
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

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

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

Beenham: 07793 116 937

Brimpton: 0118 971 3731

Midgham: 07941 093 853

Woolhampton: bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com

Churches:

Aldermaston & Woolhampton Benefice: 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 mrsboscott@btinternet.com

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Thattham RG19 4QB . Tel: 01635 876498

Committee Comments

I find it hard to believe that we are now about to publish the 13th edition of Villages News. It seems only yesterday that we started, not knowing if we would succeed, but here we are, today, with a thriving magazine, welcomed by both its readers and its advertisers. Congratulations to all who have made that possible.

In the brief month since we last published I have seen things in our area that are not welcome. The extent of flooding has been mind-blowing, as has the increasing number of dangerous potholes on our roads. Our local authority recently did a lovely job of repairing Crookham Common Road, but elsewhere there remains the great danger of falling into a pothole if the road is flooded. On the subject of flooding I guess we will all be wondering what the outcome will be of Thames Water's financial difficulties. It makes you wonder how a responsible government could allow a public utility to distribute its income as dividend to foreign investors. I know a former prime minister (or two or three) who would not have let that come to pass.

Enough of the present, so let's look ahead to the future. Spring is very much here. The flowers are flowering and the birds are singing. I just wish we did not have the jackdaws in the steeple, but that is my own minor carp. Sunny days await us, so let's enjoy them to the full.

ARTICLES FOR THE MAGAZINE

Please send articles for the magazine to:

For the villages of Aldermaston and Wasing cathy.jones@ukmessage.com

For the village of Brimpton brimptoncommon@aol.co.uk

For the village of Beenham patowen0@hotmail.com

For the villages of Midgham and Woolhampton

henderson.sarah.c.@outlook.com

Please send articles relevant to the all the villages to:

brimptoncommon@aol.co.uk and henderson.sarah.c.@outlook.com

Please note the deadline for receipt of articles is noon on the 17th of each month.

PLANT SALE

COFFEE & RAFFLE

Saturday 11th May, 10.00 am – 12.00

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

at St Peter's Church, Brimpton RG7 4TJ



*Donations of labelled plants welcome
Please deliver to the church on Friday 10th May after 15.30*

*Proceeds to be shared between **St Peter's Church** and
Macmillan Cancer Care*

St Peter's Church, Brimpton
Churchyard Working Party
Tuesday 7th May, 10am – 1pm



Can you spare an hour or two to tidy up round the church?
We would be very glad of your help!

*Bring your own garden tools
Tea, coffee, cake and good company will be provided*

Brimpton Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 2nd April. Among the items we discussed were:

Update on planning issues in the field between Blacknest Lane and Brimpton Lane

The Chairman of the Brimpton Common Residents Group gave an update on what has happened on the field since the last meeting. Electricity has been connected to the site and the owner has carried out ditch clearing work. A resident reported that the ditch clearing has caused flooding on the road. The plot owners levelled the site and moved a mobile home onto the plot. Against this background, the planning application for change of use to a one pitch traveller site has been refused by West Berkshire Council. The Applicant has indicated that they will appeal against this decision.

A second application for two traveller pitches on adjacent plots has now been submitted. The resident's group have employed a planning adviser who is reviewing the refusal report from West Berkshire Council and looking at the new application. West Berkshire Council have employed a planning enforcement specialist company and are waiting for their recommendation on what action can be taken.

District Cllr Dominic Boeck reported that he had asked for an update from the Planning Enforcement team but had not received a response in time for the meeting. He will continue to request updates and report back to the Parish Council.

Planning and development

We agreed to object to an application for two traveller pitches on adjacent plots on the field between Blacknest Lane and Brimpton Lane. However, as the application had only reached us on the day of our meeting, we decided to ask West Berkshire Council for an extension of the deadline for comments in order that we can agree the wording of our objection at our next meeting. Subsequently this has been granted by WBC.

Environment

Charles Brims reported that the dead trees and bushes have been replaced on the northern side of the Solar Farm. However, the contractor has left plastic around the other 3 sides where the dead trees have been removed. We will report this to the Solar Farm company and ask them to remove the plastic which is unsightly and could be dangerous to wildlife.

Highways

The bridge near the Baptist Church in Brimpton Road was not repaired during the recent road closure. We will ask for an update from West Berkshire Council.

New ditches have been dug on the right-hand side of Brimpton Road near Willow Wands but it is not clear how this will deal with the flooding which comes off the fields on the opposite side of the road. We will ask WBC if they intend to carry out further work.

A resident reported that the school warning signs are set to the wrong time and have been seen flashing in the evenings. Again, we will report this to West Berkshire Council.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 7th May starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

John Hicks, Chairman, Brimpton Parish Council

Brimpton Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 7 May: St Peter's Church, churchyard working party, 10am to 1pm (as much as you can manage)

Tuesday 7th May: Parish Council Annual Meeting, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Saturday 11th May: Plant Sale in St Peter's Church. Sale starts at 10am and runs until midday.

Wednesday 14th May: Coffee morning in St Peter's Church; drop in anytime between 10am and 11.30am. Dogs welcome.

Thursday 23th May: Annual Parish Assembly. Come and hear what local groups and organisations have been doing. Starts at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Refreshments afterwards.

Tuesday 4th June: Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

Thursday 6th June: Lighting the Brimpton Beacon and Fish & Chip Supper, Village Hall, from 7pm.

Saturday 8th June: Family picnic with 1940s music from Three Rivers Community Choir and a jazz band. Free event on Jubilee Green behind the Village Hall, 1pm-4pm.

Saturday 8th June: BBQ at the Village Hall, live music, doors open at 7pm.

Wednesday 12th June: Coffee morning in St Peter's Church; drop in anytime between 10am and 11.30am. Dogs welcome.

Tuesday 18th June: Open evening at Hyde End Vineyard with talk on wine production, tour of the vineyard and sampling English wines, starts at 6.30pm.

100 Club

Winner for April: No. 58 Evelyn Weston.

That was the last draw of the year. We start again in May, and it's not too late to take a number if you would like to join. Please contact Patricia Brims pcbrims@hotmail.com.

LOST AND FOUND

Silver ring found on the path at St Peter's Church, Brimpton.

To be reunited please call 0118 971 3113.



ROGATION SERVICE

On the farm.
Come and join us to walk round Manor Farm and bless the crops and the livestock in the coming year.

Sunday 5th May
at 10.00am

Manor Farm, Brimpton
by kind invitation of
Mike and Mandy Bowden



COFFEE MORNING (SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH) IN BRIMPTON CHURCH

DROP IN ANY TIME BETWEEN
10:00 am-11:30 am

WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY
WEDNESDAY, 12 JUNE
WEDNESDAY, 10 JULY

Everyone (including dogs) welcome



Brimpton Church of England Primary School

Amazing things happen here.....

The Hexagon - Reading

On 19th March, the Brimpton Choir went to the Hexagon in Reading to perform with other schools from West Berkshire. It was a sensational feeling hearing all of the marvellous voices singing in harmony with each other. It is one of our favourite things during the school year.

Cross Country

On 15th March Class 2 and 3 went to the Newbury Show Ground to represent our school, despite all the rain and mud! It was great seeing everyone being so positive as they came to the finish line and how much they smiled. We saw some of our friends who attend other schools and it was so much fun racing with each other.

Easter Celebrations

Thank you to everyone who came to church for the Easter Service, there were so many people there. Some people had to stand! As a school we decided to do the traditional bible story so we hope you all enjoyed it.

Residential

We attended our residential to Grittleton this year. We went on Wednesday and came back on Friday. It is so much fun playing and learning together. We climbed, went swimming, navigated through woods and rode scooters. Miss Martin and Mrs Davies are always good fun to be with - it makes our trip very memorable.

Written by: James & Alissa

If you require any other information regarding Brimpton School
Please contact Mrs Sarah Vockins on 0118-9712311

**Midgham Village Hall
Bank holiday Plant Sale
Saturday 4th May 10-3pm**

Come and browse a wide variety of plants to refresh your garden in time for the summer, or select an interesting item from our bric-a-brac stall.

Tea and cake will be on sale to refresh you whilst you browse the plants and goods on offer. [All proceeds in aid of the Village Hall.]

There will also be stalls selling: beautiful handmade jewellery, crystals and stones, household goods: cushions, peg bags, aprons, lavender bags...,

a charity stall in support of the donkey sanctuary.

Come and take advantage of the opportunity to buy your Birthday and Christmas presents early.

[Free admission.] Well behaved dogs welcome.

Midgham Village Hall Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings are held in the hall on alternate Wednesdays form 10-12. Everyone is welcome to join us for a cuppa and a friendly chat.

In May the coffee mornings will be on the 8th and 22nd.

Midgham Pickers

Following a very encouraging response to my suggestion in the last Villages News that we should organise a litter pick in Midgham, we held our first session on 15th April. Meeting in the church car park we split into two teams – Jeremy, Roger and Phillippa heading south to cover Church Hill, part of the Bath Road and then back to Birds Lane and part of School Hill. Sarah and myself headed off to Windmill Lane, Midgham Green and New Road Hill as far as Hall court Farm.



I was a little worried that because of the lush spring vegetation, we weren't going to find anything to pick. However I needn't worried as we ended up with four bags of rubbish – not so much that we couldn't fit them into our wheelie bins. So, yes, it was a worthwhile exercise and the village verges are cleaner for the time being. The most frequent item collected this month has to be the Red Bull can though plastic water bottles came a close second.

I had borrowed a "picking kit" from West Berkshire Council – and we used some of it. I will do the same for our next outing so that if others want to join us we can provide you with gloves, hi-viz vests and pickers.

Our next litter pick is planned for 0945 on Wednesday 29th May - please meet at the church car park to be followed by coffee in the church at 11.15. The date is during half term so hopefully others who can't do term time weekdays will be able to join us.

Bill Nicholson. Bill57nicholson@gmail.com



Midgham Café Church

First Thursday of the month

May 2nd

Join us for tea and cake and fellowship 2.00pm

at 1 Church Lane, Brimpton RG7 4TJ

(because of elections in church)

Thursday June 6th in the church

July 4th in the church



ORGAN RECITAL SATURDAY JUNE 1ST AT 6PM

At ST Matthew's Midgham

BY Gill Blythman

The concert will be approximately 40minutes
works to include

Fuga in C: D Buxtehude

Piece d'Orgue: J S Bach

Intermezzo on an Irish Air: C V Stanford

Choral Song: S S Wesley

Toccata for Ukraine: Matthias Nagel

March in E flat: Lefebure-Wely

Followed by refreshments

Retiring collection

Woolhampton News

Village Market

The next Market will be on Saturday 4th May in the Village Hall from 10a.m. to 12noon. Our stallholders offer a diverse range of goods from fresh cakes to locally-made jewellery, and from local honey and handicrafts to wild bird food, plants and much more in between. So, as the weather improves, it provides a great social event where everyone is welcome. No entry charge and refreshments are available.

Please note: The June Market will be on the 8th (not the 1st). Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Woolhampton Annual Show 2024

No doubt you have already highlighted the date in your diary but in case you haven't, it's Saturday 10th August. For those entering the potato-growing and/or sunflower competitions, hopefully planting has taken place and germination is progressing despite the current adverse conditions. And if you are intending to enter the photography competition, perhaps you've already spotted a suitable opportunity to compose a prize-winning entry. Cooks, growers and hobbyists will of course be anticipating the approved Show schedule (which should be available towards mid-June) to confirm the categories to enter and there will be no charge for competition entries. !

Woolhampton Litter-picking

Although the national Great British Spring Clean and Keep Britain Tidy campaign took place during March, a quick survey of our area appeared not to warrant our formal participation this year. Credit for this must be attributed to the diligent persons who spontaneously monitor 'their patch' and clear-up as they find rubbish. Our past mountains of rubbish, generally discarded by uncaring motorists, thankfully seems to have diminished. However, if you know of a local area which needs specific attention, please email me at terry.vallis@outlook.com.

Larger items, e.g. fly-tipping, dead animals and/or bulky objects dumped, which cannot be easily removed by individuals, can be reported to WBC for their attention (Customer Services - phone 01635 551111 or email customerservices@westberks.gov.uk)

Mobile Library

The mobile library calls at Watermill Court on selected Thursdays between 10.30a.m. and 11.15a.m. (see elsewhere in this magazine for the next dates for the mobile library visits). Anyone belonging to Newbury or Thatcham library is welcome to visit the mobile library when it is at Watermill Court.

Woolhampton Mill & The Knights Hospitallers

The Mill, standing today in Station Road as a private residence, was built in 1820 by Charles Frankum and was let as a working mill. During the First World War, it did service as a saw mill when it was said “the war ate wood”. The last miller was Harry Frankum, who resided then at Brookside House opposite. In later years the mill was the living quarters for Fred Claridge’s chickens until housing the engineering business of Douglas Sharpe which was later ‘taken over’ by Water Mill Engineering Ltd which would operate from a factory built on the site of the present residential complex of Watermill Court. Some of the former working parts of the Old Mill are to be seen in the environs of the present residence.



In 1351, “John Landres took leave of ruinous mill at Woolhampton annual rent 13s 8d after 5 years to increase to 20s: arrears in rent by this mill are dismissed” (*sic*). The relief was granted by Philip de Thane, a prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, who was also the prior of the Knights Hospitallers centred locally at Greenham and Brimpton (ruin of chapel surviving today at Manor Farm). The order was founded in 1113 to manage hostel/hospital for Christian pilgrims to Jerusalem during the period of the Crusades (Richard the Lionheart took part in the Third Crusade). The order was centred on Acre, then Cyprus and from 1530 settled in Malta and as Knights of Malta ruled the island. The order was well-regarded in England and the manor of Woolhampton was presented to them by the religious-minded Henry Ferres and remained lords of the manor until the order was dissolved in England by Henry VII in 1544 at the time of the Reformation. Their estates were purchased from the Crown by William Wollascott, the family holding the estate until the death in 1770 of the last William Wollascott whose tomb stands in St Peter’s churchyard behind iron railings. The foundation of the parish church owes much to the past presence of the Hospitallers.

Parish Council Website

The Parish Council website is in its early stages but news and minutes of meetings should be available on the website (www.woolhamptonparishcouncil.com).

West Berks District Councillor

Chris Read, District Councillor, will be holding one of several “Open surgery” mornings in Woolhampton village hall.

The next is on Saturday May 25th between 9 and 11am, or Mr Read can be contacted on 07714081565, email Chris.read1@westberks.gov.uk.

WOOLHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL URGENT 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 desperately 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

WOOLHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL CALENDAR – MAY 2024

1 st May	Woolhampton Lunch Club	12 noon – 14:30	Contact bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com for further information
2 nd May	West Berkshire Polling Station	07:00 – 22:00	Contact lisa.paxford1@westberks.gov.uk
3 rd May	Bowls	14:30 – 17:00	Contact Terry, terry.vallis@outlook.com
4 th May	Village Market	10 – 12 noon	Contact Cathy, terry.vallis@outlook.com
7 th May	Stroke Care	09:00 – 15:00	Contact bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com for further information
9 th May	FLEXercise	10 – 12 noon	Contact bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com for further information
9 th May	Art Class	13:30 – 15:30	Jeanette Cole art-course@hotmail.com
9 th May	Releve Dance	16:00 – 18:30	Katherine Moore katherine@relevedance.co.uk
9 th May	Art Class	19:00 – 21:00	Jeanette Cole art-course@hotmail.com
10 th May	Bowls	14:30 – 17:00	Contact Terry, terry.vallis@outlook.com
13 th May	Dance Class (Ballroom/Line Dance)	14:00 – 16:00	Norman - storminnorman@norman@aol.com
13 th May	Dance Fit with Lorraine	17:45	Contact lorrainevickers@hotmail.co.uk
13 th May	Pilates with Lorraine	18:35	Contact lorrainevickers@hotmail.co.uk
14 th May	Stroke Care	09:00 – 15:00	Contact bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com for further information
14 th May	Womens Institute	19:30 – 21:30	Details on: Berkshire.thewi.org.uk
16 th May	FLEXercise	10 – 12 noon	Contact bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com for further information
16 th May	Art Class	13:30 – 15:30	Jeanette Cole art-course@hotmail.com
16 th May	Releve Dance	16:00 – 18:30	Katherine Moore katherine@relevedance.co.uk
16 th May	Art Class	19:00 – 21:00	Jeanette Cole art-course@hotmail.com
17 th May	Bowls	14:30 – 17:00	Contact Terry, terry.vallis@outlook.com
20 th May	Dance Class (Ballroom/Line Dance)	14:00 – 16:00	Norman - storminnorman@norman@aol.com
20 th May	Dance Fit with Lorraine	17:45	Contact lorrainevickers@hotmail.co.uk
20 th May	Pilates with Lorraine	18:35	Contact lorrainevickers@hotmail.co.uk
21 st May	Stroke Care	09:00 – 15:00	Contact bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com for further information
21 st May	Parish Council	19:30 – 21:30	Contact bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com for further information
22 nd May	Woolhampton Lunch Club	12 noon – 14:00	Contact catharinedeller@yahoo.com for further information
23 rd May	FLEXercise	10 – 12 noon	Contact bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com for further information
23 rd May	Art Class	13:30 – 15:30	Jeanette Cole art-course@hotmail.com
23 rd May	Releve Dance	16:00 – 18:30	Katherine Moore katherine@relevedance.co.uk
23 rd May	Art Class	19:00 – 21:00	Jeanette Cole art-course@hotmail.com
24 th May	Bowls	14:30 – 17:00	Contact Terry, terry.vallis@outlook.com
25 th May	District Councillor Surgery		Contact chris.read1@westberks.gov.uk
28 th May	Stroke Care	09:00 – 15:00	Contact bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com for further information
31 st May	Bowls	14:30 – 17:00	Contact Terry, terry.vallis@outlook.com

Aldermaston News

Aldermaston CE Primary School

Here we are now in the summer term. However, at the time of writing, it is chilly and pouring with rain, but hopefully the weather will improve as we look forward to a term full of educational, interesting and informative lessons and activities. These will include indoor and outdoor learning, trips and visits, a variety of sports on our field, our annual sports day and picnic, the KS2 production and events in commemoration of the D Day 80 Anniversary, in conjunction with the local community.

Many of you will have already heard that, after over 18 years of service, Mrs Boyden hung up her Office Manager badge at the end of last term. She is relocating with her family to another part of the country. She will be so greatly missed by all her friends here in school and in the wider community. It's hard to imagine the school office without her and every child will have their own special 'office' memory. We wish her wealthy I for the future. Although Mrs Boyden will be a hard act to follow, we are interviewing for a new Office Manager and will share the outcome of this in due course.

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor



We are looking for a volunteer to join
the **lighting and sound team** that covers both
the Nativity Play, at St. Mary's Church,
and the Aldermaston Players
at the Parish Hall.

Its not essential but helpful
to have an understanding of
electrics and computer systems.

If interested or just want to find out more please contact
Chris Boott— chris@aldermastonplayers.co.uk — 07717 666557

Bradfield CE Primary School remembers Angie Garland

Continuing the tributes to Aldermaston's Angie Garland the children, parents and her colleagues at Bradfield CE Primary School raised a handsome donation for Macmillan Cancer Support in her memory, inaugurated a new school prize and installed a new bench dedicated to her.

The new prize is to be called 'The Angie Garland Sunshine Cup' and will be awarded annually to the pupil most embodying the characteristics for which we best remember Angie; cheerfulness, sympathy and kindness to others. The new wooden bench has a backrest decorated with flowers painted by some of the children and a plaque which reads

In loving memory of
ANGIE GARLAND
03.09.1956 - 16.12.2023
You made our school a brighter place
and filled our days with sunshine.
We will miss you, always x

It will be a daily reminder of Angie's inspiring presence at the school.

Summer Music @ St Marys



**Come and listen to some
glorious music in a fabulous setting**

2 concerts on consecutive nights

Friday May 17th ,7pm

Kate Rittson-Thomas plus t.b.a

Saturday May 18th , 7pm

Kingsclere Performing Arts College

£20 Ticket (under 12s free) includes refreshments
raising funds for St Mary's Aldermaston

Box Office & more information:
<https://concerts.project-stmarys.uk>



St Mary the Virgin, Church Rd, Aldermaston, RG7 4HR

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



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Lights and Lanterns workshops

Saturday 1st June, 10am and 2pm,
in Aldermaston Parish Hall

Design for all age groups or create your own design.
Materials provided include led lights and tea lights, and you
can bring your own materials to help your design.

Refreshments will not be provided.

This is a free event, with any donations welcome to D-Day charities.

Supported by Aldermaston History Group, Aldermaston Craft
Group, Aldermaston Parish Council and Aldermaston Parish Hall.



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D-DAY 6 JUNE
2024

D-Day Commemoration

Thursday, 6th June

Be involved - put a lamp for peace in your window.
From 11am to 6.30pm, the Hinds Head will have a D-Day exhibition,
showing how Aldermaston was involved.

Join National Fish and Chip Day at local venues or at home.

Lamp Lights for Peace - meet at the Hinds Head with your lanterns
at 8.45pm, then follow the bagpiper, Bill Copeland with your lamps to
the Loosey. The National Tribute will be read by
Wing Commander Jim Watchorn at 9.15pm.

Refreshments at the Aldermaston Parish Hall.

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Aldermaston Parish Council– 9th April 2024

There were no questions from the general public in open forum so we get onto our agenda early, which was a good start for **our new Clerk, Peter Brown!**

The majority of our meeting was taken up determining our position on the revised proposal for the development of Woodstock on Paice's Hill (**Easy Concrete**), which we oppose unanimously. So far, as well as 32 Letters of objection (which shows the view of local residents and ensures the application will be determined by the planning committee of elected officials), there have been major reservations expressed by the Office of Nuclear Regulation and the WBC Departments of Emergency Planning, Highways and Drainage. The APC letter of objection will be based on our chairman's text, which was circulated to members ahead of our meeting. We remain confident that the application will either be objected by the WBC planners or have such tight conditions that make it unattractive to the applicant.

We also reviewed the planning application by AWE, which effectively seeks approval for their latest **Travel Plan**. We are disappointed with their relatively high use of Single Occupancy Vehicles (SOVs), the lack of public services to the north of the site, and the low provision of EV charging points.

We were surprised that the appeal against the rejection of development at **Cedars Lodge**, Soke Road had been lost. The planning application took account of the neighbours' views, and it was a large plot of land, so APC did not raise any objection.

We are disappointed that our approaches to WBC planning enforcement over Corbyn, Soke Road and Padworth Sawmills have not generated any response. The number of HGVs visiting the latter have badly damaged the verges at Raghill and Spring Lane.

As for footpaths, WBC have decided to not proceed with our proposed path along Frouds Lane linking the cycle-path to the canal towpath. There was considerable discussion on the flooding of the **cycle-path**, but it does cross a flood plain and is designed to flood! There was also a discussion of the damaged bridge on the cycle-path, though it was noted this is the subject of a legal dispute between Wasing Estate and WBC.

In his report, our new clerk reported that all the necessary paperwork has been passed to our **internal auditor**, and he was grateful to our retiring clerk, Des Farndell, for the level of support he had provided in achieving this task.

A letter was read out identifying the inconsiderate parking in Station Road. Although this is in Beenham parish, a considerable number of Aldermaston residents are affected, and the issue has been raised jointly by the three affected parish councils (Aldermaston, Beenham and Padworth) all of whom share the same District Councillor, Dominic Boeck.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th May 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

Dave Shirt
tel. 0118 971 2549

Beenham News

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM –MAY 2024

Date	Event	where	contact
Tuesdays	Art Group 10am-12pm	Victory Hall	Sunny: 9712255
Tuesdays	Badminton Club 8pm – 9.30pm	School Hall	Ernie: 07954 127 771
Sat 4 th	Church Working Party. All help is most welcome	St Mary's	Janette:07917 818 283
Sat 4 th	Charity Karaoke Night	Six Bells	9713368
Mon 6 th	EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY		
Wed 8 th	WI – 7.30pm £4 non-members	Community Rm	Sally:07776 251 228
Thu 9 th	Beenham Walkers: Ashford Hill circular walk to Brimpton and back.	Meet at Victory Hall - 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Thu 9 th	Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6 £3/person	Six Bells	9713368 to book
Sat 11 th	Village Market and repair shop 2-3.30pm	Victory Hall	01183430548
Mon 13 th	Parish Council Meeting 7pm	Community Rm	
Wed 15 th	Beenham Friendship Club for over 55s-coach trip to Knoll Gardens. Non-members £23 + £6	Pick up points	Marion:9713094 Tina:01635826154
Fri 17 th	Coffee Morning 10.30am	Six Bells	Janette:07917818283
Sat 18 th	Greyfield Woods Volunteer Morning 8.30 – 12pm	Meet at wood entrance	John:9712924
Sat 18 th	Calleva Stick Dressers 9am–2pm	Victory Hall	David:07864 180 648 9713991
Sat 18 th	Live Music and Acoustic Night 7.30pm	Beenham Club	
Thu 23 rd	Beenham Walkers: to be decided.	Meet at Victory Hall - 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Thu 23 rd	Film Night: "The Holdovers", nominated for 2024's Oscars. £5 a ticket. 7.00pm film starts at 7.30pm	Victory Hall	Claire:9713574
Sun 26 th	Dawn Grigg Darts KO 1pm – 7pm	Beenham Club	
Mon 27 th	SPRING BANK HOLIDAY		
Tue 28 th	Beenham Tearoom 2pm-3.30pm	Victory Hall	Dru:07815 055 040 Pat:07947 478 840

Useful contact numbers:

Victory Hall Bookings: 01189714822 nolesandfrank@hotmail.com

Community Hall Bookings: Paula Reade: 07793116937 info@beenhampreschool.org

Church Warden: Janette Hammond: 07917818283

If you would like to add anything to the village diary, please contact patowen0@hotmail.com or 07947478840

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**BEENHAM RECREATION
GROUND**

FRIDAY 21st JUNE 7.30pm

**FREE EVENT – BRING YOUR FAMILY &
FRIENDS, BLANKETS & CHAIRS**

**BBQ (BY THE 6 BELLS), ICE CREAMS (DAVE'S
ICES)**

Beenham Scarecrow Festival 2024

This year we are going to let you choose whatever you would like to make for our Scarecrow Festival. It can be on any theme, realistic or abstract, fantasy or factual, and we hope to have a really exciting variety of scarecrows to enjoy this summer. Maybe you'll be inspired by the Paris Olympics, or perhaps you'll create a favourite character from a nursery rhyme, a fairy tale or a TV show – it's up to you!

If you would like to take part in the Scarecrow Festival, all you need to do is to make your scarecrow, and ensure it is able to survive life outside for at least a week or so. Then display it by the 12th May in time for the judging which will take place over the following few days. The winners will be announced at the Band on the Rec on 21st June.

If you plan to make a scarecrow and would like it to be included in the judging for the John Thurley Cup, please email me your name and address, with "scarecrow" in the subject box, by 11th May. It would be helpful if you could also email a photo of your scarecrow once it is in position. And please **don't** send your entry via Facebook!! Thank you!

Lesley McEwen lesleymcewen@btinternet.com

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY 30TH JUNE 6PM

A fun concert will be performed in Beenham church by the Belle Canto trio at 6pm.

The Good Exchange Project for Victory Hall Roof Repairs 20399

Appeal to Beenham Villagers

Most of you will be aware of the many issues with the leaky roof of the Hall buildings. The committee have worked hard and now have a quote that's been approved and submitted to the Good Exchange so we can raise funds on its website. We are hopeful that this will be successful and donations, including all donations that have been made in advance from supportive villagers, as well as a generous donation from the Parish Council, will be eligible for match funding.

These donations will also be match funded by Grundon's benevolent offer in support of the preservation of this valuable village asset.

You may have noticed that the Village Hall committee have arranged several events, the proceeds of which will go to the 'Roof Repairs Project'. Posters are on Beenham online, notice boards, in the Hall and various fences and telegraph poles with information on how to obtain tickets. Your support for these would be appreciated, as well as fun!

However, even with all this activity and generosity we still need to ask for your help by giving a donation to ensure the completion of the programme of work to **YOUR** Village Hall. Donations can be as little as £10, although larger amounts will certainly not be rejected!

Finally, to help with donating, our wonderful Jackie Johnson, has put together a 'How to' instruction sheet.

The Trustees of Beenham Victory Hall Charity wish to thank you in advance for your welcome and essential support.

Making a donation through The Good Exchange:

Log into <https://thegoodexchange.com> and select Charitable Projects on the top line of the screen.

From the drop-down options select 'Projects'.

On the next screen it will display 'Browse Projects'. Enter the project number **20399** into the 'Keywords' box and the Roof Repair project will display.

Click on the words 'Roof Repair Project' to show more information and see the 'Donate Now' box.

Click on the 'Donate Now' box and follow the steps through their process. You will have to create an account with a username and password.

The donation process asks for Donation Details and gives four options:

1. Personal donation
2. On behalf of a company
3. On behalf of a charitable organisation
4. A collection from other donors e.g. collections or fund raising event

Note that Top Up (match funding) will not be given for donations from other charitable organisations.

Note also that donations must be genuine donations and not a payment for goods or services to be eligible for Top Up (match funding).

Personal donations will be asked if they want to Gift Aid.

Payment must be by Debit or Credit Card. If the donation is more than £1000 then BACS can be an option.

I cannot see any way of making payment by cheque, but, if necessary, we can enquire.

Greyfield Wood Update

The Directors of Greyfield Wood CIC are responsible for ensuring that the terms of our lease agreement with Douai Abbey are honoured and that the Woodland is kept maintained as per our agreements with The Forestry Commission and the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). The Forestry Commission is the Government body responsible for the oversight of Woodlands and Forests in the UK. The RPA is another Government body responsible for maintaining the national Rural Land Register. This underpins the delivery of land-based schemes such as countryside stewardship and the provision of annual grants to help ensure that public woodland areas are correctly maintained.

Overall, the RPA maps and maintains 2.7 million land parcels, and within those are 4.6 million land covers that tell us which features are present in each land parcel, such as arable land, woodland, ponds and farmyards. They also record eight million hedges as linear features within, or on, the boundary of land parcels. Greyfield Wood is one such parcel.

As Woodlands mature regular surveys need to be made. Greyfield Wood has recently been surveyed by two independent woodland professionals to assess the situation regarding tree maturity, disease state and overall woodland safety.

One undeniable fact noted by both independent surveys is the large number of trees affected with Ash dieback disease. This is not news as we have been felling diseased trees over several years, always replanting with broad leaf trees as per our agreement with The Forestry Commission.

The Directors are now assessing the results of these surveys and preparing a fresh Woodland Management Plan to be submitted to The Forestry Commission this year. I will write more next month about what a Management Plan is.

GREYFIELD WOOD OPEN DAY - SUNDAY, 19TH MAY, 2.00-5.00pm

Please join us at Greyfield Wood for our Open Day. We will be organising walks through the wood and pointing out key features and developments. The Directors will be on-hand to answer any questions and there will be a plentiful supply of tea and cake!

We look forward to seeing you there and to an enjoyable afternoon in our beautiful Wood.

Beenham Allotment Association (BAA)



Well, the clocks have changed and we have lighter evenings but as I sit to write this it is raining yet again. Everyone's plots are wet and I'm sure we are all behind our usual schedules. My window sills are covered in seedlings. But until the risk of frost has passed I need to be patient.

Some of the competition potatoes are in, so fingers crossed nature will settle and we will all have a successful year.

We are attempting a sweet pea competition this year, to be judged by Tim Culley: "a vase of 9 scented sweet pea stems (mixed colours)" I'm sure the bees will love it.

May is a busy time for gardeners and allotment holders, with the soil warming up its all systems go with a hoe hoe hoe!

BEENHAM IN BLOOM 2024

It is time to start planning for the BVE Beenham in Bloom competition.

You can grow your own flowers or make a trip to one of our wonderful local garden centres.

Adult Category

If you would like to enter yourself or a neighbour (with their permission), please contact us.

The Arthur Sutton, Six Bells Beenham in Bloom Cup will be awarded to the "best in village" from amongst the Adult winners.

Children's category

There are two children's categories: 0 – 5 year olds and 6 – 11 year olds.

The Edwin Roe Memorial Cup will be awarded to the best children's entry.

So, if any budding gardeners would like to take part that would be fantastic. They will need to make a tub or planter of flowers of at least 20cm diameter (8 inches) and to care for it by watering and weeding.

Judging will take place around mid July depending on how the season develops.

To enter please email Pat Owen – patowen0@hotmail.com by **Friday 28th June**, giving your name, address and the category you wish to enter: Adult, Child 0 – 5 or Child 6 – 11.

Notes from Beenham Parish Council Meeting-April 8th

Public Forum

A representative of the Victory Hall updated the Council on the status of fundraising for repairs to the Hall roof.

It was noted that the Village Tea Party had donated £100 to Berkshire Vision.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman...Review of Standing Orders/Financial Regulations etc.

It was agreed to postpone discussions to the Annual Council Meeting next month which precedes the next PC meeting.

Councillors Reports

An update on the study regarding possible Social Housing run by Connecting Communities Berkshire was provided. The study is in the early stages of looking at potential sites.

An update on the fire risk assessment for the Community Room was postponed to next month when Alex Cother will report.

Planning

24/00422/CERTE, Malthouse Farm-Use of existing building as separate residential accommodation. No objection to accommodation but objection to any extension to separate curtilage.

24/00378/HOUSE,49 Abbey Gardens, Woolhampton. No objection.

Additional Planning correspondence. Beenham Solar Farm. No opinion was given on the latest communication from Grundon expressing their intention to reduce the scope of the Solar Farm.

Parish Councillors

Closure of A4 Bath Road was noted. It was suggested that a No Access to A4 Bath Road sign be erected at the junction of The Avenue and Bourne Lane to prevent drivers from outside the area trying to go through the village to the A4.

Track from Clay Lane to the Rec repairs. Dieter Hinke will be meeting WBC contractors to obtain more information on status.

Parish Council Organisations/Projects

PH will contact all village assets regarding the proposed Beenham Trail Day to establish potential dates and avoidance of clashes with other events.

Reported issue of rat presence in Community Room grounds. The PC will help if required.

Grant Requests

The request from Beenham Primary School for support towards swimming lessons for KS2 was discussed. It was agreed that clarification is needed.

The request from Victory Hall for support in raising funds for repairs to the roof was discussed.

A quote for costs has been received and agreed. It was noted that Grundon have agreed to match funding that has been raised through the Hall fundraising efforts. In addition, The Good Exchange are hopefully going to do the same up to £5000. £19000 is needed in total. Parishioners can contribute their own funding (which would be matched as above) by going to.. thegoodexchange.com/project/20399. Beenham Parish Council has already committed £2000 and resolved to commit a further £3100 making a total of £5100.

The next Meeting will be held in the Community Room on May 13th at 7.00pm

Full details of the Councillors (including email addresses) are on the website at beenham-pc.gov.uk/councillors/.

Save the Dates Events @ Beenham Village Hall



- 24th May** **Floral Rebellion, Willow Birdfeeder Workshop.**
Take a first step into the craft of willow weaving and take home something you have made for your garden birds, incl. refreshments. Suitable for beginners, over 18s only. Contact Steph: 07410898560 or steph@floralrebellion.co.uk to book.
- 7th June** * **Valuation Evening with Simon Jones of Jones and Jacobs Auctioneers.**
Half time refreshments, Club Bar open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Early bookings taken to avoid disappointment, available for sale at the Village Market, 11th May. Ticket Price £10, Contact Nola: 0118 971 4822 or nolesandfrank@hotmail.co.uk for further information or to book.
- 27th June** **Chilli Con Carne produced by Messy Kind, theatre in the round performance.**
Brand new three-hander romantic drama by Sarah Vickers:
Club Bar open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets available: www.messykind.com
- 23rd November** * **Barn Dance played and called by Inisheer Folk Band.**
Club Bar open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Early bookings taken from 1st November to avoid disappointment. Ticket Price £10, Contact Nola: 0118 971 4822 or nolesandfrank@hotmail.co.uk for further information or to book.

*

All proceeds to Hall Roof Repair

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Wednesdays **May 1st & 22rd**

Foresters 9.30-9.50

Beenham:

Wednesdays **May 1st & 22rd**

Stoneyfields 3.15-4.00

Midgham:

Thursdays **May 2nd & 23rd**

Goddard's Drive 10.10--10.20

Woolhampton:

Thursdays **May 2nd & 23rd**

Watermill Ct 10.25-11.10



WEST BERKS FOODBANK

WHEN PEOPLE ARE GOING WITHOUT.... IT IS TIME TO GUARANTEE THEIR ESSENTIALS

West Berks Foodbank relies on your goodwill and support.

The West Berks Foodbank thinks no one in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why they provide seven days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis. They are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.

The shopping list below shows the food items that are needed right now.

FOOD ITEMS

UHTmilk, tinned meat (hotdogs, meatballs etc.), tinned fish, tinned fruit, sponge/rice puddings, coffee (small jars), long-life juice, pasta sauce, tinned veg (potatoes, carrots, green beans, tomatoes), tinned meals (spaghetti, chicken/vegetable curry, chilli), tinned soup, jam and spreads

NON FOOD ITEMS

Shower gel, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, toilet rolls, washing up liquid, laundry detergent pods.

Drop off locations:

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

Beenhaim: 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**

NATURE NOTES

I was still waiting for winter when I suddenly realized we are well into spring. Was that it, or will we have a late, very sharp, frost, as we did four years ago? There are fears that the baby tits and the caterpillars they are usually fed will not coincide; will the adults find something else, or does it mean fewer surviving chicks? Only time will tell. We have certainly had a wonderful display of early spring flowers, owing to the plentiful rain. Now the bluebells will be in full flower, and everywhere will be fresh and the greens various, before they all merge into one dark colour. The summer birds will be arriving and adding their songs to the usual chorus, so do go out and enjoy it before it gets too hot to move!

Stella Nesbit



Church Services across 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 for May

Sunday 5th May

St Mary's, Beenham	Morning Praise	09:15
St Peter's Brimpton	Rogation, Manor Farm	10:00
St Matthew's Midgham	BCP Communion	09:15
St Nicholas, Wasing	Morning Praise	10:45
St Peter's, Woolhampton	Rogation, Ferris	10:45

Sunday, 12th May

St Mary's, Aldermaston	Holy Communion	10:45
St Matthew's Midgham	Benefice Songs of Praise	17:00

Sunday, 19th May

St Mary's Aldermaston	Holy Communion	10:45
St Mary's, Beenham	Holy Communion	09:15
St Peter's Brimpton	Holy Communion	09:15
St Matthew's Midgham	Informal Holy Communion	10:45
St Peter's, Woolhampton	Holy Communion	10:45

Sunday, 26 May

St Mary's, Beenham	Holy Communion	09:15
St Peter's Brimpton	Holy Communion	10:45
St Matthew's Midgham	Evensong	17:00
St Peter's, Woolgampton	Holy Communion	10:45

Can you spare a little time on Tuesdays to help at our local Stroke Care Group?



Stroke touches the life of millions. Local charity, Stroke Care for Newbury & West Berkshire provides support to stroke survivors and their families in West Berkshire.

Part of our service is a re-enablement group which meets Tuesdays 10.30am to 2.30pm in Woolhampton Village Hall. We provide physiotherapy, exercises and mental activities in an enjoyable social setting with refreshments and a hot lunch.

We have a wonderful team of staff and volunteers but we always need extra help. If you can offer a few hours on Tuesday on a volunteer basis to chat with members, help with activities and exercises or help in the kitchen, please contact Jo Teece on 07970131074 or johanteece@gmail.com

Our website for more information: strokecarenewbury.org.uk

Sir,

I was intrigued by your article on Pasificastacus Leniusculus, the giant signal crayfish. The pond at the bottom of our garden is full of them. I am told that all you have to do is invest in Bufo bufo, the common toad. Develop your own terrarium (toadary) and surprising things will happen. If you feed your toads on colourful plant based foods they will change colour which will attract the signal crayfish. Bufo bufo, however, has its own secret weapon which makes the signal crayfish foam at the mouth and shrivel up.

Try it, you may be surprised.

Yours etc.

Gopher Reman

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