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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: 07714 081565

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

Parish Councils: Clerks' details:

Aldermaston: Abi Lewis : [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: 0118 971 2891

Brimpton Baptist Church: 0118 971 2059

Douai Abbey: 0118 971 5300

Magazine advertising:

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

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Thatcham RG19 4QB . Tel: 01635 876498

## Committee Comments

Welcome to the March edition of Villages' News.

I have heard several people say, 'what happened to January?'. I can't help but agree with them as it seems like only yesterday that we were celebrating Christmas. However, hot cross buns have been in the shops since New Year's Day so we can now look forward to Easter and hopefully some warmer, and hopefully drier, spring weather.

Personally, I refuse to buy hot cross buns so far in advance of Easter, especially when in our household, we are still trying to finish off Christmas cake and mince pies! I remember as a child only eating them on Good Friday, toasted with lots of butter - delicious. It was a real treat and something we all looked forward to. And why are we subjected to chocolate, fudge and lemon curd filled hot cross buns? Why not stick to the traditional spicy buns? Each to their own, I guess.

We hope you enjoy reading this month's issue. Don't forget to send us your comments, tit bits, articles and photographs. We are always happy to receive them. The magazine is for you all to participate in, enjoy and have your say .

### 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.

Articles are included at the editor's discretion.

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

We hope you enjoy reading your magazine.



## WEST BERKS FOODBANK HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

**Our foodbank relies on your goodwill and support.**

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. If you are happy to drop off food donations, please see the table below for our food drop off points in the local areas.

### **Items urgently needed**

Adult and child toothbrushes, baby food 4-6 months, 12 months, cooked meat with ring pulls, long life juice, mug shot, nappies Size 5/6/7/8, non-bio laundry tablets, toilet cleaner UHT milk.

Drop off locations:

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

**Beenhams:** 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**

# Beenham News

## Notes from Beenham Parish Council meeting: Monday February 3rd 2025

### Public Forum

WI requested a grant for CPR and defibrillator use training for Beenham residents. The current Acting Headteacher, Sophie McBean, has been appointed as Headteacher.

### Co-option of applicants to fill the Parish Council vacancy.

There's been interest from an additional applicant, so process of co-option delayed.

### Councillors

**Flooding of Clay Lane.** No response from WBC

**Sovereign Housing disposal of properties.** There has been no response to the PC's request.

**New bus Service.** WBC to meet with PC in Feb. Bus stops have no information posted.

**20 mph speed limit in vicinity of school.** WBC to contact PC after studying 20 mph scheme in Theale.

WBC to be asked to consider **gritting in Stoneyfield** as it is a bus route.

PC approved the repair of the broken posts bordering Rec to stop vehicle access.

**Affordable Housing initiative.** WBC Planning to assess potential sites in February.

### Planning Applications

- 25/00086/HOUSE. The Barn, 4 Hillfoot Cottage: Erection of storage shed. No objection.

- Closure of Ashampstead Road, Bradfield is due to take effect from 24th Feb. PC to request urgent response to its concerns.

### District Councillor report

-Reported on extended recycling items for plastic.

### Financial Grants

-The grant of £400 to the WI for litter picking was approved.

-The grant of £800 for the grass cutting at the Church was approved.

-The contribution to WBC for support of the library service was approved. The mobile library service is to be removed.

-The grant of £632 to BVE was approved.

- Grant policy. A draft policy document outlining the conditions and terms of grant requests, eligibility and processes was discussed.

**The next meeting will be held on Monday March 3rd in the Community Room at 7.00pm.**

All correspondence to the council should be addressed to the Parish Clerk.

Parish Clerk: Lauren West Tel: 07919 916125 Email: [clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk)

CR Bookings: Paula Read Tel: 07793116937 Email: [info@beenhampreschool.org](mailto:info@beenhampreschool.org)

Parish Council website: [www.beenham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.beenham-pc.gov.uk)

Beenham Community Website: <https://www.beenhamonline.org/>



**ST MARY'S CHURCH, BEENHAM  
SPRING CLEANING DAY!  
ON SATURDAY MARCH 29<sup>th</sup>  
FROM 10AM - 2PM**

Ahead of Mothering Sunday and the Easter celebrations, we are going to be Spring Cleaning the church on

Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup> from 10.00am - 2.00pm

For most of the year we rely on a team of volunteers to keep the church clean and tidy - at ground level, for weddings and funerals as well as church services.

At this time of the year, we ask for extra help from younger villagers (including men!) to reach the high places and more difficult jobs we cannot normally do.

Your help would be much appreciated.

Just turn up when you can Refreshments provided.

Please contact Pat Owen 07947 478 840

or Janette Hammond 07917818283 for more information

**The 1st ever Beenham Giant Vegetable and Flower Show  
14th September 2025.**

It is with great excitement the Beenham Village Events committee announces the launch of the 1st ever Beenham Giant Vegetable and Flower Show to be held at the Victory Hall on the 14th September.

It promises to be a fun focused day, very much aimed at adults and children alike. We want to see your **longest runner bean, longest carrot, heaviest tomato, heaviest pumpkin and tallest sunflower** - to name just a few classes.

For full details of all the classes and an entry form please email Jonathan: [jondrury@hotmail.com](mailto:jondrury@hotmail.com)

We will also be doing a weigh in on potatoes grown in a container. The potatoes will be issued in March, so please register your interest with Jonathan to go on the list.

Entries welcome from all in the local area – other than the two classes below, which are for Beenham residents only.

**The Six Bells' Trophy** will be awarded to the best 14 inch hanging basket brought in on the day by a Beenham resident.

**The Edwin Roe cup** will be awarded to the most unusually shaped vegetable grown by a child in Beenham.

## Hello to you from Greyfield Wood!

Well, the year has continued with rain and yet more rain! The effect of this is that the paths are very wet and muddy. Even the public paths that we only scraped in December!

Despite that, the work in the wood continues with the felling of diseased Ash trees that threaten the Public Footpaths. These are then logged, ready for transporting to the loading area later in the year, ready for sale.

By the time you read this, we will have had our first **Saturday volunteer session** in the wood, where we were focused on clearing the Penley Bridge area, so that it is ready for the Spring flowers and foliage that makes it one of the most beautiful areas of the wood. Also, close by, we will have cleared the area by the fallen Sweet Cherry tree. This will enable us to replant in that area.

Volunteers are essential to us being able to cover the amount of woodland work that needs to be done throughout the year. The volunteers meet on the third Saturday morning of each month for 3 hours, except in December and January.

The tasks vary from: Scything, clearing felled areas ready for re-planting, coppicing, planting saplings and so on. It is always nice to welcome new volunteers. We ask anyone interested in volunteering to attend a one hour "onboarding" session where we talk about the wood, activities and safety procedures. This is normally held at The Six Bells! If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact me. I would be pleased to hear from you

**Date for your diary: Greyfield Wood Open day - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2pm-4.30pm.**

Organised walks, opportunity to meet the directors and volunteers. See what is being done. Tea & cake. Hopefully bluebells!

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

John Hammond [john@meadvale-bays.com](mailto:john@meadvale-bays.com) 07818 400440



### EASTER DOORS AND GATES

The snowdrops are looking lovely as I write this, and the daffodils are beginning to emerge, so despite the mainly miserable weather let's look forward to the spring, and get ready to decorate our gates and doors for Easter.

### .....AND SCARECROWS

Further ahead in late May we will be holding our Scarecrow Festival. The theme this year is Song Titles. This could include anything from Nursery Rhymes to Rock and Pop classics, so start thinking and planning!

*Lesley McEwen*

## **BEENHAM WI**

Our meeting in February brought us Helen Hyde, of Bradfield WI, who told us about her trip to Uzbekistan to follow the Silk Road. We were fascinated by her photos and by the fabrics, books and pottery that she had brought back with her. In March we will have our AGM, when we elect our committee for the year.

### **Would you know how to save a life?**

Beenham WI is running a CPR and defibrillation class for the Beenham community. Every year, the Women's Institute uses its national influence to campaign on a serious issue which has relevance to women. At this time of year, each WI member votes for one of four possible campaign options, and one of these, this year, is to work to provide community education on CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and the use of a defibrillator. Beenham WI members felt strongly that this is massively important: and so, even before the national meeting commits to this as its campaign, we have set up an initial training class for members of the Beenham Community. Anyone who lives or works in Beenham will be able to book in to a session, run in conjunction with South Central Ambulance Service, where you will learn how to perform CPR using dummy mannequins, what the symptoms are of a heart attack as opposed to a stroke, how to use a defibrillator, what happens in a 999 call, how to treat yourself if you are on your own and taken ill, and much more - not limited to heart attacks but to other emergencies too.

We are hoping that we will be able to obtain sponsorship from the Parish Council which will allow us to run several classes, but for the moment are announcing our first session.

This will be on Thursday 27 March in the evening at Beenham Victory Hall. There will be 20 places on the course, and it is open to any adults or to children aged 8 and over as long as they are with a responsible adult who is also booked into the course. Please let us know if you would like to attend by emailing us on [beenhamwi@berkshirewi.co.uk](mailto:beenhamwi@berkshirewi.co.uk). We are planning further dates: so, if you are interested but can't manage Thursday 27 March or can't do Thursday evenings, please also get in touch: we are aiming to offer classes at different times and days of the week, but we will need to work out what the demand is and which times work best for everyone



## BEENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have enjoyed the beginning of our Spring term and have welcomed the days gradually getting longer as the first sign of the winter fading. We have had a busy time in school celebrating our rule 'Be Safe' exploring who keeps us safe and how we can also keep ourselves safe.

In January, key stage 2 was visited by the Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service – all children joined a workshop about fire risks and safety and also had the opportunity to get up close with a fire engine. We marked Safer Internet Day with every class taking part in learning and activities aligned with this year's theme, *Too Good to be True?*, which investigated protection from online scams. In the second half of the spring term, we are looking forward to further opportunities to delve into 'Be Safe', including a visit to all classes from the neighbourhood police team, first aid training for all children, whole-school workshops on water safety and Bikeability for year 5 and 6.

Despite the winter weather, all our children have been able to get outside with their learning and enjoy hands-on experiences linked to their curriculums. Year 5/6 have been particularly keen as their current topic, *Sow, Grow, Farm*, has allowed for many opportunities to get their hands dirty, including clearing a local allotment, planting vegetables and conducting climate surveys. As a school, we are now beginning work on our project to create a purposeful outdoor learning environment on our site which will contain a pond, insect-attracting plants, sensory garden features and vegetable patches. Our hope is to develop this over the coming months for children to start accessing as part of our learning offer during next academic year.

As a part of a small village community, we love to be able to open our doors and invite our neighbours and families in to share the fabulous things happening in school. We were delighted to host our third tea party of the year for the grandparents (and grandparent figures) of our children. This was a very special multigenerational event that allowed the children to share their recent learning.

We are always blown away by the amount of love surrounding our school and have been incredibly touched by a generous donation made to us by anonymous donor. Thank you so very much! I would also like to extend a personal thank you to the school and local community for the kindness and well-wishes I have received since the announcement of my appointment as Headteacher from May. I am incredibly excited to continue to lead the school in offering the best possible experiences for our children, families and community.

If you are looking for a school place for your child and would like to come and see how we could be the right fit for your family, please do contact the school office to arrange a visit!

*Sophie McBean*  
*Acting Headteacher*

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM – MARCH 2025

<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
Sat 1st	Monthly Church Working Party	St Mary’s Church 10am	Janette:07917818 283
Mon 3rd	Mon 3rd	Parish Council Meeting 7pm	Community Rm
Thu 6th	Beenham Walkers: Crocus walk to Kintbury, we will need to car share		
	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am		Pauline Stares 01189713481
Sat 8th	Village Market and repair shop	Victory Hall 2-3.30pm	Sally: 07776 251 228
Wed 12th	WI: AGM	Community Rm 7.30pm	Sally: 07776 251 228
Thu 13th	Charity Quiz Night 8pm	Teams up to 6 £4/person	Six Bells 7.30 for 8pm 9713368 to book
Sat 15th	Calleva Stick Dressers 9am–2pm	Victory Hall	David:07864 180 648
Sat 15th	Greyfield Woods Volunteer Morning. 8.30 – 12pm		
	Meet at wood entrance		John:9712924
Sat 15th	Live Music and Acoustic Night 7.30pm	Beenham Club	9713991
Wed 19th	Beenham Friendship Club for over 55s - 2pm. Curling	Victory Hall	Marion:9713094 Tina:01635826154
Thu 20th	Beenham Walkers: Midgham walk, local - 5 miles		
	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am		Pauline Stares 01189713481
Thu 20th	Film night: £5 a ticket (cash only)	Victory Hall 7.00 for 7.30pm	Claire: 9713574
Wed 26th	Beenham Tearoom 2pm-3.30pm	Victory Hall	Dru:07815 055 040 Pat:07947 478 840
Thu 27th	CPR and defibrillation training class	To book contact:	
	beenhamwi@berkshirewi.co.uk	Victory Hall 6.30pm	Sally: 07776 251 228
Sat 29th	Church Spring Clean Day 10am – 2pm		
ALL HELP GRATEFULLY RECEIVED	St Mary’s Church		Janette:07917818 283 Pat:07947478840
Sun 30th	Clocks spring forward start of British Summer Time		

If you would like to add anything to the village diary, please contact

[patowen0@hotmail.com](mailto:patowen0@hotmail.com) or 07947478840

## Brimpton News



### COFFEE MORNINGS

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month  
IN BRIMPTON CHURCH  
10 am - 11.30 am

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June

*Everyone welcome  
(including dogs)*



Brimpton Village Hall  
AGM  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
1900-2200

YOUR VILLAGE HALL



MEETS  
**YOU!**

Please come along see how the newly decorated Village Hall

The AGM takes no more than 30 mins and is followed by a social event with refreshments supplied.

We look forward to seeing you all and having a chat about what you want to see at the hall over the next year.

We are also looking for new trustees to come forward.

If you want any advance info please call John on  
07737160925

# COFFEE CAKE and



# T O M B O L A

SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH  
10am – 12.00

BRIMPTON VILLAGE HALL

*To raise funds for assessment of the spire of  
St Peter's Church*

# **Brimpton Church of England Primary School**

*Amazing things  
happen here.....*



**02 Young Voices** - Wow! Our Brimpton Choir had an amazing time at the O2 in London. The atmosphere, the music, the noise, the crowds and the venue made it as magical as ever. The children, parents and staff sang their hearts out!

## **Young Writers Competition -**

In December KS1 all took part in the Young Writers' 'Super Me!' competition. All of the children were invited to draw their own super hero, either one they are familiar with or one based off of their own ideas. We had lots of beautiful super heroes; most of the children chose to turn themselves into heroes and came up with some wonderful costumes and some brilliant super powers, from running super-fast, to being invisible and having the ability to make everyone in the world be kind. Last week we were able to give the children certificates that the organisers sent them and we were very proud to learn that all of their designs will be published in a book called "Super Me - A Pocketful of Dreams.

**Valentine Disco** - Our PTA (FOBS) gave the children an amazing end of term Valentine disco kindly hosted by DJ Rob Jones. It is always a highlight in our social calendar.

*We hope you enjoy seeing what our amazing school takes part in over the school year.*

If you require any other information regarding Brimpton School

Please contact Mrs Sarah Vockins on 0118-9712311  
office@brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk www.brimton.w-berks.sch.uk

# PLANT SALE COFFEE & RAFFLE

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May,  
10.00 am – 12.00**  
at St Peter's Church,  
Brimpton RG7 4TJ



***Donations of labelled plants welcome  
Please deliver to the church on  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May after 15.30***

***Proceeds to St Peter's Church,  
Brimpton***

## Brimpton Parish Council

At the Parish Council meeting on 4 February the main discussion was about the tankers clearing flood water from the sewerage pumping station in Brimpton Road. There has been more damage to the verges and in other areas, such as the finger sign at the top of Brimpton Road. Our clerk has emailed Thames Water on several occasions but received no response. We will continue to chase them to accept responsibility for the damage and for a long term solution to this perennial problem. Cllr Dominic Boeck has raised the issue with West Berkshire Council and I have been in contact with Olivia Bailey MP. She has agreed to visit Brimpton to see the damage and to raise the issue with Thames Water.

Charles Brims reported on his attendance at the Twin Paddocks Appeal Hearing on behalf of the Parish Council. Our position is that we are opposed to all development in that field, no matter who is the applicant. The Brimpton Common Residents Group has been very active at the Hearing providing legal and other expertise. The closing submissions have now been made and it only remains for the Inspector to make a decision. There is no date when that decision will be announced.

We heard that our Clerk had met with the new officer in charge of Speedwatch at West Berkshire Council. He recommended that we try mounting the shared Speed Indicator Device (SID) on the existing highway post near Manor View, providing it does not interfere with the existing signage. He also suggested we consider *installing a new highway post on Crookham Common Road specifically for the SID. We agreed to examine the costings for this work at our next meeting.*

The batteries for the SID need to be replaced. A pair will cost £104 and will share this with Aldermaston Parish Council.

Brenda Scott provided an update on the Church Spire Condition Survey. Following a grant of £6,000 from the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council has appointed a specialist architect and invited tenders for the condition survey.

We decided not to comment on a planning application affecting 5 The Willows which sought to change Condition No. 9 (Updating Reports) of an application to rebuild the house previously approved in 2022. This relates to an annual bat survey and three yearly "other surveys" which were not specified when the application was granted. As there had been no comment from the WBC Ecology Officer, we did not feel we had sufficient information to form an opinion in either direction.

As some Brimpton residents have used its services, we agreed to provide a grant of £150 to Tadley Citizens Advice in the next financial year.

The Parish Council will meet again on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March**, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All residents are welcome to attend the meeting

This article is a shortened version of my report in the Parish Update, a fortnightly newsletter circulated by email. If you would like to receive the Update, please send your email address to me at: [jhicks@brimpton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:jhicks@brimpton-pc.gov.uk).

John Hicks, Chairman, Brimpton Parish Council

## Midgham News

### Midgham Café Church

First Thursday of the month

March 6th

Join us for tea and cake and fellowship 2.00pm

At 14 Hatch Close, Chapel Row, RG7 6NZ

April 3rd back in the church

Contact Sarah Henderson for more information

Tel: 0118 9713956

### MIDGHAM VILLAGE HALL

In March the coffee mornings in the Hall will be on the 5th and 19th from 10am until 12.

Everyone is welcome to call in for a enjoy a nice warm cuppa and friendly chat.



### NATURE NOTES

Apparently the persistent cloud that has been hanging over us comes from Scandinavia. It is not energizing, but the weather forecast promises some sunshine by the time you read this, so we'll all be busy catching up in the gardens. Don't be too tidy as the rotting leaves are not only feeding the soil but are harbouring all kinds of insects – those we recognize, and many that are too small to notice. The birds are courting and will certainly be nesting in March, so will need plenty of food (insects and remaining seeds) for energy and egg production. What we feed them will certainly help, but, like us, they need variety. David Attenborough tells us that if we and the animals were all to disappear the world would manage very well, but that if all the insects were to die out we should soon follow! Cherish your insects!

*Stella Nesbit*

## Woolhampton & Midgham WI February 2025

We started February with the first lunch club of year. 14 guests enjoyed Gammon, dauphinoise potatoes, peas & carrots then fruit crumble. and a gluten free blueberry, almond & lemon pudding. A good time was had by all.

We had a large turnout of Members for our speaker of the month Sarah Cox aka Flint who spoke to us about her career as a Police Officer and later a writer. She was recruited into the police at the age of 18 years and at first was in the borough of Sutton in August 1981. In those days it was a small place, and she patrolled solo learning how to talk herself out of trouble. She told us about her first arrest, first sudden death of an old man living on his own with no family and first fatal accident when a soft topped car took a road too fast, flipped and killed a young couple. In 1986 she transferred to Streatham Police Station a bad area for big clubs, drug use, prostitution and pimps. She became an advanced speed driver chasing criminals and joined a task force dealing with priority crime such as thefts, burglaries and stabbings, then did a spell as a field intelligence office and working with informants. She had a busy career as a Police Officer. In 2004 things changed when her brother died. She ran a marathon with 8 of her family trying to get into the Guinness Book of Records and raised £43,000, though they did not get into the record book.

Her sister had published several books, and she decided to write crime novels which have been published. She did this while still in the police from which she retired from in 2016.

She has also climbed Kilimanjaro.

After that fascinating talk we enjoyed refreshments of tea, coffee and some lovely cakes.



We are now looking forward to our Annual General Meeting next month. When all our business is concluded we will finish the evening socially with cheese and wine.

If you would like to know more about our friendly group, please just come along on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. I'm sure you won't be disappointed. Our April meeting is a Flanders & Swann Tribute which is an open evening. If you would like to come we charge £4.00 for visitors which includes refreshments afterwards.

For more information contact Beryl on 01635 861374



## Woolhampton News

### **Book keeper/ Treasurer for Woolhampton Village Hall – Paid Position**

Our small team of committed trustees is looking for a bookkeeper/ treasurer to help us manage the bank accounts of our wonderful village hall.

This is a paid role, requiring :

Typically, 2-3 hours work each week.

Basic bookkeeping using Sage accounting system online.

Preparing invoices - bookings clerk advises on regular bookings, plus checking reservations on computer package Hallmaster (booking system).

Checking bank statements to ensure payments are received, and in a few instances, banking some cash and cheques.

Making payments to suppliers.

Reconciling monthly bank statements.

Preparing annual accounts for checking.

Liaising with the Chairperson & Bookings Clerk.

If you think you could help, or for further information on the role, please email: [bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com](mailto:bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com)

### **Litter Picking**

It will be the 10<sup>th</sup> annual national Keep Britain Tidy campaign from March 21<sup>st</sup> to April 6<sup>th</sup>. The roads around Woolhampton currently seem to be relatively rubbish-free, thanks to several community-minded residents who, unprompted, have recently devoted time and effort into clearing 'hotspots'. However, in conjunction with the national campaign, it would seem timely to have a purge before the vegetation grows to mask issues. I still have a list of willing participants (who I will contact shortly with suggested dates) although I realise that some may have left the area and others may no longer wish to be involved. If any new residents wish to be included, please let me know at [terry.vallis@outlook.com](mailto:terry.vallis@outlook.com). As previously, I have litter-picking equipment to lend if you do not have your own. If you decide to 'do your own thing', it would be very helpful if you would let me know which areas you have covered so that there is no unnecessary duplication of effort; equally, if you know of a new 'hotspot' that needs attention but you do not want to be involved, it would again be helpful if you would let me know where it is (obviously within our area!).

## **WOOLHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL – APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEER TRUSTEES**

Following its opening in 2006, Woolhampton 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

Womens 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

#### **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)

### **District Councillor's Surgery**

The District Councillor representing Woolhampton, Mr Chris Read, is continuing to hold a surgery on the last Saturday of each month in the Woolhampton Village Hall from 9a.m. to 11a.m. Parishioners are cordially invited to visit Mr Read to raise or discuss any local issues of their concern. We thank Mr Read for his willingness to allot his valuable time to this facility.

## Woolhampton Parish Council Meetings

Please note that from February 2025 Woolhampton Parish Council will meet on the third **Monday** of the month instead of the third Tuesday. Meetings will be in the Woolhampton Village Hall and will start at 7.45p.m. As ever, parishioners are cordially invited to attend, particularly if they have an issue to discuss. Minutes of past meetings are posted on Woolhampton Parish Council website.



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**Experiencing isolation**

If you struggle to get to groups through lack of transport, we can provide a taxi to the group and back home.

**We have group near you**

**Monday Family Group**  
Woolhampton Village Hall,  
10-11.45am

**Tuesday Family Group**  
St. Mary's Village Hall, Greenham  
10-11.45am

**Wednesday Family Group**  
Riverside Community Centre  
10-11.45am

Groups are term-time only. You can refer yourself on our website or a professional can refer you.

To find out more contact us  
**01635 760310**  
[office@home-startwb.org.uk](mailto:office@home-startwb.org.uk)  
[home-startwestberks.org.uk](http://home-startwestberks.org.uk)

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## **Drowned!**

The villagers of Woolhampton and Aldermaston read the pages of the NWN on December 18<sup>th</sup> 1892 in dazed disbelief. The newspaper confirmed the proposal to drown both the villages as part of a plan to secure a further supply of drinking water for Londoners. The scheme envisaged the creation of a large lake stretching from one mile below Newbury to a mile beyond Aldermaston. This would result in the complete submergence of Woolhampton and Aldermaston. The divergence of the canal and railway and a portion of the Bath Road, the disappearance of three railway stations, Thatcham, Midgham and Aldermaston, the loss of 4 or 5 mills, including Colthrop paper mill, with its considerable work force, and several farmsteads. The project was expected to cost £3million over a period of three years leaving a lake 9 miles in length and 2 miles in width. However, the findings of a geological survey forced the abandonment of the project, until....



Our villages were threatened again in 1948 when the Metropolitan Water Board revealed a plan to place many acres under water from Wash Common to Able Bridge, Brimpton, plus many acres of adjacent Hampshire. Mrs Shaw, Wash Common WI, spoke of the potential loss - 1,200 dairy cows supplying the weekly milk ration to 33,000 people, the 12,305 cattle supplying a year's meat ration, pigs providing 19,800 with bacon ration and the loss of 1,500,000 eggs. (War-time food rationing was not fully abolished until 1954.) Sir William Mount of Wasing considered banning officials from entering his land to take trial borings. Lord Treviot, Ashbury House, Burghclere, made a speech in the House of Lords opposing the scheme. Brimpton WI demanded a public enquiry. Thatcham representatives spoke against the plan at the WI conference in the Albert Hall and Berkshire and Hampshire County Councils were united in protest. There was further alarm when Blacknest Farm, Brimpton Common, was purchased by the water authority as a centre for operations and 36 borings, each of some 100 feet, were made. In the event the geology of the Enborne Valley caused the abandonment in 1950 of the enterprise. Local protest had been supported by regular cartoons by Mr Campbell-Cope featuring the 'Water Beast', as above.

*John Trigg*

## **Village Market**

The next Market will be on Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup> from 10a.m. to 12 noon in the Woolhampton Village Hall. If you've not been before, do come along to browse and enjoy the ambience. No entry charge and refreshments are available.

We have new stalls selling ideal unusual gifts and it's a great alternative for those 'small' items that are 'not worth getting the car out for', such as mouth-watering home-made cakes (kindly provided by the W.I.), home-produced cards (but no stamps!) and needlework, and never forgetting our feathered friends and four-legged lovelies with food and treats. Unbeatable value wherever you look!

## **Woolhampton Annual Show 2025**

Woolhampton Show will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August in the Village Hall. There will be classes for each of cookery, flowers, vegetables, photography, handicraft and special classes for children to enter. More precise details nearer Show time but for the competitions that need advance preparation, please see the following:

### **Tallest Sunflower Competition**

March, if the weather permits, or April is the time to sow your sunflower seeds. Please note that plants are not intended to be brought to Village Hall. Details of how they will be judged will be given nearer the Show date.

### **Potato-growing Competition**

Don't forget to register your interest as soon as possible with Terry (email [terry.vallis@outlook.com](mailto:terry.vallis@outlook.com)). Tubers are available now (£1 per entry as usual, collect either directly from me or at the Village market) ) and are currently chitting but by the beginning of April we should be clear of frosts, so that is probably the right time to plant and cultivate your tubers. It is crucial that you are able to bring your intact container (tops trimmed) to the allotments on Show Day for weighing.

### **Photography Classes**

The subjects this year will be:

- a) Rain drop(s)
- b) One individual flower bloom
- c) Black and white photo – any subject
- d) A photo that makes you smile

Please remember the maximum size of photos is 7"x 5" and they must be unmounted.

## Aldermaston News

# *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



## **The Aldermaston Charity**

**is looking for a paid part time clerk  
approximately 10 hours a month**

Flexible hours, working from home, supporting the Charity Trustees.

High level of confidentiality required.

Own computer and access to own transport would be needed.

Further information from:

Angela Boott: [ange@kennetonline.co.uk](mailto:ange@kennetonline.co.uk)

Cynthia Newman: [cmnewman2021@outlook.com](mailto:cmnewman2021@outlook.com)

## **Aldermaston Parish Council – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

Normally when I enter the Parish Hall car park and I see lots of parked vehicles, it usually means one thing – an issue has developed of which the Parish Council was unaware. Fortunately, they turned out to belong to Aldermaston Players, who were busy rehearsing for their musical Showtime in the Main Hall opposite!

In Open Forum there were no issues.

On the Planning front, proposed developments at Young's Industrial Estate dominated our discussions. We will Object to the new industrial units and have drafted our response to the (existing) Scaffold Yard. We had no objection to the other three applications: at Easter Park, 30 Maida's Way and Corner Cottage.

Since our last meeting, WBC has refused two applications: Burnt Pine, Reading Road, and Chestnut Cottage, Raghill. We have subsequently learned that the latter has gone to Appeal

We have approved the grant of £800 for churchyard (ie graveyard!) maintenance, but will seek further information from Bucket List Wishes.

With reference to the Clerk's Report, we discussed the award of the grass-cutting contract for the Recreation Ground, and this will go to Thomas Landscapes, since there was only a slight increase in the monthly cost from last year.

We discussed the Annual Parish Meeting and the majority view was to abandon the formal format. However, it will be for Parishioners to decide the final format.

One councillor made a complaint about the overhanging vegetation at the Manor House. This will be included in a letter to West Berks about vegetation overgrowth in general

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. As usual, your presence is welcomed!

For full information on Parish Council matters, please visit our website at [www.aldermaston.co.uk](http://www.aldermaston.co.uk)

Dave Shirt tel. 0118 971 2549

## **ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The pupils love a sporting challenge, and we recently sent two brilliant teams from each of KS1 and KS2 children (and their supporters) to attend Speed Stacking Festivals at Theale Green School. This was a competitive event which tested the children's coordination and speed in creating and dismantling different stacked shapes of cups as fast as they could. Our children were superb at both individual challenges and teamwork. We are proud of the way in which the children supported each other and represented our school so well.

Thank you to all the brilliant visitors who joined us for an RE lesson as part of our Spring Term Family Learning Morning. We enjoyed welcoming parents and carers into school to learn alongside their children for a lesson themed around the symbolic importance of light. As a church school, we want our children to have a rich and deep knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a global living faith. We also want our children to appreciate the diversity of other faiths and worldviews and respect wider beliefs and practices. We aim to develop children who can reflect on their own beliefs and explain their views. We had over 60 visitors for this event. The staff were very impressed by the quality of work completed by both children and family members!

Safer Internet Day is an annual fixture in the school's diary and all pupils will take part in learning linked to this important subject, on an age-appropriate basis. This year the theme is 'Too good to be true?' and it focuses on spotting and avoiding scams.

After half term we will look forward to the Junior Music Festival at The Hexagon which our Kingfishers Class will take part in, followed by our Easter service at St. Mary's Church, which will be led by our Robins class.

*Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor*

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## 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

## MOBILE LIBRARY

**Friday** **March 7th**  
Midgham, Goddard's Drive 10.00-10.20  
Woolhampton, Watermill Ct 10.35-11.15

**Wednesday** **March 12th**  
Aldermaston, Forsters 9.30-9.50  
Beenham, Stoneyfields 3.15-4.00

## CHAPEL ROW COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP

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For details of services provided, requests and  
offers to help ring:

0118 9713334 (Mrs Cardy)  
between 9.30 and 11.30 am,

## Church of England Services Contact number: 0118 971 2891 (awb.org.uk)

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

2 <sup>nd</sup> March, Wasing	10:45	Holy Communion
9 <sup>th</sup> March	10:45	Holy Communion
16 <sup>th</sup> March	10:45	Morning Praise
6th April, Wasing	10:45	Holy Communion

### St Marys, Beenham

2 <sup>nd</sup> March	09:15	Holy Communion
16 <sup>th</sup> March	09:15	Morning Praise
30 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00	Benefice Service
6 <sup>th</sup> April	9.15	Morning Prayer

### St Peters, Brimpton

2 <sup>nd</sup> March	10:45	Holy Communion
9 <sup>th</sup> March	09:15	Holy Communion
16 <sup>th</sup> March	09:15	Morning Praise
6th April	10:45	Holy Communion

### St Matthews, Midgham

2 <sup>nd</sup> March	09:15	BCP Communion
16 <sup>th</sup> March	09:15	Holy Communion
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	16:00	Evensong
6 <sup>th</sup> April	09:15	BCP Communion

### St Peters, Woolhampton

9 <sup>th</sup> March	10:45	Holy Communion
16 <sup>th</sup> March	10:45	Holy Communion
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	10:45	Holy Communion

# GreenFest 2025

Saturday 5th April 10:30am to 3pm



This year's GreenFest will be held at St Bartholomew's School in Newbury.

We are so pleased that they are hosting us, as St Bartholomew's School champions sustainable practices and has some aspirational goals for its future.

The site also has some wild environments that we plan to use on the day.

You can follow us on Facebook : [www.facebook.com/greenfestwestberkshire](http://www.facebook.com/greenfestwestberkshire)

**GreenFest 2025** will inspire, educate, excite and enthuse, with engaging stalls, hands-on activities, interesting talks and discussions as well as food & drink

Best of all, the event is **free\*** and is for all the **family**.

\*Catered food will need to be paid for, please bring your own drinks and other containers to avoid waste.

GreenFest is all about celebrating community, creativity, and the power of collective action.

Let's come together to create a brighter, greener future!

## Important in Today's World?

*A tale of four elephants.*

*Why is Interfaith Understanding Important in Today's World?*

*A tale of four elephants.*



*A talk by Emeritus Professor Eleanor Nesbitt*

*Thursday 20th March 2025 – 7:30pm*

*at The Music Hall,  
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*Car Parking is available at Bradfield College Sports Complex, RG7 6BZ*

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