

### Coffee mornings

In **December** there is **one** coffee morning on the 4th.

**On 11th December is the Christmas Party**-everyone welcome-please bring a plate of food to share with your friends [or you can pay £5]

In **January** the coffee mornings are on the 8th and the 22nd and in **February** the coffee morning will be on the 5th and the 19th

We would like to thank all of the villagers who have steadfastly supported the Hall, enjoying coffee morning and attending events throughout the year and we wish you all

**A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS  
NEW YEAR.**

**Merry Christmas!**

### Midgham Village Hall New roof.

Thanks to the villagers who have sponsored a tile [£5 per tile sponsored]

It is not too late to sponsor a tile and if you would like to please contact Sharon or Jeremy Harding.



## Midgham Café Church

Held in the church

First Thursday of the month  
December 5th

Join us for tea and cake and fellowship 2.00pm

Contact Sarah Henderson for more information

[henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com](mailto:henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com)





# CHRISTMAS SHOW



ANDREW HAZELDEN

TIN GLAZE POTTERY  
AND REDUCTION  
FIRED LUSTREWARE

30TH NOVEMBER TO  
21ST DECEMBER

JANE SOMNER

WATERCOLOUR  
PAINTINGS  
AND MONO PRINTS



OPEN

1PM TO 5PM

CLOSED SUNDAYS

RG7 6DH

HEWINS WOOD POTTERY  
BRADFIELD

## Join Us For Christmas Carols In The Castle Barn

We are delighted to be hosting Wasing's Christmas Carols & Craft Fair evening on Wednesday 4th December 2024 at Wasing Park.

From 4.30pm - Our beautiful Garden Room will be bursting with festive cheer, opening its doors to our local community.

Join us for delicious festive food and drinks including mince pies and mulled wine and a craft fair curated by local crafters where we will also be offering Wasing produce, perfect for Christmas gift shopping.

From 5pm - Father Christmas will arrive in his spectacular Castle Barn grotto, welcoming children and awarding a special gift for all little ones on his Nice List and from 6.15pm - We'll be hosting live Christmas carols accompanied by Tadley Concert Brass.

Tickets are £3 each and all proceeds will go to [The Mount Charity](#) which actively supports a variety of local causes throughout the year.

To purchase tickets, please visit <https://wasing.digitickets.co.uk/>

For any queries, please email [events@wasing.co.uk](mailto:events@wasing.co.uk)

WASING

### CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT WASING

WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2024  
FROM 4:30PM

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FESTIVE CHEER

- FESTIVE FOOD & DRINK
- WASING PRODUCE
- CHRISTMAS MARKET
- FATHER CHRISTMAS
- TRADITIONAL YULETIDE CAROLS
- TADLEY BRASS CONCERT BAND

CASTLE BARN, WASING PARK, ALDERMAYSTON, BERKSHIRE, RG7 1NY  
[WWW.WASING.CO.UK/EVENTS](http://WWW.WASING.CO.UK/EVENTS)

## An Update from Wasing Estate

As winter arrives and much of the estate falls dormant, during the restorative months ahead, there is still a hive of activity across the Farm, Park and Wild Swim Lake.

We welcome some new faces to Wasing as the heifers from the late calving group of our Sussex cattle bring new life to the farm.

The Wasing Park team have adorned the wedding venue with the most joyful of Christmas trees, home grown on the estate, to ensure a very festive wedding for our December couples.

Our Wild Swim Lake & Sauna remains open to members over the winter months, for those looking to embrace the rejuvenating waters. If you are interested in finding out more about memberships & exclusive hire, please visit [the wellbeing page of our website](#) - we would love to welcome you. Tickets have also gone on sale for our 'Manifest your Reality' workshop in January. The ideal way to welcome in 2025 and find balance to start the year ahead. Visit [wasing.digitickets.co.uk](http://wasing.digitickets.co.uk) to find out more.

The gardening team have partnered with The Castle School, offering work placements to two students, Alex and Harvey. The boys are enthusiastic gardeners in their own time, so it is an honour for us to have them join Wasing for their work experience.

As we approach the end of another fabulous year here on the estate we are already looking to 2025 with excitement. We are just launching tickets for next year's festivals, dedicated to celebrating the seasons, following the success of 2024.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your loyal support over the past year.

May you and your families have a joyous Christmas and a blessed new year, from all here at Wasing.



WEST BERKS FOOD BANK

***WHEN PEOPLE ARE GOING WITHOUT....***

**IT IS TIME TO GUARANTEE THEIR ESSENTIALS HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS**

The support shown us over Harvest time has been a real answer to prayer. The stock levels in the warehouse have been gradually falling all year but the response from church communities and schools in West Berkshire has reversed this trend. Over September and October, the Harvest donations received weighed almost 11tonnes (that's equivalent to almost 2 male African elephants!).

Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in The Trussel Trust network is donated by the public – that's why food donations are absolutely vital to their ability to give everyone referred a balanced and nutritious three-day supply of food. The shopping list below shows the food items that are needed right now and suggestions for Christmas food.

The table below for food collection points in the local area:

**Food items urgently needed**

Longlife orange juice, UHT milk, noodle nests, shampoo, cooking oil.

**Christmas treats – to be delivered to the Foodbank by 6 December**

Mince pies, Yule log, Christmas cake (long date), tubs of sweets, selection box, Christmas surprise of your choice, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, savoury biscuits, pringles or crisps, small box of crackers, luxury biscuits.

Thank you for your generosity.

Drop off locations:

**Aldermaston and Wasing:** The Rectory, Wasing Lane **and** 19 Swan Drive, The Wharf.

**Beenham:** Under community noticeboard.

**Brimpton:** Inside the porch at St Peter's Church **and** Georgina Hairdressers.

**Midgham:** St Matthew's Church. Open daily between 09:00-15:00.

**Woolhampton:** Inside the porch at St Peter's Church.

**If you are in need, the foodbank is running 7 day food parcels delivered to you. Call 01635 760560**

**MUSIC IN DOUAI ABBEY – FAREWELL TO FATHER OLIVER**

One of the jewels of the neighbourhood is the sound of choral music in Douai Abbey. If you have never heard it, it is so different from any other venue. Major choirs come to perform at Douai because they sound so good!

Father Oliver Holt has been organising the concerts for as long as I can remember. He has a deep love of the music, and a strong desire for everyone to experience the peace and beauty of the Abbey. Father Oliver has been transferred from the Abbey to be Parish Priest at Stratford-on Avon. I am sure that everyone who goes to the concerts will miss him.

Details of the concerts can be found on [douaiabbey.org.uk/concerts.php](http://douaiabbey.org.uk/concerts.php) , or you can email to ask to be put on a mailing list. Concerts in December are:

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30. Reading Bach Choir

Tuesday 31st December at 3.30pm. The traditional New Year's Eve concert.

## Church Services in the Villages

### Douai Abbey

Contact number 0118 971 5300

#### **Weekdays**

6.20 am	Matins & Lauds
7.45 am	Mass
12.50 pm	Midday Office
6.00 pm	Vespers
8.00 pm	Compline

#### **Sundays**

As above, plus  
10:30 am  
Mass  
But no Compline

### Brimpton Baptist Church

Contact number 0118 971 2059

Sunday: 11.00 am and 6.00 pm

Wednesday: 7.00 pm

## Church of England Services ([awb.org.uk](http://awb.org.uk))

### St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston St Nicholas Wasing

December 1st	10.45	Carol Service at Wasing
December 8th	10.45	Holy Communion at Wasing
December 15th	10:45	Holy Communion at Aldermaston
December 24th	9.00	Holy Communion at Wasing
	4.30	Crib Service at Aldermaston
December 25th	10.45	Holy Communion at Aldermaston

### St Mary's, Beenham

December 1st	4.00	Christingle
December 8th	9.15	Holy Communion
December 22nd	4.00	Carol Service
December 25th	9.15	Holy Communion

### St Peter's, Brimpton

December 8th	9.15	Holy Communion
December 15th	10.45	Holy Communion
December 22nd	6.00	Carol Service
December 25th	10.45	Holy Communion

### St Matthew's, Midgham

December 1st	9.15	Holy Communion BCP
December 15th	6.00	Carol Service
December 24th	11.00	Crib service
December 25th	9.15	Holy Communion
December 29th	10.00	Benefice Carols and Holy Communion

### St Peter's, Woolhampton

December 8th	10.45	Holy Communion
December 15th	4.00	Carol Service
December 22nd	10.45	Benefice Holy Communion
December 24th	3.00	Crib Service
December 25th	10.45	Holy Communion

## CHAPEL ROW COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP

*Beenham-Midgham-Woolhampton*

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