

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 mrsbscott@btinternet.com

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Committee's Comments

The nights are noticeably drawing in now and we are well into the "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness". Despite the shortening days, changing leaf colour and move towards cooler weather, the Committee Members hope that the contents of the Villages' News will stay on your kitchen tables throughout October to bring a bit of light and warmth to you all.

Thinking of fruitfulness, it has been a funny year weather-wise. Predicted to be even hotter than last year thanks to an El Niño event in the Pacific, 2023 has – thankfully – not lived up to that projection, although September broke records with seven consecutive days at 30C or above. We aren't out of the woods going forwards though as there is a 66% chance that global temperatures will break that all-important 1.5C Global Warming Limit at least once before 2027.

I wonder how many gardeners have had the same experience as I have had this year, in that many crops were poor (raspberries, blackberries) or failed totally (red and white currants – totally stripped by the birds – and walnuts – by the squirrels) while others did fabulously (broad beans, French beans, peaches, mulberries and figs). My courgettes are struggling to produce, but that suits me as I'm not very fond of them. I grow them out of habit but am grateful to Helen Apsey who supplied some delicious marrow recipes in the September Issue of *Villages' News*. Around this time of year, my favourite recipe is "Courgette Surprise" – meaning that tonight I won't eat courgette in any form; boiled, grilled, stuffed, sautéed, spiralized or in a soup.

On that note, please remember that the Committee would welcome articles of interest to include in future issues. I could certainly do with some suggestions for using up French beans as my freezer is now 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 villages of Midgham and Woolhampton henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com

For the village of Beenham patowen0@hotmail.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.

Advertising enquiries can be sent to mrsbscott@btinternet.com.

Articles will be included and/or edited at the Editor's discretion.



WEST BERKS FOODBANK

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

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

More people than ever are being driven to food banks and the sharp increase in people needing help is outstripping food donations.

Your donations are vital to ensure food banks in our network can continue to help everyone referred to them.

FOOD ITEMS REQUIRED

UHT milk, 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 bolognese, chicken or veg curries, chilli) tinned soup, jam and spreads

NON FOOD ITEMS

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

WELL STOCKED

Please **no more** pasta

Drop off locations:

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

Beenham: Under community noticeboard.

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

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

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

Woolhampton News

Village Market

The next Market will be on Saturday 7th October from 10a.m. to 12noon in the Village Hall.

All visitors, and particularly new residents within the village, are welcome to this monthly community event – no entrance fee, refreshments are available (hot bacon rolls are back this month – superb!). Given that mince pies are already on sale in shops, it's surely not too early to start searching for that special, possibly unusual, Christmas present – you might just find it on one of our stalls with their variety of merchandise (some stallholders will even take commissions if you want something extra special). Come along and see what else is going on in your village. Look forward to seeing you there.

Annual Show 2023 (post-script)

The winner of the Tallest Sunflower competition, Harriet Molloy, reports that her sunflower is still growing and has now reached an impressive 3m 65cm (just short of 12ft in 'old money'). Not a world record, agreed, but the best in our area – or is it?



Indoor Short-Mat Bowls



We will soon be starting our winter season of short-mat bowls in the Village Hall on Friday afternoons. If you fancy some gentle exercise and trying your hand at bowls, do come along and join in the fun but please note that it is nowhere near as energetic as ten-pin bowling! For further information please contact Terry either by email (terry.vallis@outlook.com) or mobile 07771933526.

Annual Show 2024!!!

The Committee is already thinking of the next show and decided that one of the photographic classes will be “Fireworks” so what better time to try and capture your entry on camera than November. Other classes will be decided during the coming months and I will keep you informed, so watch this space!

Woolhampton & Midgham WI

September has been very kind to us so far – I haven’t thought about switching on any heating. It usually goes on 2nd week in September! I hope you have all been enjoying the beautiful weather and the lovely evenings which stayed quite warm.

September is always a rather quiet month for the WI as many opt to take their holiday once the children have gone back to school. This was particularly noticeable at the Village Market. It was very quiet. Nevertheless our cake stall did very well!

However we did have rather a good turn out at this month’s meeting – as it was rather special. We had an evening of sound healing led by a lovely lady called Emma who is a friend our Yoga teacher. She had a variety of glass jars which all contained a little tea light and which were spread around her. Each of the glass containers produced a different sound when stroked with a small brush around the perimeter. Together with a variety of instruments and her wonderful singing voice Emma coaxed us all into a stress-free and relaxing half hour whether we were seated or lying on our yoga mats. It was a wonderful feeling and a joyful experience. I can recommend it. The competition was ‘Something beginning with S – for September’ and was won by a shillelagh. There were quite a variety of interesting S objects on display.

A visit to West Green House and Gardens was made in late August by a group of our members. The weather was kind and a very enjoyable day was enjoyed by all.

Recently a group of us went to the Theatre Royal in Windsor where we were entertained by a superb production of Calendar Girls. It was hilarious – I think we were all laughing from beginning to end.. We had a very nice lunch overlooking the river before the performance and a lovely stroll along the parks and the river back to the car park. Another very enjoyable day out. A walk around Dinton Pastures is planned for this Autumn – with lunch to finish, of course. Happily, we returned to our Yoga classes this week. Our WI has a class on Thursday morning. I do enjoy it and I am sure we are all better for it. I know I feel better when I have practised at the class.

I hope you have found something of interest in this report. If you would like to learn more about our WI pop in and join us on the second Tuesday of the Month in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. You will be made to feel very welcome and I’m sure you will find us a very friendly group of ladies!





Woolhampton CE Primary School

Enabling all to Flourish

The start of a new school year is always a very special time. It was a joy to see our children returning and reuniting with their friends and teachers after the Summer, and a privilege to welcome our new starters as they begin their school journey.

It is a time of adjustment for everyone however having been into the school during the first week of term, I was struck by how calm and settled it felt.

The wonderful weather ensured the best use was made of our outdoor environment, with visits to Forest School, volunteers listening to reading in the outdoor classroom, and the whole school Welly Walk to Beenham, as part of Jeans for Genes Day.

By the time you read this Year 6 will have helped to run the Macmillan Coffee Morning at Douai Pavilion. Many parents and carers will have attended a Welcome Back assembly with the whole school involved, and year 6 will have organised a toy sale also in aid of Macmillan.

Our active parent's association, Friends of Woolhampton, will have organised a Family Fun Run on Douai playing fields, raising money for the school's playground fund.

It is very much business as usual.

Kate Moir
PCC Governor

Aldermaston News

Aldermaston Parish Council – 12th September 2023

Our September meeting was well attended by the community. A representative from The Old Mill addressed a complaint about frequency and noise of fireworks. The Mill has hosted 77 wedding this year to date, of which 8 had a fireworks display. They are 2-4 minutes long, take place before 11pm and The Mill gives advance warning to the community via their FB page on the day. This is all in-line with regulations.

Wasing estate gave a debrief on their recent Medicine Festival. The event was attended by 4,000 ticket holders and was enjoyed by all, however severe congestion that resulted when too many cars arrived at the same time on the opening day did cause considerable inconvenience to locals. Event organisers expressed sincere apologies to anyone impacted and said they would be making a number of changes to next years' event to ensure that it wont happen again.

We heard from the owner of 22B The Street who has a planning application to rebuild the property's rear extension. We later discussed in Closed Forum and agreed No Objection. A resident raised concern at WBCs lack of Conservation Officers. This subject was also discussed later in Closed Forum; we agreed to write to WBC asking them to specify how they are addressing their statutory and corporate duties to conservation. And finally, a resident asked if there was any news about the Woodstock site following the refusal of Easy Concrete's planning application in May. Following recent inquiries to WBC we know that a new planning application is imminent although the nature of the application is still unknown. WBC Enforcement is keeping an eye on developments on the site but does not appear inclined to issue any notices to require the owner to clean it up at this stage. We are worried that the mounds of earth on the field to the north might become unstable in the wetter winter months and could pose a danger to the nearby road users. We have already raised with WBC and will push for reassurance on the matter.

Our ward councillor Dominic Boeck told us about WBC's measures to halt spending including recruiting only for critical vacancies in 2023 and spending only on statutory services but was unable to say whether the areas of Enforcement and Conservation, which are currently under resourced, would be affected. We agreed to write to the Council to stress the importance of these functions to our Parish and Dominic agreed to support our position. Dominic also said that the possibility of moving to 3-weekly bin emptying was being considered as a cost cutting measure, but reassured that Conservative council members would strongly resist the proposal.

On financial matters, we were pleased to report that our external audit was completed without caveats. There will be more detail on all of the above in our next Parish Council newsletter which can be accessed via our website at www.aldermaston.co.uk

Aldermaston Coffee Club

In the conservatory area of Hilliers' café.

Drop by for a chat, a chance to meet
old friends and to make new ones.



Everyone is welcome - just come along.

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.

Any time from 10.00am – 11.30am



Harvest Festival Service
St Mary's Church, Aldermaston
10.45am - Sunday 15th October

Join us afterwards for a
Harvest Lunch

12.15pm

Aldermaston Parish Hall
Adults - £10, Children - £5

Tickets available from:

Vicky Curtis curtisvicky62@gmail.com

Booking essential by Monday 9th October

Dietary requirements catered for.

Tea/coffee and soft drink available. Bring your own beer or wine

Proceeds towards the maintenance of St Mary's Church



Aldermaston CE Primary School

We are ready for the new school year and we hope that everyone has enjoyed the long break despite the varied weather. How typical that it is really warm as the children return to school! The staff are looking forward to welcoming the children into their new classrooms and I am sure that everyone will soon settle into the new routines. There are many exciting lessons and projects planned for the new term, to ensure the pupils receive a varied and engaging curriculum.

Our PTA is also busy planning various events, more details will follow next month.

The Aldermaston Charity

It was with a mixture of sadness and pleasure that we marked the retirement as a Trustee of Cliff Whatmore. Cliff was a Trustee for 15 years, most of that time as Treasurer. Trustees celebrated his commitment to the Charity and the Aldermaston community with afternoon tea and a glass of fizz. He was presented with two pottery goblets crafted by local potter Ursula Waetcher. Cliff's wife, Ros received a bouquet of flowers created by Kerry Thomas. The Trustees gave Cliff and Ros their very best wishes and many thanks. Wishing them well for the future.

Aldermaston & Wasing Show

This year's Aldermaston and Wasing Show was special, celebrating our 80th year, thinking back to the early 1940s in a time of war and the campaign to Dig for Victory! We were delighted with the success of the show, so much positive feedback and more than 2000 people enjoying the beautiful setting of the old Mill and the glorious warm and sunny weather. The car park was full and large crowds enjoyed the produce and craft tent, the many stalls and arena events.

There was lots to see and do for adults and children including coconut shy, plate smashing, archery and tombola. Local groups were well represented including the Aldermaston History Group, Craft Group, St Mary's Church, Masons, Aldermaston Players, 1st Aldermaston Scouts who organised our parking. Local charities supported our event including the popular Daisy's Dream charity.

The duck derby was record breaking with more than 1400 tickets sold, providing mad entertainment, watching ducks racing along the stream chased by our chairman Clive Vare, raising funds for our two charities West Berkshire Food Bank and St Michaels Hospice. The raffle was also very popular with some amazing prizes donated by local businesses and individuals.

The West Berkshire Rock Choir and Tadley Brass Band provided some lovely music, the dog show was popular, the children's races were energetic and the egg throwing was entertaining and at times messy.

In the marquee, there were around 350 individual entries by 56 adults and children. The best dressed pot proved successful with fun and stunning entries including Pot Noodle and Gunpowder Pot. The photographic competition was hard fought with some stunning wildlife and rainfall entries. The homecraft section was well supported with the Jenny Franklin Cup won by Nicola Franklin for the best Victoria Sponge and the best homecraft exhibit to homemade jam by Julia Price. The craft entries included knitting, painting, woodwork, limerick, felt flowers and hanging decorations. Clare Bruton won the craft cup for a beautiful copper wire and bead hanging butterfly. The fruit and vegetable competition was mixed, there were no entries for the onion trophy, but a great selection of cut flowers and a good selection of house plants and fruit. The star of the show was Hannah Perry who was awarded 8 cups including flower arranging as well as cut flowers and vegetables. The Banksian Medal was won by one of our youngest ever recipients Lyla Beall.

The ongoing success and continuity of the show is dependent on so many factors. We are fortunate to be provided with the venue of the Old Mill and the support of the Arlott Family. We rely heavily on volunteers, sponsors and local groups. A lot of combined effort goes into organising the show and ahead of next year we are losing some key members of our committee after decades of commitment. WE NEED YOU to help next year's show happen and bring in new ideas and abilities. Please let us know if you would like to help keep this historic show running and share ideas for continuing to enhance this historic and entertaining show.

Karen Dignan, Show Secretary



Duck Derby Report 2023

The 2023 Duck Derby was run throughout a wonderful late summer afternoon in a packed Showground. The course was unusually narrow and deep this year due a to a very high water-table, encroaching reeds and luxuriant waterweed growth during our extraordinary 'Summer'. Ed Arlott did his stuff and cut a swathe through the Mill Race enabling unimpeded racing to commence.

Fast race times ensued with some remarkable results! The first Heat was won by Duck 10 owned by Derek Inglut purchaser of the first of this years' paper tickets. 10 bided its time and went on to win the Final! Bruce Leslie was first to buy the on-line ducks when they became available and won Heat 6 with Duck 506.

Nicola Dymond bought tickets late in the day and was rewarded by winning Heat 9 with Duck 881 as was Jennifer Irving who bought the same duck on-line. 881 went on to take 2nd place in the final winning both Nicola and Jennifer £70! Harley Paxford was rewarded for stepping to help as his dad was unable to by his Duck 239 coming in 3rd in the Final. Congratulations to Cathy Jones for winning the Duck Derby Plate through her entry into the Produce Section of the Show.

Thanks also to our Race Sponsors who gave the prize money, so please give them your support too.

Clive Vare, Duck Derby Race Organiser

The Aldermaston Craft Group

The Aldermaston craft group was established in 2018. This month Jean Chapman kindly ran a workshop for us demonstrating Patchwork Quilting. Jean showed us some of her fabulous quilts that she has made over the years and then spent time showing us some of the basic skills needed. Everyone had a go at this and also enjoyed tea, coffee, cake and bubbly.

Aldermaston craft group currently meet once a month (usually on a Wednesday) at the Aldermaston Parish hall. Our next meetings are:

October 26th – Copper leaf making - £10 charge for this month, very few places left .

November 22nd – Christmas decorations – a few places left .

For further information please contact Ange Boott
ange@kennetonline.co.uk



BURGHFIELD & MORTIMER
VOLUNTEER
Bureau

**FIND IT DIFFICULT TO GET TO YOUR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS?
IF YOU LIVE IN ALDERMASTON THEN OUR FRIENDLY TEAM ARE READY TO HELP
CONTACT US ON 01189 831 814 (MON-FRI 9:30-11:30am)**

We at the Burghfield and Mortimer Volunteer Bureau give our time and our own private vehicles to get you to your medical appointments Hospitals, GP Surgeries, Dentists and Opticians.

You will be taken to your appointment from your home, we will wait with you and then return you home. There is no charge. We simply ask for a donation to cover the office running costs and help with volunteer drivers for their fuel.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY IN THIS WAY
AND JOIN OUR DRIVERS?**

Have you recently retired? Have a car and enjoy meeting people and chatting? Looking for a way to give some of your time to your community?

CONTACT US ON 01189 831 814 (MON-FRI 9:30-11:30am)

or email bureauvolunteer@gmail.com

The Burghfield & Mortimer Volunteer Bureau needs more drivers and would welcome any of your time (daytime Mon-Fri). An allowance of 50p per mile is available to cover motoring

Beenham News

NOTES OF THE BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - 4th SEPTEMBER 2023

Some councillors were unable to attend the meeting, so there was not a quorum (which means that no formal decisions could be made). We had a general discussion until the Chairman arrived and we could then make the necessary resolutions. This included confirming the co-option of Peter Hamblin and David Hancock to the council (as the correct procedure had not been followed at the previous meeting).

PUBLIC FORUM

Some of the points raised during the Public Forum were:

Could the PC fund some more regular clearing of the footpaths, as some paths were overgrown. Other parishioners said that they had reported problem areas to WBC, and they had been dealt with.

A parishioner was awaiting a Freedom of Information response from WBC, which had been promised in August. Other people commented that they were waiting for a response from WBC.

The safety barriers that have been erected on the sharp bend opposite the garage were discussed. The barriers do guard some dangerous holes in the surfacing, but they push cars further out into the road. This will be reported to WBC.

The Licensing Application for Awberry Farm was discussed. The PC response is given below.

A parishioner asked if the PC would support an application to nominate the Six Bells for placing on the register of Assets of Community Value. This would give the community six months to prepare an offer to buy the pub, if it was put up for sale. A parishioner said that the process had been started when the pub was up for sale a few years ago, but it was not completed. The PC said they would consider this at the next meeting, but asked for more details.

PLANNING

The PC had no objection to applications from Grundon to replace a site security cabin, and an application for extensions at The Hollies, Webbs Lane.

The PC agreed to submit comments on the license application for Awberry Farm. This would focus on the noise nuisance, and protection of children from harm.

OTHER MATTERS

We have been contacted about possible events to mark the 80th anniversary of D-day next year. If anyone one is interested in organising an event then please contact the Clerk or BVE.

It was noted that signs have been put up about speeding on Beenham Hill, and turning engines off outside the Victory Hall. The possibility of more signs at dangerous bends was discussed, but the official view is that fixed signs lose their impact after a few weeks. The feasibility of a 20mph zone is being discussed with WBC.

The procurement of a clock to mark the Coronation is proceeding, with generous sponsorship from 2 local companies.

The Da Capo Orchestra have decided to relocate to Beenham, as they needed more space. They will be meeting each Thursday in the School Hall. They welcome all adults, without audition. For more details see da-capo.org.uk .

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Community Room on Monday 2nd October, starting at 7.00pm.



What do you know about Beenham WI?

Who?

We are a friendly, diverse group of ladies of all ages, who look forward to welcoming new members to our group. Beenham WI celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2020.

What?

Our monthly meetings consist of a short admin session, normally followed by a speaker and tea & coffee. There are separate subgroups for the lively monthly afternoon "Book Club" and "Craft and Chat" sessions included in your membership fee. We organise other activities such as pub lunches and teas. You may even have seen us picking up the litter every month around the village.

Where?

The Community Room, Beenham.

When?

7:30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Why?

So that women can take the time for themselves and each other.

Program for 2023-24

4th October : Pub lunch

11th October : Sarah Moorcroft - Silk painting

13th October : Book Club

*14th October : Skittles evening in Victory Hall (£10)

27th October : Craft and Chat

3rd November : Book Club

4th November : Litter picking

*8th November : Susan Howe - Running Fawley Towers

16th November : Pub lunch

24th November : Craft and Chat

1st December : Book Club

2nd December : Litter picking

6th December : Pub lunch

*13th December : Jaye Windmill - Stories for Christmas

5th January 2024 : Book Club

10th January 2024 : Resolutions for Annual meeting

*14th February 2024 : Jennifer Marshall-Jenkinson "Fancy a cuppa" - The story of tea

*visitors welcome (£4 fee)

Interested? Come along to one of our meetings or contact Sally on 07776251228

Kites

The first kite I can remember was diamond shaped: it had a single string and long tail. I would run up and down a Cornish beach trying to get it to fly, before putting it away for another year. Then in my early twenties the 2-stringed kites came in, and you could make them dance around the sky and amaze people who had never seen one before. In the right wind they flew really well – until they crashed into the ground and broke a spar.

Then somebody told us that Red Kites had been re-introduced into England, and could be seen on the hills around Henley. I had no idea that there were large birds called Kites that used to live in England, but I finally saw one in the distance, and was amazed by the size and grace of them. A few years later a few birds were spotted around Beenham, and the rest (as they say) is history. When they first arrived we would put meat out for them, but when we had 12 birds swooping down on the garden we decided it was getting a bit much (they would perch in the trees around and demand food). Even now, if I put a bit of old cat food on the lawn there will often be a kite swooping down within 10 minutes (do they smell it, or see it??).

Kites are now just part of the scenery in Beenham. Sometimes you will see one or two in the distance, but sometimes a large group is just circling straight overhead: it looks like they are doing it just for fun. There is no other large bird in UK that you can watch in flight in the same way. I did not realise just how big they are until I saw one close up.

There is no official collective noun for a group of red kites, but unofficial ones include a 'wake', a 'roost', a 'husk', a 'soar' or a 'kettle'. I think a soar of kites sounds right. We are very lucky in Beenham to have kites to gaze at.

Peter McKewen

DO COME AND PLAY ORCHESTRA (Da Capo) COMES TO BEENHAM

The Da Capo Orchestra have chosen Beenham School Hall for their Thursday evening rehearsals.

Back in 1995, local musician Patsy Moore decided to start an amateur orchestra. Her intention was that this orchestra would be open to all adults, whether players who were returning to their instruments after years of neglect, or those who had newly taken it up. No auditions were required, and Patsy would provide simplified parts where necessary. Patsy initially ran this orchestra as an evening class under the auspices of Newbury College, and called it NCLSO (Newbury College Late Starters Orchestra), meeting for a couple of hours every Thursday evening at Denefield School, Tilehurst.

In 2003, when Patsy tired of the paperwork involved in running an adult education class, she made it an independent group, now called Da Capo (Do Come and Play Orchestra). We moved from Denefield to several locations, finally ending up for many years at Padworth Village Hall. Patsy conducted us, occasionally assisted by her husband Ken and her daughter Jennifer; Ken and Jennifer also composed pieces for the orchestra.

When Patsy passed away a few years ago, the orchestra decided to continue as a self-governing unit. We appointed a committee and interviewed prospective conductors. We chose Laura Stead, whose day job is a serving Army officer, conducting various military bands.

In recent years our numbers have been growing. When we realised that our numbers were likely to pass 50 in the coming term, it became clear that Padworth was too small to accommodate us comfortably and safely (walking around everyone's parked instruments is like picking your way through a minefield!). The committee decided to look for a new rehearsal venue. After considering some locations, we decided on Beenham School Hall. Not only does it offer the extra space we need, but it is pretty close to Padworth, so nobody gets to make an appreciably longer journey.

We are all excited at this new phase in Da Capo's history, and hope to be playing at Beenham for many years to come.

You can find out more about us at our website, da-capo.org.uk. You might even want to think about joining us!

Chris Walsh, Da Capo Chair

Watermill Theatre on tour

As you may know, the Watermill tours some of its productions to rural venues. They came to Beenham many years ago, and they still go to Bradfield every year. A couple of us have enquired about them coming here again next summer and we wanted to know how much support there would be for such an event. Please could you let me know via email if you would be likely to attend a Watermill production in the village, and also if you would be willing to help organise it. Thankyou.

lesleymcewen@btinternet.com



Beenham Preschool

What a fabulous start to the new pre-school year as we have been making lots of new friends and welcoming lots of new families. We have more families joining us over the coming weeks and we are so grateful to be so busy at a time when many early years settings are facing challenges in both funding and numbers of children on Register.

"Food" seems to have become an informal topic at Pre-School this term as we continue to follow the children's interests. We have been picking tomatoes in our garden and eating them for snack as well as using them as toppings on delicious pizzas. Our role play has also been based around the idea of cooking and food as it has developed already from a kitchen to a pizzeria and now a fruit and vegetable shop with lots of opportunities for weighing, comparing and exploring (and eating!) a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. With Harvest Festival approaching I am sure we will be thinking about how hard our farmers work to supply all these crops (and all the other people who work in the food industry).

We have a very full diary of activities this term including regular visits from Robot Phonics, Pop Up Play Village and Outdoor Explorers and the West Berkshire Library Van (all at no additional charge to our parents). Before we know it we will be rehearsing our Nativity Play!!

If you would like to discuss a potential space for your child or would like to join the growing number of families booked in for 2024-5 then please do contact us to arrange a tour and we can tell you so much more about what we can offer you and your child.

Paula Read (Beenham Pre-School Manager)

Telephone: 07793 116937

Email: info@beenhampreschool.org

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM – OCTOBER 2023

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
Mon 2 nd	Parish Council Meeting 7pm	Community Rm	
Wed 4 th	Mobile Library 3.15pm – 4pm	Stoneyfield	
Sat 7 th	Church Working Party All help is most welcome	St Mary's	Janette:07917 818 283
Sat 7 th	Live Music – Night Rider – from 7.30pm	Club	
Wed 11 th	WI – 7.30pm £4 non-members	Community Rm	Sally:07776 251 228
Thu 12 th	Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6 £3/person	Six Bells	9713368 to book
Sat 14 th	Village Market and repair shop 2-3.30pm	Victory Hall	Claire:9713574
Wed 18 th	Beenham Friendship Club over 55s – 2.00pm Bingo and photo competition	Victory Hall	Marion:9713094 Tina:01635826154
Thu 19 th	Film Night: "The Little Stranger"; doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start: £5 entry	Victory Hall	Claire:9713574
Fri 20 th	Coffee Morning 10.30am	Six Bells	Janette:07917 818 283
Sat 21 st	Greyfield Woods Volunteer Morning 8.30 – 12pm	Meet at wood entrance	John:9712924
Sat 21 st	Calleva Stick Dressers 9am – 2pm	Victory Hall	David:07864 180 648
Sat 21 st	Live Music and Acoustic Night 7.30pm	Club	9713991
Sun 22 nd	Harvest Lunch- everyone is welcome to a two course meal: £10/head - 12pm	Victory Hall	Janette:07917 818 283
Wed 25 th	Mobile Library 3.15pm – 4pm	Stoneyfield	
Sat 28 th	Charity Karaoke Night	Six Bells	9713368
Tue 31st	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: paula_and_chris@hotmail.com

Church Warden: Janette Hammond: 07917818283

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

Brimpton News

Brimpton Parish Council

Among the items discussed at our September meeting were the following:

We were joined by Jenna Ansell, the Festival Director and by Andrew Perkins, the CEO of the Wasing Estate, to discuss local reactions to the recent Medicine Festival at Wasing Park. Although there was a brief flare up of noise on Friday evening this was dealt with fairly quickly and overall there were few noise or traffic issues in Brimpton or Brimpton Common.

A resident told us she had attended the festival and found it to be well organised with a peaceful atmosphere. Another resident reported that having a steward at the end of Wasing Road redirecting traffic was very effective.

Jenna Ansell reported that the traffic management company have suggested that there are two points of entry to the site next year to relieve the congestion experienced in Aldermaston. She also informed us that although amendments to their licence permit a higher number, they will not be increasing the number of attendees above 6000 next year. They will be increasing the amount of signage on the roads into the site and looking at the possibility of putting an official closure on Google Maps.

After this item we considered an application by Grundon Sand & Gravel Ltd to vary the timescale for the conclusion of work at Kennetholm Quarry. In order that Grundon complete work on the site, we agreed we had no objections but would express disappointment at the continued delay in completion.

We had no objections to an application to install solar panels at Arundell Lodge, Brimpton Lane .

The owner of 2 St Peters Close has applied to remove 4.2m of the existing front wall to create vehicular access to a new parking space. Some residents are opposed to this proposal but the wall is not protected and there is an earlier precedent at the adjacent Almshouses where part of the wall was removed to create an entrance some years ago. Because the wall is not protected we agreed not to comment on this application.

We are still waiting to hear from Wise Energy about replacing the dead trees and bushes around the Solar Farm.

Earlier this month we met with Thames Water by the sewage pumping site in Brimpton Road. Although they have no plans for improvements to the site to end winter flooding, Thames Water did offer to draw up an Action Plan to improve the verges and the gateway to the site. Nothing has yet been received.

It was agreed to delay the installation of the memorial stone to Queen Elizabeth II until Spring 2024 so that the unveiling event can be held in better weather.

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 3rd October 2023** in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.

John Hicks



Brimpton Church of England Primary School

Amazing things happen here.....

Welcome back to the start of our new academic year 2023-2024!

We hope you all had a great summer and dodged the raindrops!

We have set off on a flying start already with our children visiting Ufton Court, a planned trip to Hampton Court and elected our new School Council.

Ufton Court

KS2 started the year with a school trip on the second day back! What an amazing evening it was in such a beautiful setting. Ufton Court invited us to dinner and adventures. The staff and children had an amazing time – thank you Ufton Court!



School Council

Welcome to our new Brimpton School Council. We have a child from each year group who will be the voice of the children and help in implementing ideas and events for the school. A very responsible title. Thank you to Charlie, Elsie, Beau, Seth, Reuben, Lexi and Tullulah for taking on the role.



If you require any other information regarding Brimpton School

Please contact Mrs Sarah Vockins on 0118-9712311

office@brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk www.brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk

Brimpton WI News

Our WI meets every month apart from in August, hence why there is no actual report in this issue. Our Membership is primarily drawn from the conjoining areas of Brimpton village, Hyde End Lane and Brimpton Common, but we currently include amongst our Members some living in Crookham Common, Thatcham and Tadley. We are an evening Institute, as some Members have no free time during the day for work or family reasons etc. Others prefer to escape from the TV one evening a month, for the sociability it brings with others living in our area. We are the only non-religious organisation which meets on a regular monthly basis in our community.

Although only Woman can join as Members, over the years we have built up the tradition of extending a welcome to husbands, partners and friends, not only to our Social events but by Opening occasional Meetings to all, if we feel that a Speakers subject has a broader interest. Our recent September Meeting was such an "Open Meeting". The next will be on 16 January 2024 with a talk entitled "The world of the Honey Bee", which because of concerns over the declining populations of natural pollinators, is of importance to all who live in countryside such as ours.

Our October Meeting will be on Tuesday 17 October when the Speaker will be Andrew Hazeldean who will be giving us a "Pottery demonstration". The meeting will start at 7.30pm in Brimpton Village Hall. Tea and Coffee will be served along with home-made cake.

Contacts If you want to find out more about our activities please contact our President Shelley Bassil (0118 9710563) or our Secretary Annette Dolphin (0118 9710090) or use our dedicated e-mail link brimptonwi@berkshirewi.co.uk



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

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

WEDNESDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2023
(bring and buy)
WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2023
WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2023

Everyone (including dogs) welcome

Ride and Stride for Brimpton Church and Berkshire Historic Churches Trust



A warm welcome at St Mary's, Beenham

9th September was the hottest day of the year, but we enjoyed a lovely walk from Beenham Church to Midgham Church along footpaths we had never visited before. We arrived at St Peter's, Woolhampton just as the Elstree School service was finishing, and were surprised when our son and his children emerged from the church at exactly the right moment to greet us.

Thank you to the churches we visited for their welcome and hospitality, and to everyone who kindly sponsored us. At the time of writing the sponsorship money is still coming in, but the walk has raised at least £270 for St Peter's Brimpton and BHCT. Thank you!

Charles and Patricia Brims (and Ebony 🐾)

Brimpton 100 Club

September winner: No 136: Bill Scott

‘Medicine Festival’ at Wasing 2023

I went to the Medicine Festival on the Saturday with my daughter Charlotte wanting to be open-minded as I had been very sceptical about it.

Jane Manley, the Rector, also went to the festival for the second time and this year she went with her daughter and grandchildren. She wrote a lovely piece about it for the September benefice magazine including the following: “The festival is now in its fourth year and attracted 6000 people this year. People from all walks of life and all ages, people who are interested in nature, beautiful music and for many the spiritual element of the weekend. The Estate is transformed into a magnificent, tented village set in the backdrop of the Wasing Woods. It is an entirely alcohol-free affair which allows an atmosphere of peace and calm.” She goes on to say “What came across so strongly to me was the peace of the venue, it is a place to just be yourself, and with a strong connection and respect for nature and each other. The music is beautiful and very calming.”

I completely agree with her sentiments, and I was very pleasantly surprised by the whole event. 6000 people sounds a lot but it really didn’t feel busy or cramped. The feeling I had during the day and when I returned home was one of calm and serenity – such beautiful surroundings and a very happy and friendly atmosphere with many families present – in particular, I really enjoyed the nature walk through the beautiful woods, watercolour painting from nature and wool spinning.

Catherine Bamforth

**COFFEE
MORNING and
Bring-and Buy**

**Brimpton Church
Wednesday, 15th November
10 am – 11.30 am**



Midgham News



Midgham Café Church at

St Matthew's, Church Hill

First Thursday of the month

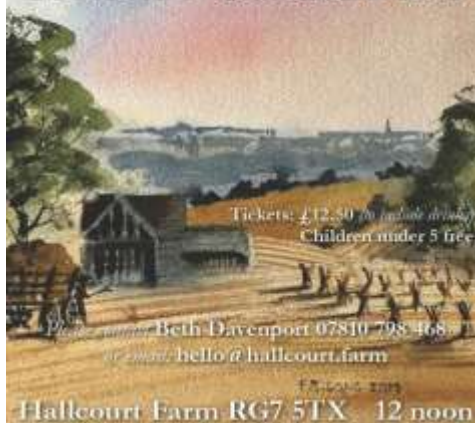
Thursday October 5th November 2nd

Join us for tea and cake and fellowship 2.00pm

Contact Sarah Henderson for more information

henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com

HARVEST FESTIVAL LUNCH & RAFFLE SUNDAY 1st OCTOBER 2023



Remembrance

St Matthew's will once again be lit up for Remembrance on Saturday 11th November.

More details next month

Midgham Village Hall Quiz night

There will be a quiz night on 7th October starting at 7pm with a good variety of questions to suit all ages! A fish and chip supper is provided and each member of the winning team wins a bottle of wine.

There will be a raffle with great prizes. Bring your own drink and come early to enjoy a free glass of Pimms. Tickets cost £14 and must be paid for in advance.

For further details contact;
bobandsharon327@gmail.com

Midgham Village Hall Coffee Mornings

There is a coffee morning on alternate Wednesdays in the Hall. Everyone from Midgham and the surrounding villages is welcome. Why not come and join your friends and neighbours for a friendly chat and a nice warm cuppa?

Butterfly Conservation Upper Thames Branch Churchyard Survey

Once again it is time to report on my survey of the six churchyards within the Benefice of Aldermaston and Woolhampton. The aim is to survey each of the churchyards, once a month from May to August but my report is incomplete this year due to a very wet second half of July meaning that there was no point in carrying out a survey by the time I was able to do so.

One point to notice is that five of the Parish Churches now have designated areas for wildlife that have been left uncut to encourage butterflies, invertebrates, and small mammals. Pre-eminent in this effort has to be St Mary's Beenham where a large proportion of the churchyard and adjacent graveyard have been left unmown with paths being cut to allow access to graves. I am aware that this has caused some criticism locally, but I really commend this sympathetic management approach that has led to swathes of harebells establishing themselves in the churchyard. This is not neglect but care at the best level. Summarizing the title of Dr George McGavin's Eco Church lecture earlier this year in Brimpton, do we want our churchyards to be "God's Acre" or a "Barren Boneyard"?

The first two surveys were extremely depressing with no more than a handful of orange tips, small whites and large whites being spotted in all churchyards in May and just a few ringlets and meadow browns in June. The one highlight being a red admiral at Midgham in June – but more of that later.

July was – quite literally – a washout. I wasn't able to carry out the survey in the first two weeks and then the rains came and there was no point. However, I am sure we all noticed an upturn in flying butterflies after the first few bursts of rain before the heavens opened. Noticeably, there were good numbers of commas flying around and well above average numbers of red admirals. This even made the evening news and the BBC website, with Butterfly Conservation stating that these increased numbers are probably due to the red admiral being able to over-Winter in recent years due to the extended Autumns we are experiencing as a result of global warming.

August saw a big improvement in numbers, with small whites, green-veined whites and large whites predominant in most churchyards. In St Peter's Woolhampton I witnessed a courtship chase of six green-veined white males after a single female. Meadow browns and gatekeepers were seen in most churchyards and holly blues were spotted at Midgham, Woolhampton, and Beenham – the holly blue has had one of its good years but may decline next year as the parasitic wasp that preys on it grows in numbers and the natural cyclical fluctuation kicks in.

I had left the back half of my garden to run rank with nettles in the hope of attracting small tortoiseshell, peacock, red admiral and maybe comma to lay on the nettles, but nothing happened. Then, on the 29th July, I spotted a female red admiral on my gravel drive and now I have three caterpillar nests in a scrappy bunch of nettles at the front of my house. I like to think they came from her – the timing is about right. On the basis that a picture is worth a thousand words, I finish with photographs of that female red admiral and a comma taken in my garden.

Laurence Harwood, Board Trustee of Butterfly Conservation,
<https://butterfly-conservation.org/>



Douai Pavilion Film Club - 2023/24 Season

Season – There will be film evenings, going through to April 2024 - All film nights will take place on the second Wednesday of each month.

Doors open 6-15pm. film starts 7-15pm and there is a 15-minute interval. Bar service pre-screening and during interval. Ticket price includes x5 complementary canapés and one drink (wine, beer, spirit or soft); please collect your token(s) on arrival.

Light refreshments are available during the interval on a cash bar basis. Ticket price £15 per member. £16 per guest (2 guests per member max). N.B. all tickets must be paid for in advance by bank transfer (Pavilion Film Club, Sort 20-45-45, Acc # 80785512) – NO cash payments will be accepted on the night. **N.B. Please do not make payment until your ticket request has been acknowledged and accepted.**

Refund policy: No refunds offered for no-shows or late cancellations (within 48hrs of film screening); however, with adequate notice tickets will be offered to waitlisted members and a credit issued for future showings. Seating capacity: x65 (if film is oversubscribed a waitlist will be created).

Film suggestions – In the never-ending quest to source films that are both of interest and appropriate for the membership, please do send through some suggestions of films that you feel might be suitable.

New Members – If you would like to become a new member of Douai Pavilion Film Club, please do contact Julian Mills on 07785 733313 or dpra.pfc@gmail.com. Annual membership is £10 per member.

Pavilion Film Club

AT Douai Pavilion
Douai Park,
Upper Woolhampton
RG7 5TB

Ride and Stride

Twenty four people set out from St Matthew's for the annual Ride and Stride cycle ride. We were really lucky with the weather, in fact it was an incredibly hot day and we enjoyed the coolness and refreshments of each church we visited.



Everyone had contributed to the magnificent lunch which we all ate at Tutts Clump kindly organised for us by Carol and Robert Stradling and Di Hibberd.



Thank s go to Julia and Stuart Roberts for organising the event and thank you to all who sponsored us.



“Down on the Farm” in September

How things change. Since my last missive in July it seems like it has constantly been wet. Our winter barley wasn't combined until August, and even then we were frequently dodging showers. We have finally finished today, Sept 14th, after one of the most frustrating and poorly yielding, stop/start harvests that I can remember, and I have actively been involved with 50 harvests driving the combine harvester.

At least we finished just in time for the re-start of the “Newbury Show”. I have been involved with this all my life and thoroughly enjoy working and stewarding the cattle section. The numbers are well down this year due to TB restrictions, financial constraints and some have retired with Covid being the catalyst. Hopefully there will be a nice representative of animals for everyone to see and enjoy. It will be interesting to see people's views on the show layout and organisation by the new management. Here's hoping for an enjoyable weekend meeting up with friends and experiencing Rural and countryside activities.

The good news with the wet summer is that our beef cattle have been enjoying lovely fresh grass and gaining weight, without having to feed expensive winter silage. Quite often with a hot dry summer, as last year, the grass completely stops growing and we must supplement that with hay and silage. We will be weighing the animals soon to see if they have reached the optimum weight for their final journey off the farm.

The saying goes “No peace for the wicked”. How apt that is in the farming calendar. We now have about a month to turn all the fields from golden yellow stubbles into dark brown seedbeds, so that we can sow the seeds for next year's harvest, into warm and moist conditions before winter threatens. This will generally be oilseed rape, barley, and wheat. We have already sown stubble turnips after the harvested barley. This will produce valuable fresh feed for sheep over the winter and they in turn will leave manure behind as fertiliser for the next crop.

It is nearly time for our six-monthly TB test on our cattle. This is always a very worrying time as to whether the dreaded disease has infiltrated our herd or passed us by. The results will determine the fate of our herd, so fingers crossed for positive news.

Another issue on the horizon is I am due to have a replacement shoulder joint. Unfortunately, I suffer from severe osteo-arthritis and already possess two replacement hips and a replacement knee. So, the word ‘Bionic’ has been banded around. Personally, I blame my parents, as it is hereditary, and nothing to do with a misspent youth of sport and socialising.

By the time of my next musings, the clocks will have changed, no doubt the temperatures will be somewhat lower, the turkeys for sale signs will be up and let's hope the world will be a safer, happier place.

Best wishes for an enjoyable autumn from Michael and Mandy.

Nature Notes

After that very hot spell that concluded such an unusual summer, autumn is suddenly very obviously here. As I write, leaves which were very green a week ago have turned yellow. The autumn colours will soon be with us. However, when you read this many fruits will still be on trees and bushes, so I would like to suggest a bird food store. Those of you with chest freezers will, with luck, have room for a tub of mixed fruit. There are still haws on the bushes, late blackberries and elderberries. A tin of these, with maybe windfall apples (chopped and worst bruises removed) maybe life-saving if we get a bad spell. A handful or two, thawed overnight and put out in the morning would be gratefully received. You may attract redwings and fieldfares, or at least pigeons!

MOBILE LIBRARY

Aldermaston

Wednesday **October 4th & 25th**
Forsters 9.30-9.50

Beenham:

Wednesday **October 4th & 25th**
Stoneyfields 3.15-4.00

Midgham:

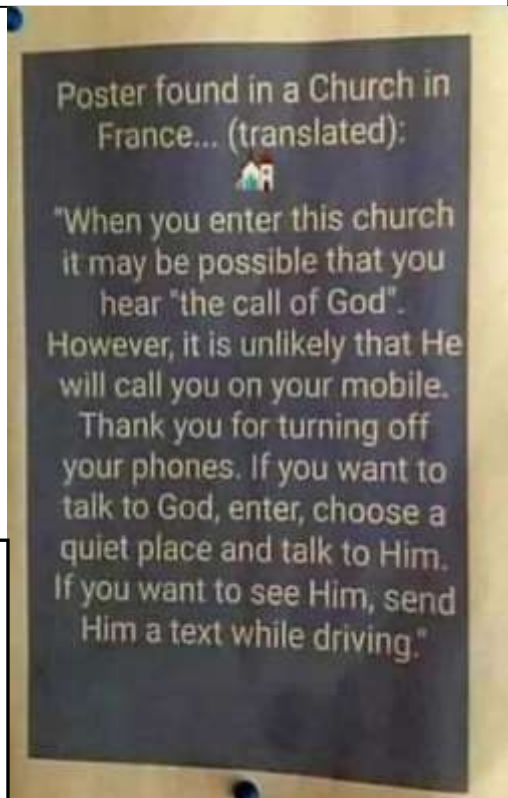
Thursday **October 5th & 26th**
Goddard's Drive 10.10--10.20

Woolhampton:

Thursday **October 5th & 26th**
Watermill Ct 10.25-11.10

CHAPEL ROW COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP

Beenham-Midgham-Woolhampton
For details of services provided, requests and offers to help ring:
0118 9713334 (Mrs Cardy) between
9.30 and 11.30 am,
Monday, Wednesday, Friday.
Woolhampton Surgery Run



Thanks to Sue Hunt of Brimpton for sharing this notice.

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 August Services

See benefice website, awb.org.uk, for details, in case of changes

Sunday 1st October

St Mary's	Beenham	Morning Praise	9:15am
St Peter's	Brimpton	Harvest Festival	10:45am
St Mathew's	Midgham	Harvest Festival	9:15am
St Nicholas	Wasing	Informal Holy Communion	10:45am

Sunday 8th October

St Mary's	Beenham	Holy Communion	9:15am
St Peter's	Brimpton	Holy Communion	9:15am
St Nicholas	Wasing	Holy Communion	10:45am
St Peter's	Woolhampton	Morning Prayer	10:45am

Sunday 15th October

St Mary the Virgin Aldermaston		Harvest Festival	10:45am
St Peter's	Brimpton	Morning Praise	9:15am
St Matthew's	Midgham	Matins	9:15am
St Peter's	Woolhampton	Holy Communion	10:45am

Sunday 22nd October

St Mary's	Beenham	Harvest Festival	9:15am
St Matthew's	Midgham	Evensong	5:00pm
St Peter's	Woolhampton	Informal Holy Communion	10:45am

Sunday 29th October

St Peter's	Woolhampton	Benefice Holy Communion	10:00am
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THE SIX BELLS – BEENHAM

OCTOBER EVENTS


 Saturday 7th October - Doggy Brunch (walk around Awberry Farm)

 Thursday 12th October - Charity Quiz Night

 Saturday 21st October - Live Music with Jon Walsh



 Sunday 28th October - Charity Karaoke


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<https://www.douaipark.org.uk/>

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