

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: Abi Lewis : 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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Thattham RG19 4QB . Tel: 01635 876498

Committee Comments

Well, it has certainly been an interesting summer, lots of sport with Wimbledon, football, rowing and of course the Olympics.

What an amazing group of people are our sportsmen and women, hours, in fact years of training and hard work to then be beaten by point something of a second. They all deserve medals and we must admire their dedication. There have also been some new and different amazing sports.

The weather has been a typical British summer, hot days, wet days, cold days and then there are riots, what a lot for the new government to get to grips with.

Now its September, a time for new beginnings for lots of people particularly the young- new schools, college, work, we wish them all well in the next chapter of their lives.

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.



WEST BERKS FOODBANK

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

No one should need to turn to charity for something as essential as food. Everyone in the UK should have enough money to live on. The Foodbank is determined to make this a reality. Until then, food banks will continue to work tirelessly to support people in our community.

At the moment, food donations are not keeping up with increasing levels of need. If you can, please donate food and other essentials to your local food bank.

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

FOOD ITEMS URGENTLY NEEDED

Antibacterial spray, long life fruit juice, toilet cleaner, long life sponge puddings, custard or rice pudding pots for rough sleepers, washing up liquid, tinned soup or cuppa soup, cereal.

LOW ON STOCK

Squash, tinned fruit, shaving foam, tinned vegetables, tinned meat meals – curry hotpot, pies etc.

Drop off locations:

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

Beenham: Under community noticeboard.

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

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

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

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

BEENHAM CALENDAR 2025



Please send your photos, drawings and paintings of Beenham scenes and landmarks, wildlife, events and village life for the 2025 calendar.

If you'd be willing to let us know in which **MONTH** they were taken that would be very helpful.

Entries are open to anyone living or working in Beenham or those attending Beenham School or Pre-School.

Paintings and drawings should be scanned, and all entries sent to patowen0@hotmail.com

**MAXIMUM OF 3 ENTRIES PER PERSON.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR ENTRIES BY
SEPTEMBER 30TH**

Beenham News

Notes for Beenham Parish Council meeting Mon August 5th

PUBLIC FORUM

Long grass cutting on A4 junction and The Avenue was raised. Work has been done on the A4 but not yet on The Avenue. The PC had advised WBC that this was an urgent matter of safety. A formal complaint to WBC sent by a parishioner has had no reply. District Councillor D Boeck to follow up with WBC.

Councillors

The mobile library service is to be reduced from a 3 week cycle to 6 weeks. The PC contributes to the cost of this worthy service. It will send its concerns to WBC.

The fire curtain in the Community Room was discussed. It was agreed that this should be considered in the context of the overall fire risk analysis and replacement of the school fire doors.

Parking by the school was discussed.

It was agreed that guidelines would be published in the school newsletter as follows: no parking on the pavements; no idling of engines while parked; no parking down Church Lane.

The recent spate of vandalism was discussed. Repairs have been carried out by the PC. The Police are taking no further action due to lack of evidence of potential suspects. The WI bench by the school was also damaged and is being assessed for repair by the WI.

The Affordable Housing survey was discussed. It was agreed to proceed with the survey; to run between August 20th and September 20th. All households will receive this in the Villages' News and are encouraged to submit their views. It should be noted that this survey is not connected to the Governments plans for increased house building which are still in the development phase.

It was agreed to go ahead with the SIM card for Community Room wifi on a two year contract.

The proposed defibrillator for Aldermaston Wharf was discussed. It may need a licence from WBC Streetcare before installation.

Planning Matters

24/01016/HOUSE: The Hollies Webbs Lane..new vehicular access. No objection subject to WBC Transport concerns on sight lines.

24/01329/HOUSE: South Cottage..single story rear extension to replace conservatory. No objection.

24/01216/HOUSE: Ararat Beenham Hill....new garage. No objection.

Parish Councillors

The spread of ragwort was raised and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Grass cutting on The Avenue (see above). PC will contact Bucklebury PC to see if anything can be jointly done in the absence of WBC action.

Pavement parking other than by the school to be on the next meeting's agenda.

Parish Assets

It was agreed to proceed with the necessary repairs to the playground area on the Rec as detailed by ROSPA.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 2nd September at 7.00pm in the Community Room.

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

BEENHAM ALLOTMENT SWEET PEA COMPETITION

What a lovely evening for the sweet pea competition recently.

The winner of the John Upham Cup 2024-25 is Prue Matchwick, with highly commended to our chairman Mick Cox. We were honoured to greet Tim Culley to judge the competition, who shared some of his successful growing tips. It seems that the secret is to buy the seed recommended by the judge, and to fertilise the ground well with Growmore! Special thanks to Sheila for organising once again.



Harvest Lunch

Sunday 13th October

The Victory Hall, Beenham

12 noon for 12.30pm start

- £12.50 for an adult's ticket
- £5 for children 5-10years old
- Under fives free

to include a hot meal with pudding, a welcome soft drink and a raffle ticket

Tickets available from:

Janette Hammond: 07917 818 283

janette@janettehammond.co.uk

Jean Chapman

jean_c_chapman1910@hotmail.co.uk

Proceeds towards the maintenance of St Mary's Church

Gladys Brook

Gladys Brook died on 15th June 2024, aged 96. In 1953 she and her husband Ted came to their dairy farm, along the A4. Considering equality and financial independence essential to a strong marriage and partnership, Gladys taught full-time in Newbury, and following a career break to raise her family, at Beenham Primary School, retiring as Deputy Head in 1992. She joined the Parish Council and became Chair and later Life President of Beenham Friendship Club.

We remember her with great affection as a brilliant, wise, caring and dedicated teacher, and memories from current and former villagers are summarised here:

She was a beautiful soul, always smiling, for many the best teacher they ever had, with a lovely heart. Whether you struggled or found things easier, she treated everyone the same. She was an outstanding, no-nonsense teacher, remembered with thanks for her rigour in Friday times-tables tests and as a kind, gentle, caring teacher but “a bit strict when needed!”. Children were very fond of her and called her a legend and related so many of her farming tales! She always wanted the best for all her pupils, and arranged for 4 lads in the Young Farmers to have a lesson with Ted judging his dairy herd, before a competition.

Others recall her as an amazing character, a wonderful raconteur, an inspirational teacher and a great personality who made you feel she was championing you to be the best person you could be.

One former pupil, now a teacher herself, recalls loving her time in her class at Beenham School and often catches herself saying things that remind her of Gladys.

“I fell in love with the author Dick King Smith when she read us “The Queen’s Nose”, and think of her whenever I recommend one of his books to a child I’m teaching now. She talked with such love about Jane and Peter. I thought how cosy their farmhouse must have been and often wished I lived on a farm too! She’d say she would have people’s guts for garters for certain misdemeanours – I wondered how that would work!”

A wonderful mother and nan, a friend to many, a respected teacher to pupils and parents alike, she has left an indelible mark on a generation of children and a legacy of kindness and strength.

A private cremation took place in July but there is a memorial service and celebration of her life at 12.30pm on Wednesday 4th September at St Mary's Church, Beenham. All who cherished her enthusiasm for life will be welcome, not in sombre clothes! Donations accepted c/o Ashbrook Funeral Directors, Tadley, RG26 3JE for Christ's Hospital Foundation, the Benevolent Society of Blues & the Cinnamon Trust.

Beenham Diary of Events

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	
Sat 7 th	Church Working Party. All help is most welcome	St Mary's Church 10am	Janette:07917 818 283
Wed 11 th	WI – 7.30pm £4 non-members	Community Rm	Sally:07776 251 228
Thu 12 th	Leckhampstead to Chaddleworth about 4.5 miles - car share	Meet at Victory Hall 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
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	01183430548
Wed 18 th	Beenham Friendship Club for over 55s-coach trip to Tank Museum or Monkey World. Non-members £23 + TM £10.75 or MW £10.50	Pick up points	Marion:9713094 Tina:01635826154
Thu 19 th	Film night "The Miracle Club" - Laura Linney, Maggie Smith and Kathy Bates	Victory Hall 7.30pm	Claire:9713574
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	Beenham Club	9713991
Tue 24 th	Beenham Tearoom 2pm-3.30pm	Victory Hall	Dru:07815 055 040 Pat:07947 478 840
Thu 26 th	Circular walk Goring to South Stoke along the ridgeway. 6.3km - car share	Meet at Victory Hall 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Sat 28 th	Art Club - Art Exhibition and Sale 10.30am – 4.30pm - Refreshments	Victory Hall	Sunny: 9712255
Sat 28 th	Drag Bingo with Wilma Fingadoo 7.30pm – 11.30pm	Club	

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM – SEPTEMBER 2024

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



Hello from Greyfield Wood!

The last couple of months have been busy with various volunteer sessions keeping paths clear and getting rid of the ever-growing scourge of brambles and ferns. I say “scourge”, as these plants can smother and choke the saplings that have been planted over recent years. As the objective is to replace any removed trees with new plantings, a lot of effort needs to go into ensuring their survival.

To this end, as you may have read in the Beenham Facebook pages, we had a successful trial using a motorised Brush Cutter, which enabled us to cut all the main paths over a couple of days. A job that would usually take many weeks of effort by hand.

In other news, the Greyfield Wood CIC welcomed Andy Eccles to the board of directors. The directors, who have no shareholding, or financial interest in the company are legally responsible for the upkeep of the woodland and ensuring the wood is a safe place for the community to use.

The directors are: Ian Johnson, John Newton, Neil Jackson, Simon Chippendale, Andy Eccles and John Hammond. Any of us are happy to chat about the wood or answer any questions. Regarding the subject of “woodland safety” for the community, I expect to give information about some significant felling that will be happening later in the year, to ensure that all public rights of way and other paths through the wood remain safe.

In the meantime, please continue to enjoy our woodland.

If you would like to join our band of volunteers, please contact me.

John Hammond

07818 400440

Beenham Art Group
EXHIBITION AND SALE OF PAINTINGS
Saturday 28th September
10.30am – 4.30pm
in the Victory Hall Beenham
Free entry
Refreshments available

Brimpton News

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

at Manor Farm, Brimpton



Sunday 29th
September
10.45am

followed by

HARVEST LUNCH

Thanks to
Michael and Mandy Bowden

Tickets available from

Mel Bowring mebowring@outlook.com
Janice Cross jasper46@hotmail.co.uk
Patricia Brims pctbrims@hotmail.com
Sue Moore susanmoore50@hotmail.com
Brenda Scott mrsbocott@btinternet.com

Adults: £12.50. Children under 10: £5.00.

Bring your own drinks

Proceeds to St Peter's Church

*St Peter's Church is supporting the West Berks Foodbank
Thank you to everyone who contributes to the collection boxes in Brimpton*

Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 1st September: Unveiling of the memorial stone to Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, 1.30pm at the War Memorial. Tea at the Village Hall from 2pm, tickets £12.50 each. Contact Shelley Bassil 07887 984433, or Phil Bassil 07831 387786, or email. PB@icasolutions.co.uk.

Tuesday 3rd September: Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

Wednesday 11th September: Coffee morning in St Peter's Church; drop in anytime between 10am and 11.30am. Dogs welcome.

Sunday 29th September: Brimpton Harvest Festival Service at Manor Farm. 10.45am followed by BBQ lunch. Tickets £12.50 available from 1 September.

Tuesday 1st October: Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

Wednesday 9th October: Coffee morning in St Peter's Church; drop in anytime between 10am and 11.30am. Dogs welcome

Brimpton Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 6 August. A large part of the meeting focussed on the unauthorised occupation of a plot in Blacknest Lane field which is the subject of a planning appeal. Recently there has been some activity in the field where the owner of the plot which was the subject of a second application has cleared vegetation and cut back trees along the access route

The schedule for the Appeal Hearing for the first planning application has been published. A member of the Brimpton Common Residents' Group told us the group wished to take an active part in the Hearing and had applied for Rule 6 representation. They want to enhance West Berkshire District Council's defence of their planning decision and to ensure that residents views are heard. In the light of this we decided we would not apply for Rule 6 status as well, but would submit a written statement to the Appeal Hearing. This would make clear that the Parish Council supports the residents' group; reiterate the previous reasons for objection; and raise concern that the applicant has already gone ahead and moved onto the field without planning permission.

The residents' group has passed to us a paper setting out the potential costs for a barrister and expert witnesses to speak for them at the Appeal Hearing. These are estimated to be in the region of £80,000. The group is fundraising amongst residents of Brimpton Common and intend to make a formal request to the Parish Council to provide financial support at our September meeting.

Moving on to roads, we have reported to WBC concerns raised about stones and debris along Brimpton Road, near to Brimpton school, and about the overhanging bushes and trees on Crookham Common Road, near to the bend before the village. Residents are encouraged to report these problems to WBC as well because the number of complaints appears to affect the speed of response.

On behalf of the Recreation Ground Trustees, Charles Brims thanked everyone who provided feedback on the options for using the funds received from selling the old Recreation Ground. There was a strong preference for Option 1: to keep the funds (including rolled up interest) on deposit in case another piece of land can be found that is both suitable and available for acquisition.

On behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee, John Dolphin reported that a condition survey has been carried out which shows that the hall is structurally sound but some work will be needed over the next 10 years. It was estimated that the work would cost around £250,000. We had no objections to an application to vary a condition to a previously approved application to demolish a conservatory and single storey outbuildings at Brimpton House and to construct a single storey replacement rear extension. We noted approval has been given for a change of use of the former Three Horse Shoes pub to a family residence.

We agreed to donate to SSAFA the excess income of £386.81 received from the D-Day commemorative events organised in June.

This is an abbreviated version of the account of the Parish Council meeting which appeared in the Parish Update and is distributed by email. Please let me know if you would like to be included on the circulation list. The Parish Council will meet again on Tuesday 3 September, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

John Hicks, Chairman, Brimpton Parish Council

jhicks@brimpton-pc.gov.uk



**Brimpton Church and
Berkshire Historic Churches Trust**

14th September 2024

Charles and Patricia Brims will be taking part in Ride and Stride to support Brimpton Church and Berkshire Historic Churches Trust. We plan to visit four or five churches on our walk, and we would be delighted if anyone would like to join us.

The Trust raises funds to help with the cost of repairs to the fabric of churches in Berkshire and last year it generously made a grant to Brimpton Church.

We will be very grateful for any sponsorship. Half of what we raise will go directly to St Peter's Brimpton and half to BHCT. There is a sponsorship form at the back of the church, or you can make a donation through Just Giving here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/patricia-brims-bhct-2024>.

Thank you!



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

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

WEDNESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER
WEDNESDAY, 9 OCTOBER
WEDNESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER
WEDNESDAY, 11 DECEMBER

Everyone (including dogs) welcome

Brimpton WI NEWS

Our July Meeting is always one where we meet at a venue outside the Village. This year it had been agreed that we would have an afternoon visit, to Whitchurch Silk Mill. Over 20 of us including some guests started with sandwiches and cake in the Mill, followed by a guided tour around the building and grounds. The Mill is an Industrial Heritage site, and is categorised as a Working Museum of National Importance. We learnt that originally it was built as a warehouse in the 17th Century, then having had alterations made, including additional buildings added over the years, it only became a Silk Weaving Mill in the early 19th century. By this time there were also houses for key workers and their families, some of which still exist but are not part of the Museum.

The Museum had recently been awarded a substantial grant for the costly refurbishment of the wheel itself, repair and conservation of the building, improvements to facilities etc. Part of the grant had also covered the costs of training and employing a graduate student specifically in silk weaving techniques etc. whose researches have included the weaving of Silk Ribbons so popular in Victorian times. Both these and the lovely woven silk scarfs are now made commercially to order. The former being particularly of interest to textile and fashion conservationists as most of the original ribbons are very fragile and rotting away with age. They can copy the designs and colours of the originals, enabling restoration of the correct ribbon styles for the costume concerned. Re-enactors and film and theatrical costume makers are also taking an interest. It was a fascinating visit, as the looms were working albeit powered by electricity, as although the wheel will continue to turn, it is many years since it was last connected to the bobbin winders, looms etc.

It was a fascinating visit, and the moving of this meeting to the afternoon rather than our usual evening get together, was also deemed to have been a success.

Our Next Meeting will be on Tuesday 17 September when our Speaker will be local craftsman Jason Leggett on "Working with Glass". The meeting will start at 7.30pm in Brimpton Village Hall and 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

Gwynedd Roberts *WI correspondent*

Brimpton Church 100 Club

Winner for August: No. 57 Sarah Hunt

NATURE NOTES

My greens on the allotment are covered up (although a few holes have developed!) so I planted a few at home unprotected. The poor butterflies must have somewhere to lay their eggs! Sure enough they have been covered in caterpillars. The Brussels sprout plants have been stripped, but the sprouting broccoli was hardly eaten at all until the Brussels were finished. The remaining caterpillars have migrated to the less palatable greens – who would have thought they have preferences? The mature ones have gone off to pupate and prepare for next year. They won't all be butterflies because some will have been attacked by ichneumon flies. The larva of these live in caterpillars, being careful not to eat the vital organs until they are practically mature. The caterpillar then crawls somewhere to pupate, but dies, surrounded by little yellow fly-pupae. Someone once told me these were caterpillar eggs!

Midgham News



**HARVEST
FESTIVAL
LUNCH & RAFFLE**
SUNDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2024
in aid of St Matthew's Church

Tickets: £12.50
(to include drinks)
Children under 5 free

*Please contact Francine Gibbs 01189 712944
or email: francine@mpfarm.plus.com*

Midgham Park Farm 12 noon



Midgham Village Hall Coffee mornings

Coffee mornings are held in the Hall on alternate Wednesdays from 10 till 12.
Everyone is welcome to come and join us for tea and cake, and a friendly chat.

In September the coffee mornings will be on the 11th and 25th.



On Saturday 14th September

Come and join us cycling a well-known route round the beautiful countryside with a stop for lunch!

It is a fun day with a great group of people – if you wish to join us contact Julia for more information.

The sponsorships help keeping St Matthew's and other local churches open for the community.
julia@emftechnology.co.uk Mobile: 0787 635 2988

Midgham Café Church

Held in the church

First Thursday of the month
September 5th
October 3rd

Join us for tea and cake and fellowship 2.00pm
Contact Sarah Henderson for more information
henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com

Wasing News

WASING

1750

The Return of our Pumpkin Event

We are very excited to announce that our Pumpkin event is returning for a 4th year, taking place on selected dates between 18th-31st October 2024. Our Farm team have been hard at work growing and nurturing our much-loved Jack O'Lanterns which are all pumping up beautifully!

The event begins with an enchanting seasonal trail through the Estate's stunning autumnal woodland, encountering some magic hidden within Wasing's trees and fields!

The leafy pathways lead to Wasing's organic pumpkin field, where you can choose your favourite pumpkins to take home and carve. You may even encounter a fairytale pumpkin carriage along the way! Warm up afterwards with some tasty seasonal snacks, sweet treats & hot drinks under our stretch tent with wonderful views.

Tickets available at www.wasing.co.uk/pumpkins



**WASING'S
PUMPKINS EVENT**

BACK FOR
**OCTOBER
HALF TERM**

18TH-31ST OCTOBER 2024
(SELECTED DATES ONLY)

PICK YOUR OWN PUMPKINS
MAGICAL WOODLAND TRAIL
FAIRYTALE PUMPKIN CARRIAGE
SEASONAL SNACKS & DRINKS

WASING ESTATE, RG7 4LY
@WASINGCOTD



BOOK TICKETS AT WASING.CO.UK/PUMPKINS

WASING

1759

An Update from Wasing Estate

As we approach the end of Summer, we reflect on all the wonderful happenings here at Wasing in the previous weeks and months.

It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to The Mount this Summer for our various concerts & we hope to see you all there again in 2025.

Our farm team have been hard at work over the past few weeks as they close the harvest season and welcome our newest additions to our herd of Sussex Cattle from our late calving group.

The Wasing Park team have been busy with the Summer wedding season, welcoming our newest Wasing couples.

Our wellbeing team are delighted to have welcomed a number of new members at our Wild Swim Lake & Sauna over the Summer. If you are yet to visit our stunning lake and are interested in finding out more about memberships & exclusive hire, please visit www.wasing.co.uk/wellbeing - we would love to welcome you.

Medicine Festival

Our friends at Medicine Festival returned to Wasing in August, seeing visitors invited to revitalise and connect with nature in our harmonious woodlands. Headlined by Indigenous elders from across the globe, hosting a cocktail of sacred sound and ceremony, world music, dance, multicultural celebration, healing arts, nature connection & ecological activism.



To allow the land to rest and renew, Medicine Festival is due to take a fallow year in 2025. You can find out more about Medicine Festival at www.medicinefestival.com

Woolhampton News

Village Market

The next market will be in the Village Hall on September 7th from 10am to 12noon. There is no entry charge for this popular monthly event which gives everyone the chance to find out what's happening in the area. If you're new to the village, it's an ideal way to meet people and see the great variety of merchandise on offer at the stalls. As ever, refreshments are available. If you would like to have a table at a future market, please contact cathy.vallis@outlook.com for more details and availability.

District Councillor's Surgery

The District Councillor, Mr Chris Read, representing Woolhampton parish will be holding his monthly 'surgery' at Woolhampton Village hall on Saturday 28th September from 9 to 11a.m.. If you have an issue with an area within the parish or with West Berks District services, please come along to discuss it with him.

The following monthly 'surgery' will be on Saturday 26th October, same times. Please take advantage of Mr Read's generous allocation of his time.

WOOLHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL – APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEER TRUSTEES

Following its opening in 2006, Woolhampton Village Hall has become a thriving centre of our community with a variety of regular group activities and one-off events for all ages.

Run by a collection of volunteers, who form the Village Hall Management Committee, additional volunteers are needed to become Village Hall Trustees and protect the longevity of this unique resource for the village.

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

Our next Trustees Meeting is being held at the village hall on Wednesday 11th September 2024, starting at 7.15pm

SAVE THE DATE: WOOLHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL QUIZ NIGHT
FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER

Annual Village Show 2024



The 23rd Annual Show took place in the Village Hall on Saturday 10th August.

What a strange year for growing but despite the challenging conditions for gardeners, there were very good displays of flowers and vegetables. As usual, the cookery classes were very popular, and there were more entries in the children's classes this year due to the encouragement of parents and the presence, on the day, of school-fundraising events such as a chocolate tombola, 'hook-a-duck' competition and a tin-can shy. This Show is such a fun event, it is hoped even more children can be encouraged in future, and even more local youngsters would be very welcome.

Individual prize-winners were:

Best Vegetable – Chris Franklin

4 Vegetables on a Board – Krista May

Best Floral Display – Jenny Campbell

Fragrant Rose – Stéphanie Molloy

Best in Show for Cookery and Preserves – Jackie Renouf

'Potatoes grown in a container' competition - Woody with 16lb 12oz (from just 3 tubers)

Tallest sunflower - Harriet Molloy whose sunflower, at the time of measuring, reached 315.3cm (10ft 10in – old money!)

There were over 200 exhibits from 45 entrants. Congratulations to all class winners and commiserations to all other entrants, who will no doubt have vowed to do better next time! (It was very encouraging to hear people saying "Oh, I'm going to have a go at that next year", across a variety of categories apparently – we look forward to seeing you next year.)

Huge thanks to all who entered classes, and to the judges, all who attended (well over 100), and to the organising committee (Cathy, Anne, Jenny, Krista) and helpers (David, Margaret, Mark, Woody) who made the Show such a success.

List of winners and more photos on woolhamptonannualshow0.wordpress.com

Browns, Bolts & Baskets



Tradition was broken in May 1872 when the men of the 'Woolhampton Benefit Society' as part of the normal Whitsuntide demonstration marched from the 'Angel' to St.Peter's without the usual accompaniment of a hired band. It was explained in the *'Reading Mercury'* that "unlike previous years could not afford a band as had not been favourable for rod growing and finances of the village had not been flourishing". This underlined the importance of rod or osier growing in the village.

The Brown family had established their rod growing and retailing business in Woolhampton during the 1840s when William Brown had moved to the village from Brimpton. William died in 1879 and his eldest son, George, became responsible for the enterprise. He was assisted by two of his sons, Victor and Archie, while Frank farmed at Shalford's, Brimpton and Tom at Hall Court Farm, Midgham. Archie left the rod business in the 1930s and ran a dairy business from 'Brook' Farm, Station Road. He became the first to introduce milk bottles to village customers. Victor assumed full responsibility for the rod growing business.

The main cultivated rod beds were to the east of the village. From here the rods were harvested for use in basket making. Baskets had a variety of uses - for laundry, fruit and vegetables, water cress, oyster pots, furniture, picnic hampers, postmen's baskets, frameworks for Guard's bearskins, bodies of early perambulators and bicycle baskets. In the First World War they were in demand for holding shells and field dressings.

After harvesting, the rods were stripped by female labour, imported from Tadley, in the 'yard' opposite the present service station on the Bath Road and tied into 'bolts' for transportation. A number were sent to customers in Holland and London from Midgham station. Ledger entry 1896/97 "order two trucks to come on Monday and two on Tuesday". The beds were the scene of frequent fires generated from steam trains on the adjacent railway lines. The business declined in the 1930s in part owing to the import of diseased Belgian rods

The recent housing development in the village 'Reed Gardens' overlooks the former rod beds now designated a Site of Scientific Interest. 'Victor Place' sited on the lower slopes of Woolhampton Hill is named after Victor Brown who was a member of Woolhampton Parish Council for 46 years and for 39 years the village representative on Newbury District Council.

John Trigg

Woolhampton & Midgham WI

Hello Everyone, at last our summer has arrived and we are able to see our gardens in full bloom and our vegetables growing. Some like it hot – a familiar phrase, but I'm afraid I am not a sun or hot weather lover! But I am thankful for the spurt on my tomatoes.

Our August meeting was our annual summer meal out. This year 16 members enjoyed a very good meal at The Angel Restaurant in Woolhampton. The food was delicious – although the portion size defeated most of us! The occasion was enjoyed by all as the happy chatter which abounded throughout the meal suggested. It was most rewarding to see so many members attending – we are obviously recovering from the COVID isolation memories.

A notable excursion this month was to the NGS Garden at The Old Rectory near Wantage. It took only 30 minutes to get there and we were well rewarded. Although it was a very hot day we were wearing hats and there was plenty of shade as we enjoyed the herbaceous borders, arboretum, secret garden, rose gardens, and hydrangeas. There was an explosion of rare and interesting plants with stunning views across the countryside. It is a perfect setting for the 1749 rectory – once the home of Sir John Betjeman. John Piper created a wonderful window in the local church in memory of him. We enjoyed tea and cake in the shade before our journey home viewing the beautiful countryside.

The August cake stall at the monthly village market was quite busy and we had a big variety of small and large cakes on our stall which were soon snapped up.

The village lunch club which is now manned totally by our WI, welcomed 19 guests who enjoyed a lovely meal of gammon and vegetables with two delightful puddings to follow. Everyone was in good spirits and remarked how much they enjoyed our monthly get togethers.

Our yoga enthusiasts start again early in September, but in the meantime they enjoy sociable get togethers with tea and cakes.

The annual Produce Show took place on the 10th August. Many of our members 'grow their own' or have an allotment and so entered the various classes and came away with at least two of the cups, together with an enviable handful of the monetary prizes. Well done to you all! The show gets more and more popular each year.

Our September meeting will be a talk by a member of the team from Thatcham Discovery Centre entitled 'A Celebration of Butterflies' followed by refreshments.

Remember – you all welcome to come along to any of our meetings as guests. The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall at 7.30.

Information – ***Mrs Beryl Smith 01635 861374***

Aldermaston News

ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

As I write this piece, we are enjoying the summer holidays and the warm and sunny weather. The term ended with our annual sports day which saw a morning of races followed by a picnic lunch. The winning house was Keyser (yellow), worthy victors in a closely contested competition.

Our end of term service was beautifully led by Kingfishers Class at St Mary's Church. The theme was change and moving on to new classes, or for Year 6, new schools. The music and readings were lovely, and we were so impressed with the maturity and oracy skills of the children who gave the readings. Thanks to the Church for the gift of a bible each for every child moving to secondary school in September.

An athletic group of Robins (Year 1 & 2) represented our school at the KS1 multi-skills Festival held at Theale. There were twelve schools taking part in the competition and we were delighted when our team came third. Well done to the children who took part; they were presented with their bronze medals in our whole school assembly.

Finally, I would like to pass on these words from our Headteacher, Mrs Higgs, to all parents, carers, staff and pupils at the end of term -

'At the end of another successful school year, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to making the school such a great place. Thank you to the wonderful staff who work so hard for our children and keep them at the centre of everything we do. Thank you to all the volunteers who support our school in so many ways, this includes the governing body, those who support children with their learning and our fantastic PTA. We also have the support of lots of local businesses and friends in the village. We feel very lucky to be part of Aldermaston community.'

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor



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



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 TODDLER GROUP


Every Tuesday, 9.30am-11am
 at Aldermaston Parish Hall, RG7 4LW
 For ages 0-4, term-time only

*****SPECIAL EVENT*****
Pop-up Play Village
 Tuesday 10th September, 9.30am-11.30am

£5 per child + £3 for each sibling
 £1 for babies under 1
 50% discount for childminders

All parents, carers, toddlers and babies welcome.
 Includes a hot or soft drink for the grownups
 and a healthy snack for your little one.

For further information please use the QR code to join our whatsapp group

It is with huge regret that Aldermaston Players has had to cancel the September performances of **“Don’t Get Your Vicars in a Twist”**.

We apologise for any inconvenience and disappointment this may have caused.

Tickets will be fully refunded.

Aldermaston Parish Council –13th August 2024

In open forum, we were lobbied by local residents who objected to plans for Four Acre Farm, Reading Road, which was on our agenda. In particular they were concerned about the protected woodland at the rear of the farm and lack of clarity on the planning application, which led to a question regarding how many caravans would eventually be on the site.

A Trustee of Aldermaston Charity attended to support, and answer any questions the Parish Council might have, on the planning application for the conversion of the two remaining single Dixon's Cottages into one.

Also in open forum, some people complained about lack of a conservation officer at West Berks, which has led to delays in the endorsement by West Berks of the report by the Conservation Area Appraisal (CAA) working group.

Abi Lewis attended as a member of the general public, and confirmed that she will take up the position of Parish Clerk on 2nd September. She signed her contract at the end of the meeting.

On the planning front, this month we had four applications, of which we agreed to oppose Four Acre Farm's application. We did not comment on the applications for Dixon's Cottages, tree surgery work at Juniper House, Fisherman's Lane, or the AWE. We didn't consider that the AWE application for demolition and clearance work required planning approval.

Since our last meeting, West Berks Planning Authority has granted approval for Burnt Pine, to which the Parish Council previously recorded no objection.

As regards highways, we are concerned about the number of HGVs using Church Road illegally and will continue to lobby West Berks on this issue. We are also concerned about the status of the stiles on footpath No. 9, which runs from Wasing Lane to beyond Paices Wood.

The results of the Kestrel Mead playground survey were reviewed and option 2 (basket, swing and trail), had the most support, with option 3 as a fallback. These results will now be shared with West Berks who will become the eventual owners of the equipment

As regards the absence of a Conservation Officer at West Berks, we agreed that we would delegate the task of following up this matter to the CAA working group, who are still awaiting a response from WBC to the appraisal, which West Berks requested.

We have received reports that the overhanging vegetation by St. Mary's Church is blocking the pavement. We will report this to Praxis.

We agreed to go with the Suffolk Payroll Service for the new clerk.

We noted that the Aldermaston & Wasing Show this year is on Sunday 1st September at the Old Mill..

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th September 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

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RECYCLE YOUR COFFEE PODS#

We all need to be prepared to do our bit to help stop global warming. Here is one really simple thing to add to your daily recycling regime.

West Berkshire Council have announced that coffee pods can be collected and recycled at the Newtown Road and Padworth recycling centres.

The pods are shredded and the raw material used to make products such as packaging, building products and car components. The grounds are used to create renewable energy and soil improvers.

Why not group together with a group of neighbours, your local clubs, pubs, schools etc to save multiple journeys to the tip?

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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
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But no Compline

Brimpton Baptist Church

Contact number 0118 971 2059

Sunday: 11.00 am and 6.00 pm

Wednesday: 7.00 pm

Church of England Services

[awb. org.uk]

Aldermaston, St Mary the Virgin

8th	10:45	Holy Communion
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15th	10:45	Morning Praise
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Beenham St Mary

1st	9:15	Morning Praise
-----	------	----------------

8th	9:15	Holy Communion
-----	------	----------------

22nd	9:15	Holy Communion
------	------	----------------

Brimpton St Peter

1st	9:15	Morning Praise
-----	------	----------------

15th	9:15	Holy Communion
------	------	----------------

29th	10:45	Harvest Festival at Manor Farm
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Midgham St Matthew

1st	9:15	BCP Communion
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15th	9:15	Harvest Festival
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22nd	5.00	Evensong
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Wasing St Nicholas

1st	10:45	Hoy Communion
-----	-------	---------------

Woolhampton St Peter

8th	10:45	Hoy Communion
-----	-------	---------------

15th	10:45	Holy Communion
------	-------	----------------

22nd	10:45	Holy Communion
------	-------	----------------

29th	10:45	Benefice Holy Communion
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Friday 20th September

Aldermaston, Forsters	9.30-9.50
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Beenham, Stoneyfields	3.15-4.00
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Wednesday 25th September

Midgham, Goddard's Drive	10.10-10.20
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Woolhampton, Watermill Ct	10.25-11.10
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Please note: No service in October

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