Villages' News



Useful Contacts 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: 07714 081565

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: 01189 714 822 Brimpton: 0118 971 3731 Midgham: 07941 093 853

Woolhampton: bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com

Churches:

Aldermaston & Woolhampton Benefice: 0118 971 2891

Brimpton Baptist Church: 0118 971 2059

Douai Abbey: 0118 971 5300

Magazine advertising:

Brenda Scott: 0118 971 3113 mrsbscott@btinternet.com

This magazine is printed by Nova Press, Thatcham House, Turners Drive,

Thatcham RG19 4QB . Tel: 01635 876498

Committee Comments

Hopefully Spring has arrived, we have had some lovely weather and now once again its very cold, the daffodils are all coming out and some of the blossom on trees beginning to appear, which reminds me of a poem learnt many years ago by A.E. Houseman:

"Loveliest of trees the cherry now Is hung with blooms along the bough And stands about the woodland ride Wearing white for Eastertide"

On another note, the 2nd March was a bright sunny day which was very fitting for the Service of Welcome for The Right Reverend Mary Gregory, the new Bishop of Reading held at Reading Minster. The service, led by Bishop Steven Croft, the Bishop of Oxford, was attended by many local dignitaries, visiting ministers and lay people from across Berkshire.

Bishop Mary comes with a wealth of experience in the Church of England including Asst Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Dean of Women's ministry within the Diocese of Sheffield. Most recently she served as Canon for Arts and Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral.

Mary is a serial-adopter of retired greyhounds and a self-taught quilter. She loves walking and walking holidays. We wish Mary good luck in her new post.

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.

Articles are included at the editor's discretion.

Advertising enquiries can be sent to mrsbscott@btinternet.com We hope you enjoy reading your magazine.



WEST BERKS FOODBANK

HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

West Berks Foodbank relies on your goodwill and support.

Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in The Trussel Trust network is donated by the public — that's why food donations are absolutely vital to their ability to give everyone referred a balanced and nutritious three-day supply of food.

If you prefer a financial donation can be made using the following link: https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/

The shopping list below shows the food items that are needed right now and items low in stock. If you are happy to drop off food donations, please see the table below for our food drop off points in the local areas.

Items urgently needed

Cereal bars, jam, long life juice, nappies size 6/8, tinned fruit

Items low on stock

Non bio washing powder/tablets, tinned meals like spag bol, curry, stew, UHT milk full fat or semi skimmed.

Drop off locations:

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

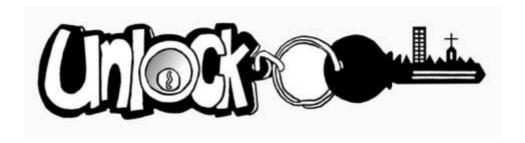
Beenham: Under community noticeboard.

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



UNLOCK WALK 42

A group of people including Pat Owen (Beenham) and myself are taking part in the Unlock Walk around Kennington, Camberwell, North Brixton, Stockwell and Battersea.

We have taken part in this walk, which is a sponsored event for several years. Unlock works by running local projects in UK cities where a trained Unlock Development Worker, accompanied by a local team is employed to encourage and enable local people and their leaders to grow in faith and confidence.

The aims of the Unlock Walk London are:

To raise money for Unlock's work in deprived urban areas across the UK To raise awareness of the issues of exclusion that Unlock exists to address To showcase the ministry of churches in urban areas

To encourage churches in the more affluent parts of the country to support the work of their fellow Christians in the inner city.

The walk is 7.5 miles long and, on our way round, we will visit several churches of different denominations and take part in a quiz with 25 questions on local sites and places we pass. What I have found interesting over the years, is the diverse and innovative ways churches have been utilised for different purposes. For example, half of one church was used for a Foodbank, another a primary school, another yoga classes, coffee clubs, libraries... the list of uses goes on.

You can find out more about our fundraising event and donate by clicking the link to our Give as you Live Donate page below.

Please donate now:

https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/support-this-great-event? utm_campaign=sharemypage&utm_source=Dsharesocial&utm_medium=Dshare_email&utm_content=fundraisingpage&utm_term=20250310

Thank you.

Brenda Scott (mrsbscott@btinternet.com)

Brimpton News



Brimpton Church 100 Club

Thank you to everyone who supports St Peter's Church through the 100 Club. Your contribution makes a big difference to the church. The last draw for 2024-2025 will take place in April and the new round starts in May.

One number is drawn every month, and the winner gets a cash prize of £30. Each number costs just £12 for the year.

How to join

Please contact Patricia Brims (0118 9714085), pcbrims@hotmail.com

Your number(s) will be put into the draw every month for a year.

BACS Transfer: <u>Brimpton PCC 100 Club</u>, Sort Code 30-96-96, A/c no. 04419615. Give your name as the BACS reference

or

Cash or cheque for £12 per number, payable to <u>Brimpton PCC 100 Club</u> Please give to Patricia Brims, Brimpton Lodge, Wasing Road, RG7 4TG

PLANT SALE

COFFEE & RAFFLE

Saturday 10th May, 10.00 am - 12.00 at St Peter's Church, Brimpton RG7 4TJ



Donations of labelled plants welcome Please deliver to the church on Friday 9th May after 15.30

Proceeds to St Peter's Church, Brimpton







COFFEE MORNING

(SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH)

IN BRIMPTON CHURCH

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

WEDNESDAY, 9 APRIL 2025 WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY 2025 WEDNESDAY, 11 JUNE 2025 WEDNESDAY, 9 JULY 2025

Everyone (including dogs) welcome

Brimpton Parish Council

At our March meeting we discussed:

Environment

West Berkshire Council is consulting on whether parish councils wish to be able to send warning letters to residents about trees or other vegetation overhanging the highway. At present this power is only available to WBC. We did not see any benefit in taking on this responsibility. When necessary, parish councillors will speak to residents informally about overhanging vegetation, as they have done in the past. If that fails to achieve a result the issue will be passed to WBC to issue an enforcement notice.

Highways

As Brimpton Lane was to be closed for carriage repairs two days after our meeting, we had hoped the pot hole on Able Bridge and others in that area would have been repaired. It appears we were over optimistic but we now understand the work is going to take place on Tuesday18th March.

Thames Water Sewage Pumping Station

The problem of damage caused in several locations in the parish by the tankers removing excess water continues to cause concern. We were informed work at the pumping station in Woolhampton, which has added to the tanker traffic in Wasing Road over the last few months, will be completed shortly. Thames Water have told us they are looking at reinstating the verges which have been damaged by the tankers and they will respond to our questions about a long-term solution in due course.

Brimpton Common Appeal Hearing

At the time of our meeting the Planning Inspector had not yet given his decision on the appeal against West Berkshire Council's refusal to allow the siting of a mobile home on the plot known as Twin Paddocks. However, next morning we learned that the owner's application to overturn the decision had been refused and partial costs awarded to the Brimpton Common Residents' Group. The Planning Inspector has allowed the owner twelve months in which to remove the mobile home.

Planning Application

We had no objections to an application to build a new porch and other internal work at Faircross in Brimpton Common. (WBC application reference 25/00330/HOUSE). Local Government Re-Organisation

As you may be aware, the Government intends to abolish District and County Councils and replace them with unitary authorities with a population around 500,000 residents. West Berkshire currently has a population around 170,000 and will therefore have to merge with one or more other local councils. West Berkshire Council favours forming a unitary council with South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils.

The Parish Council will meet again at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1st April 2025 at the Village Hall. The meeting is open to the public and residents are welcome to come along and raise any issue of concern which is not already on the agenda. You can receive Parish Council news and more about local events if you receive by email the Parish Update. If you would like to do so, please let me know at ihicks@brimpton-pc.gov.uk.

John Hicks

BRIMPTON WI NEWS

The first part of our February Meeting was dedicated to our Annual Meeting, when we look back over the past twelve months and forward to the upcoming year. The committee were all elected to fulfil the same tasks for the new year.

Our next meeting is an open one to which all are welcome. Tuesday 15 April 2025 at 7.30pm in Brimpton Village Hall, when Ann Hughes is talking about St George's Chapel, Windsor. There is no charge for non-members to attend nor do you have to be female!! Just come along for that 7.30pm start.

On 22 April we are also holding our first Social event of the year which at takes the popular form of a Beetle Drive!!! No previous experience is necessary, as this event is very much an opportunity to meet others. Included in the price of £8 is a homemade two-course meal. If you would like to come along, please use contact details below so that we can cater accordingly, including any dietary limitations.

Contact: President Shelley Bassil (0118 9710563) or Secretary Annette Dolphin (0118 9710090) or e-mail brimptonwi@berkshirewi.co.uk

Gwynedd Roberts WI correspondent

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 1st **April:** Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. **Wednesday 9**th **April:** Coffee morning in St Peter's Church; drop in anytime between

10am and 11.30am. Dogs welcome.

Tuesday 22nd April: Brimpton W.I. Beetle drive and home made supper. Tickets £8. If you are interested in attending please contact Shelley Bassil on 07887 984433

Thursday 24th April: Village Hall AGM, followed by a social evening. Details from John Dolphin on 07737 160925.

Tuesday 6th May: Parish Council Annual Meeting & election of Office Holders, starting at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Thursday 8th May: Beacon Lighting and fish & chip supper at the Village Hall to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Further information about tickets in due course.

Saturday 10th May: Annual Plant Sale in St Peter's Church, 10am to midday.

100 Club

The 100 Club winner for March was no. 88, Bill Scott



Brimpton Church of England Primary School

Amazing things happen here....

Grittleton Adventures

Wow! Our Year 5 and 6 children had an amazing time away on their school residential. The weather was amazing and dry! The experience is always a huge event in our



school calendar for both the children and the staff. Thank you to everyone who as always, made it possible. Same time next year.



World Book Day - Lots of PJ's and lots of book characters this year, everyone looked lovely. Thank you for all those who bought in books to swap with other children. I love the idea of this and the children can recommend to other children which books to read. Look out for us in the Newbury Weekly News.

Wilestones - We had an amazing day at Milestones in March. The whole school visited for the day to study WWII and took part in a couple of workshops. The children were given a ration-book each to bring home.

Comic Relief – We took part in this amazing fundraising charity. The children and staff came to school dressed in red or something sparkly. The children and their families always support all the charities we participate in and we are always very grateful. Thank you.

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

If you require any other information regarding Brimpton School
Please contact Mrs Sarah Vockins on 0118-9712311
office@brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk www.brimton.w-berks.sch.uk

Midgham News

Midgham Café Church

First Thursday of the month at St Matthews

April 3rd May 1st

Join us for tea and cake and fellowship 2.00pm

Contact Sarah Henderson for more information Tel; 0118 9713956

henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com

Woolhampton and Midgham WI March 2025

Such exciting news to tell you! Our next Meeting on 11th April is going to be something rather special. We have booked a duo from Newbury who perform a Tribute Act to the late, highly popular, Michael Flanders and Donald Swann. If you are of an age which remembers the 50's and 60's music scene very well, you are sure to remember this highly entertaining double act. Michael Flanders played the piano and Donald Swann sang the lyrics to the most amusing and highly topical songs. You're sure to remember I'm a Gnu, The Hippopotamus Song, The Gas Man Cometh, The London Omnibus, - to name but a few of their hilarious songs.

Well, the good news is- we've made this an OPEN EVENING. Everyone is welcome to join us for this performance, refreshments included. It is on 11th April at 7.30pm in The Village Hall. And it's only £4, pay at the door. It will be worth every penny!

We have had our usual busy month. The Village Lunch Club hosted 15 of our elderly residents from Woolhampton. They enjoyed a superb lunch of Beef Stew, Mash and two Veg. Three puddings to follow – and all for £5.

The cake stall was very busy and very well stocked this month – thanks to our master baker – Jeanie. Her creations are delicious. Thank you to all our bakers who fly the flag for us every month.

There have been a couple of outings to note: a walk among the snowdrops at Welford Park, finishing with a delightful lunch at Thatcham Garden Centre and then a return visit to Longacres Garden Centre in Bagshot. It had a vast array of new plantings for the spring. Of course we couldn't go home without having a lovely lunch! We have more outings to enjoy in the coming months — one particularly caught my eye — a visit to the Wind Turbine in Earley and a guided tour. Can't miss this one!

Last Tuesday was our 61st AGM. We had a splendid turnout for this showcase of the last year. Almost a full house! Perhaps it was the cheese and wine supper which followed the meeting that attracted them all. Whatever, it was a very good meeting enjoyed by us all.

If you like the sound of our happy gatherings, do come along on April 11th and find out a bit more about us. Happy Easter everyone!

Information from our president, Mrs Beryl Smith 01635 861374

or email: berylsmith6@btinternet.com

Midgham Village Hall

There are regular coffee mornings in the Hall from 10am until 12noon on alternate Wednesdays. In April the coffee mornings will be on the 2nd,16th and 30th. Everyone is welcome to come and join their friends and neighbours for a nice want cuppa and a friendly chat.



OPEN GARDEN



"The Dell" woodland garden will be open on Sunday 25th May 3.00pm - 5.30pm in aid of St Matthew's Church, Midgham

Lindens, Carbinswood Lane, Upper Woolhampton RG7 5UB Donations of £5 or more. Children free No dogs please

Tea will be served

For more information contact Tony Billington on 07836 231369

Woolhampton News

Village Market

The next Market will be on Saturday April 5th from 10a.m. to 12 noon in the Woolhampton Village Hall. If you've not been before, do come along to browse and enjoy the ambience and you never know, you may find something you never knew you wanted or perhaps needed we do have new stall holders!. There is no entry charge and refreshments (including delicious hot bacon rolls) are available.

Date for your Diary - Woolhampton Annual Show 2025

Woolhampton Show will be on Saturday 9th August in the Village Hall. There will be classes for each of cookery, flowers, vegetables, photography, handicraft, art and special classes for children to enter. A preview of the Show schedule is available on website woolhamptonannualshow.uk and paper copies available towards late June early July but for the competitions that need advance preparation, please see the following:

Photographic Competition

The photographic classes decided for 2025 are:

Rain drop(s)

One individual flower bloom

Black and white photo - any subject

A photo that makes you smile

A pair of photos depicting heavy & light

Please remember that photos should be no bigger than 7"x5" and not mounted.

Tallest Sunflower Competition

Now is the time to sow your sunflower seeds. Participants may select seeds of their choice. (Please note that plants are not intended to be brought to Village Hall. Details of how they will be judged will be given nearer the Show date.)

Potato-growing Competition

We should be clear of frosts by now, so it probably the right time to plant and cultivate your tubers. (I think tubers have been provided to everyone who entered but if not, please contact Terry (email terry.vallis@outlook.com or 07771933526) as soon as possible as I should still have some available.) Good luck and don't forget that you must be able to bring your intact container (tops trimmed) to the allotments on Show Day for weighing.

Allotments

Currently there is a very short waiting list for Woolhampton Parish Council allotments so if you are a Woolhampton resident and wish to add your name to the list, please email woolhamptonclerk@gmail.com.

RBH, Leeches and Beer

In May 1836 a meeting in Reading Town Hall considered the provision of a hospital for Berkshire. A proposal made by John Walter MP, Bearwood, that a hospital should be established in the vicinity of Reading was approved and that funds should be raised to fulfil this ambition. The building fund had during a period of three years reached £13,000 owing to the generosity of 800 subscribers, augmented by a donation of £3,000 given by Richard De Beauvoir Benyon. There was great difficulty in finding a suitable site within a mile of the centre of Reading. The problem was solved by the generous gift of 4 acres of land from Lord Sidmouth (Henry Addington) that formed part of his Earley Court estate.

On 21st June 1837 a public dinner was held to celebrate the laying of the foundation stone of the new hospital on its present site.

On 27th May 1839, amid great excitement in Reading, the hospital was officially opened. (Until this date the nearest hospitals were at Oxford and Bath.) The day began with a service in St Lawrence's Church, followed by a procession through the streets to the site of the new hospital in the London Road led by the children of the Sunday Schools and the girls of the Green School, proceeded by the band of the Philosophical Society. On reaching the gates of the hospital a number of the crowd, on the payment of a shilling, were allowed a tour of the building - £42 12s 0d (852 shillings) was collected.

On 30th March 1840 the first operation in 60 years was performed in Reading on 15-year-old George Early. It was an amputation required as a result of an injury sustained while working on the new railway and performed without anaesthetic in non-sterile conditions. The first operation using anaesthetic was by Robert Liston in 1846 and Joseph Lister in 1867 operated in a germ-free theatre. Later Lister gave a lecture in USA. In the audience was a young man developing a germ-free mouth-wash - he christened it Listerine!

In the first year the hospital had total expenses of £433 - £91 for 2,000 gallons of beer for patients and £27 spent acquiring leeches. More recently the RBH Trust had annual expenditure of £316 million and employed 5,000 staff.

William IV commanded that the hospital be called the Royal Berkshire.

John Trigg

Can You Help? (on behalf of Woolhampton School)

Some children at Woolhampton School are enthusiastically working on a garden project and would appreciate any gardening hand-tools that you don't need any more. If you are able to donate any small tools, please bring them along to the monthly Village Market at the Village Hall, first Saturday of every month (next is on April 5th).

Also, please don't forget that you can help raise funds for the School by recycling clothes, etc., in the recycling bins at the School; and by bringing empty printer ink cartridges to the Village Market.

New Trees at Woolhampton Village Hall

After the felling of the ash trees at the Village Hall because of the ash-die-back disease, about 30 new trees have been planted in the area approved by the Parish Council. The planting was undertaken by two former parish councillors; Cathy Vallis, who acquired the trees by applying for a free-tree scheme from the Woodland Trust, and Roger Molloy, who gave up time to plant the saplings. There are 10 rowan, 10 silver birch and 10wild cherry saplings. Although the benefits are unlikely to be seen for a number of years, it will undoubtedly enhance the area for the benefit of the community.

Beware - Toads on the Roads!

The signs are back at the junction of Station Road and Wasing Road (Shalford triangle) warning of toad activity! Apparently, now is the time when they are most active, so you have been warned! (The signs must be effective because we haven't seen any 'squashed' toads in the area!)



District Councillor's Surgery

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

Dog Fouling

Just to reiterate, PLEASE clean up after your dog from wherever they foul, even from the defined paths in fields. This is a plea to <u>all</u> dog owners to clear up after their pets as it is really awful for a child, or indeed anybody else, to step into a mess! There are many waste bins around the village so there is no excuse for not picking up.

Woolhampton Primary School March 2025

It has been another incredible month at Woolhampton Primary School. With a rich, broad curriculum packed with engaging learning experiences, creative adventures, and sporting opportunities, we aim to ensure that every child has the chance to flourish.

Exploring Ancient Egypt!

Chestnut Class had a fantastic trip to Elstree, where they took part in an interactive author workshop all about Ancient Egypt. Not only did they get to meet a real-life author, but the session also provided valuable insights that will enhance their history lessons. Hands-on learning like this is what makes our curriculum so special!

Maths Wizards in Action!

A group of our talented Year 5 mathematicians represented the school in a high-energy maths challenge event. Competing against nine other local schools, our team tackled some seriously tricky questions with determination and teamwork. They did an incredible job, and we couldn't be prouder!

A Magical World Book Day!

World Book Day was a spectacular celebration of stories, imagination, and creativity! The children arrived dressed as their favourite book characters, filling the school with colour and excitement. The day began with an immersive theatre performance of Little Red Riding Hood. Thank you to our wonderful FoWS team, for making this magical experience happen!

After lunch, the joy of reading was shared across the school as older pupils paired up with younger ones for a heart-warming storytelling session. The fun continued with a World Book Day scavenger hunt that had everyone racing to find clues and solve literary puzzles. A true celebration of reading!

Forrest School Adventures in the Great Outdoors!

Spending time in the beautiful woodland behind our school is always a highlight of the week for our pupils. Our holistic Forest School curriculum helps develop creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork in a natural setting. With the arrival of spring, the woods are alive with blooming snowdrops, creating the perfect backdrop for one latest outdoor project - constructing a giant beetle sculpture using natural materials! Pupils also had fun learning the names of different insect body parts while working together on this exciting task.

Super Sporting Success!

Sportsmanship is at the heart of Woolhampton School, and our pupils have been making us proud in various sporting events this month. A huge well done to all 21 of our enthusiastic runners who took part in the annual Cross-Country Competition at Bradfield College. Their determination, effort, and team spirit were truly commendable! Our talented Year 2 footballers dominated the pitch in the Year 2 Football Festival at Elstree School. Winning all four matches without conceding a single goal! Their exceptional teamwork and skill led them to victory, and they proudly brought home the winners' trophy.

Kim Wyrley-Birch SEND Link Governor

Aldermaston News



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Monday 28th April 7:30pm

Join in & find out more about your local village hall & what goes on there.





proud to keen consted and maintain
Aldermaston History Online
https://oldermastonhistory.uk



NEXT MEETING

Weds 16th April 2025 , 7:30pm

Officer's Mess, The Hinds Head

History Group updates & a talk on

"The Sieges of Basing House"

by Alan Turton

Free to members, non members £5

Aldermaston Parish Council - 11th March 2025

There were no members of the general public present. However, in open forum we reviewed two issues that had been emailed to the parish clerk. The first of these was the regular flooding that occurs on the A340 outside Sascron. This issue, which occurs due to blocked drains, is well known to us, and WBC have spent considerable time (and money!) trying to resolve. In fact, APC even proposed it as a condition on a recent planning application. The second issue was anti-social behavior believed to be emanating from the Travelers' Site. The chairman explained she had been involved with several meetings with TVP and WBC and she felt that these were the proper people to come up with a solution, not APC

On the planning front, we reviewed four applications. We will not object to the conversion of an outbuilding at Middle Lodge, Church Road, tree-work at Church Lodge, Church Road, or a certificate of continuous use at Young's Industrial Estate, Paice's Hill, though we are sympathetic with the views expressed by the architect's department on the former. We will object, however, to the proposed discharge of conditions associated with the change of use from eight transit caravans to eight permanent pitches at the travellers site on Paice's Hill as we agreed their emergency plan is unsatisfactory

Since our last meeting, WBC has made two planning decisions affecting us. They have granted permission for The Old Mill (a listed building) to instal Bifold doors. They have refused, however, building development at Sascron (due to flooding)

We had a lengthy discussion on the provision of a new defibrillator for the parish hall as the old one is time expired. APC accepts the responsibility for funding, but it would appear the original unit was gifted to the parish and no-one took on ownership or budgeted for its replacement. APC will ensure it doesn't happen again!

We also discussed the case for dogs on the recreation ground, as there has been comment on Facebook that our current rules are too restrictive. Whilst we have some sympathy for the need to exercise dogs, particularly when we are not allowed into the Manor House grounds, we feel that partial closure is not viable, and therefore stick with our original rules. Sorry!

You may have seen a reference to the national Keep Britain Tidy initiative that is almost upon us. Unlike Wasing, we have decided not to organise a litter pick, but we are happy to act as a conduit to WBC who will provide the necessary materials, so over to you!

Lastly, we discussed the format of our Annual Parish Meeting, still a national requirement, and whether to provide refreshments. We compromised in that refreshments will be served at 7.00pm with the main meeting starting at 7.30pm, so come early!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th April 2025 at 7.00 for 7.30pm in the parish hall. As this will be our Annual Parish Meeting, your presence is particularly welcomed!

For full information on parish council matters, please visit our website at www.aldermaston.co.uk

Dave Shirt tel. 0118 971 2549



Aldermaston C.E. Primary School

Wasing Lane, Aldermaston, Berkshire, RG7 4LX Tel: 0118 9713362

Text: 0118 3240216

Email: enquiries@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk Website: www.aldermaston.org.uk

Mrs. M Higgs - Headteacher



March 2025

A vacancy has arisen for a Co-Opted governor on our governing board. Co-Opted governors are people who have the skills and experience required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. They act in the best interests of the school and wider community.

We would therefore welcome expressions of interest from members of the community and/or professionals wishing to volunteer their skills to contribute to the effective governance of the school.

Being a governor requires a willingness to learn, a commitment to the school's vision and ethos and ensuring that our pupils receive the best possible educational outcomes.

The core functions of the governing body are, but are not limited to ensuring:

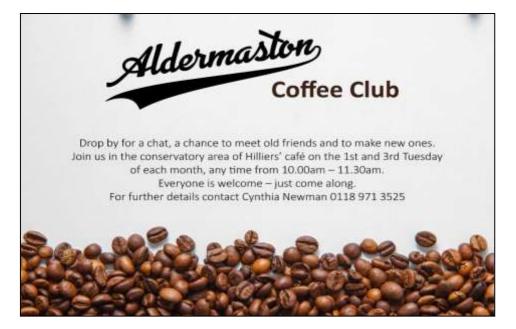
that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined

that the headteacher performs their responsibilities for the educational performance of the school

the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources

The governing board regularly assesses that it has the right skills to do the job and at present, we would particularly welcome nominations from people with a strong finance background.

If you would like to learn more about this rewarding role please contact Charlotte Watchorn, Chair of Governors cwatchorn@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk or Cathy Jones Vice-Chair ciones@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk



ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been a busy few weeks in school. We enjoyed a visit from a local dairy farmer who brought along some calves for the younger children to study and ask lots of questions. As Aldermaston is part of a rural community it is important to us that the curriculum reflects our local area, and the children gain a better understanding of farming.

Our learning hero for this term is the Reflector Owl so staff will be supporting the children to develop their abilities to reflect on their learning and advice received and to check, correct and improve their work. The Reflector Owl is associated with the British value of democracy, so children will be thinking about how we have a voice in important decisions which affect us. This term our Christian value is 'Wisdom' where children are considering the wise advice and teaching provided by Jesus' parables and thinking about other sources of wisdom in our lives. The Year 6 children have had an amazing week's residential at the Manor Farm Outdoor Centre in Abernant, Wales during which they tried a variety of different activities including

in Abernant, Wales during which they tried a variety of different activities including orienteering, axe-throwing, a low ropes course, raft building and a zip wire across the lake. Many skills were developed over the week including team building, self-confidence and problem solving which will stand the children in good stead as they prepare for life in secondary school from September.

Our annual Book Week was a great success once again. It aims to develop and encourage children's love of reading. It included a story telling evening in pyjamas with hot chocolate, a book sale, book caching around the local area and an online quiz 'The Masked Reader' to identify which member of staff was reading the story behind the mask. The reveal in a whole school assembly produced lots of gasps and laughter.

Finally, please see the separate letter about our Governor vacancy.

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor

The Aldermaston Charity

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

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

High level of confidentiality required.

Own computer and access to own transport would be needed.

Further information from:

Angela Boott: ange@kennetonline.co.uk

Cynthia Newman: cmnewman2021@outlook.com

Beenham News



80th ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY

THURSDAY MAY 8th

This year may well be the last significant anniversary celebrating the end of World War II, so look out for poppies around the Village and feel free to join in!



BEENHAM ALLOTMENTS

A rare opportunity has arisen to become an allotment holder at Beenham allotments.

A half plot measures 4.5m x 11m and costs only £20 per year. A whole plot is obviously double that and costs £37.50 per year.

The soil is clay but is very productive. Just imagine eating all your own locally grown fruit and vegetables, all whilst keeping fit

Everyone on the allotment is friendly and always willing to have a chat and give advice. We would love you to join us.

All enquiries to <u>beenhamallotment@gmail.com</u>.

EASTER GATES AND DOORS!

Easter, this year, is quite late,

But there's no time to hesitate.

Plan your decorated gate

Or door - we hope it's really great!

Decorate your Easter gate or front door... we're looking forward to seeing the village looking beautiful!





Scarecrow Festival 2025

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

Lesley McEwen

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM - APRIL 2025

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
Thu 3 rd	Beenham Walkers: Newtown	Meet at Victory Hall at	Pauline Stares
	Common, we will need to car share	9.30am	01189713481
Sat 5 th	Monthly Church Working Party	St Mary's Church	Janette:07917818 283
	All help is most welcome	10am	
Mon 7 th	Parish Council Meeting 7pm	Community Rm	
Wed 9 th	WI: Speaker's meeting. £4 for	Community Rm	Sally: 07776 251 228
	guests.	7.30pm	
Thu 10 th	Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6 £4/person	Six Bells 7.30 for 8pm	9713368 to book
Thu 10 th	St Mary's APCM – everyone is welcome to attend 6pm for 7pm	St Mary's Church	Janette:07917818 283
Sat 12 th	Village Market and repair shop	Victory Hall	Sally: 07776 251 228
	2-3.30pm	2022-2022-10-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-	
Wed 16 th	Beenham Friendship Club for over	Pick up points	Marion:9713094
	55s. Arundel Tulip Festival.		Tina:01635826154
	Coach £25 + entry - non-members		
Thu 17 th	Beenham Walkers: Bradfield	Meet at Victory Hall at	Pauline Stares
	College and along the Pang River	9.30am for car share.	01189713481
Thu 17 th	Film night: "Juror #2"	Victory Hall	Claire: 9713574
	£5 a ticket (cash only)	7.00 for 7.30pm	
Fri 18 th	GOOD FRIDAY: BANK HOLIDAY		
Fri 18th	21st Annual Alec WATERS	Beenham Club monies	01189713991 for
	Memorial Darts KO – 1.30pm open	to RBH Cardiac Ward	details
Sat 19 th	Calleva Stick Dressers 9am-2pm	Victory Hall	David:07864 180 648
Sat 19 th	Greyfield Woods Volunteer	Meet at wood	John:9712924
	Morning. 8.30 – 12pm	entrance	
Sat 19th	Live Music and Acoustic Night	Beenham Club	9713991
	7.30pm		
Mon 21st	EASTER MONDAY: BANK HOLIDAY		
Tue 29 th	Beenham Tearoom 2pm-3.30pm	Victory Hall	Dru:07815 055 040
			Pat:07947 478 840

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

Victory Hall Bookings contact Nola – nolesandfrank@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01189 714 822

Notes from Beenham Parish Council Meeting: Monday 3rd March Public Forum

- -Water running down Beenham Hill is to be reported to WBC Streetwise.
- -Update re Grass verge cutting problem-Summer 2024. WBC response time was 7 weeks. Head of Highways said the response should have been within 10 days as this is a safety issue.
- -A parishioner offered to cut Rec football pitch grass between contractor cuts. He offered to repair goal areas. The PC will consider this plus cost.
- footpath between Clay Lane and Douai is overgrown. WBC to be contacted.

Co-option of PC vacancy

-A new applicant is expected to apply shortly. To be discussed when that happens.

Councillors

- -Clay Lane flooding. No response from WBC yet.
- -Sale of Sovereign Housing properties raised in Parliamentary debate by our MP. It's unacceptable and PC should be notified of further intentions to sell. This may support Beenham's affordable housing need.
- -Gritting of Stoneyfield. WBC have responded as follows...
- "Stoneyfield is on our secondary gritting network and so will only receive treatment when road surface temps remain below zero for an unbroken period of 72hrs or more. This threshold hasn't been met at any point so far in the current winter season, and so therefore Stoneyfield will not have been gritted".
- -Risk assessment. It was agreed to review the current risk assessment.
- -Affordable Housing Initiative. 3 possible sites were surveyed by WBC Planning.

Planning Matters

- -24/02808/FULMAJ: Grundon,Pips Way. Outside storage facility. Grundon to provide a master plan of development for the context of their whole plan.
- -Planning decisions.
 - -24/01935/FUL: Unit 11A Beenham Industrial Estate. Granted.
 - -24/02415/LBC and 24/02414/HOUSE: St Mary's Farm Beenham. Granted.
 - -24/02385/COND: Beenham Landfill site: Approved.
- -Closure of Ashamptead Road, Bradfield. It is believed to allow access after 5.00pm.

Reports

- -Parking at Aldermaston Wharf. Anti social behaviour reported. PC to write to NCC re this.
- -Proposed 20mph speed limit in the vicinity of Beenham School. WBC is in favour of grouping villages together for 20mph zones to be approved once the 2025/6 budgets have been confirmed.
- -Community Police liaison will be available outside The Victory Hall on April 6th at 11.00 am. Please attend if you wish to share any problems.
- -Mobile Library. WBC confirmed it will discontinue in April.

Grants

- -WI for funding of defibrillator and CPR training courses agreed: £200 per course for up to 5 courses.
- -Beenham School PTFA request of £3000 for funding of an outdoor learning area. Agreed in principle.

Grant policy

-minor amendments agreed to draft policy for the assessment and conditions of grant requests.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday April 7th at 7.00pm in the Community Room.

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

Parish Clerk: Lauren West Tel: 07919 916125 Email: clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk

CR Bookings: Paula Read Tel: 07793116937 Email: info@beenhampreschool.org

Victory Hall bookings: Nola Woods 01189714822 Email:nolesandfrank@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Council website: www.beenham-pc.gov.uk

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

Greyfield Wood



Hello to you from Greyfield Wood!

As regular readers will be aware, the Directors and Tuesday volunteers have been busy with felling diseased trees along the public footpaths. We have now done as much as we can safely do. If the weather holds, we expect to see Richard Edwards and the Englefield team of contractors in the wood during May to safely remove the remaining c150 diseased trees in Upper Withy Copse and along the public footbaths and bridle way. This is essential work for public safety!

We will update you regarding the contract felling in the May edition and also keep you informed via the Beenham Facebook groups.

We are now busy trying to sort out drainage along some of the paths, starting to extract wood up to the loading area and beginning the inspection of saplings planted in previous years. We will be inspecting the woodland footpaths in April and also, with the growing season upon us, will be starting the programme of ensuring the paths are cut back and clear....Sometimes this can seem like a never-ending task!

Volunteering in Greyfield Wood. If you are fit, able and have a few hours spare either on a Tuesday morning, or one Saturday morning each month, and would like to help us in the wood. Please contact me. We will be arranging a new volunteer "on-boarding session" in the next few weeks and it would be good to welcome new helpers.

Date for your diary: Greyfield Wood Open day - Sunday 18th May 2pm-4.30pm. Organised walks, opportunity to meet the directors and volunteers. See what is being done. Tea & cake. Hopefully bluebells!

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

John Hammond john@meadvale-bays.com 07818 400440

BVE 1st Beenham Giant Vegetable and Flower Show 14th September 2025 in the Victory Hall

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

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



Weigh in for potatoes grown in a container
The potatoes will be issued in MARCH, so
THIS IS THE LAST CHANCE TO ENTER!
please register your interest with Jonathan:
jondrury@hotmail.com

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

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

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



NATURE NOTES

This is the time of year to lift the heart and raise the spirits as the days get longer and warmer. However, I am quite glad that, as I write, we are having frosty nights, as they are holding the weed growth back a bit. We can expect the summer migrants to start arriving in April, and in the middle of the month can expect to hear the cuckoo. We may not like her domestic habits, but the birds that fall victim to her life-style seem quite happy to be working themselves to a frazzle to raise a child we would think even a parent couldn't love. And we do like to hear him/her call! Then we look forward to the main summer visitors - swallows, swifts, warblers and the like. We should see more of them now that most people are getting greener, and in the meanwhile continue to eniov the old friends that are with us all vear.

Sir,

Last year I wrote about the giant signal crayfish in my pond. The toads have done their work. I haven't seen a crayfish for months.

However it's now the hydrangeas that are causing some concern. I know hydrangeas are water-loving plants, however, they have suddenly started growing twice their normal size! Standing proudly and competing with my Cornish Gunnera, boasting massive leaves and beautiful whitish blue flowers.

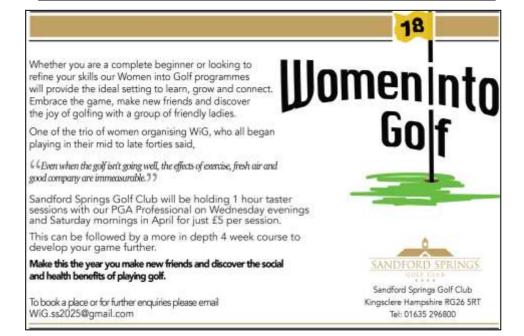
I immediately contacted my old friend and environmentalist, Kier. Had something been added to the water? Going for growth I thought. Good for farmers as well as florists and certainly good for business.

Then I had another thought. Perhaps my pond is really special. Perhaps, if I could propagate my lace-caps, everybody could have a double-sized hydrangea. Our rainfall appears to be increasing at an alarming rate, so that might work.

Of course it might all just be the tritium in the water. If it could affect the crayfish, then why not the hydrangeas?

Yours etc.,

Gopher Reman.



Church Services in the Villages

Douai Abbey

Contact number 0118 971 5300

Weekdays

6.20 am Matins & Lauds

7.45 am Mass

12.50 pm Midday Office

6.00 pm Vespers 8.00 pm Compline

Sundays

As above, plus

10:30 am Mass

But no Compline

Brimpton Baptist Church

Contact number 0118 971 2059 Sunday: 11.00 am and 6.00 pm

Wednesday: 7.00 pm

MOBILE LIBRARY

Friday

Midgham, Goddard's Drive 10.00-10.20 Woolhampton, Watermill Ct 10.35-11.15

Wednesday

Aldermaston, Forsters 9.30-9.50 Beenham, **S**toneyfields 3.15-4.00

CHAPEL ROW COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP

Beenham-Midgham-Woolhampton
For details of services provided, requests and
offers to help ring:

Church of England Services

Contact number: 0118 971 2891

(awb.org.uk)

St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston and St Nicholas, Wasing

6 April 10:45 Holy Communion (Wasing) 13 April 10:45 Holy Communion

20 April 10:45 Holy Communion

St Marys, Beenham

6 April 9:15 Morning Praise 13 April 9:15 Holy Communion 20 April 9:15 Holy Communion

St Peters, Brimpton

6 April 10:45 Holy Communion 13 April 9:15 Morning Praise 20 April 10:45 Holy Communion

St Matthews, Midgham

6 April 9:15 BCP Holy Communion 20 April 9:15 Holy Communion 27 April 17:00 Evensong

St Peters, Woolhampton

13 April10:45Holy Communion20 April10:45Holy Communion

27 April 10:00 Benefice Holy Communion



Repair Centre Plus for all your vehicle needs.

MOT, Brakes, Exhaust, Suspension, Servicing, Air Con, Batteries, Diagnostics, Wipers, Vehicle Safety Check Engine: Repair | Treatment, Chips, Dents, Paint, Smart Repairs, Alloy Wheel Refurb

Tel: 0118 971 2553

Repair Centre Plus Unit 2, Woolhampton Service Station, Bath Road, Reading RG7 5RT (Next to BP Petrol Station)



NEW TYRES

Discounted Tyres
Trade Prices Tyres
Cheapest in the Area
Servicing / Brakes / Exhaust / AC / Hand Car Wash /
Valeting Centre
24 hour Recovery Service

Tel: 0118 971 2553

Repair Centre Plus Unit 2, Woolhampton Service Station, Bath Road, Reading RG7 5RT (Next to BP Petrol Station)



Terri Negus

MULTI AWARD WINNING INDEPENDENT CELEBRANT

FUNERALS & MEMORIALS, WEDDINGS, RENEWAL OF VOWS & BABY NAMING CEREMONIES

Beautiful, personalised alternatives to traditional ceremonies.

Respecting those of all faiths, and those with none.

Recently relocated from West Sussex to West Berkshire. Now based in Midgham.

Telephone: 07964 285467
Website: www.terrineguscelebrant.co.uk
Email: info@terrineguscelebrant.co.uk

22 years professional experience Over 4500 lives celebrated -



Founder & Director of the Fellowship of Professional Celebrants. www.professionalcelebrants.org.uk





TERRI NEGUS





MOT Testing

Station

- Cars & Light Commercials
- ✓ Tyres & Exhausts
- ✓ Cambelt & Clutch Replacement
- ✓ Air Conditioning Servicing
- Mechanical Repairs

- ☑ Diagnostic Checks
- MOT Repairs & Welding
- ✓ Comprehensive Brake Service
- Servicing on all Makes & Models
- ✓ Local Collection & Delivery Service

www.eaautos.com info@eaautos.net Courtesy Vehicles Available

THE BUSIN

AJOR SERVICE

Unit 21, Youngs Industrial Estate, Paices Hill, Aldermaston, RG7 4PW

on, RG7 4PW Mobile: 07919 275 424

E.A. LAMING Flat roofing

Guarantee on all high performance felts also Tiling and Lead Repairs Phone 0118 9744701 40 years' experience

Duncan Agar Property Maintenance



- Broken or leaking guttering
- ·Door and window repairs
- ·Painting and decorating
- General maintenance and household repairs

07787 552983 Duncan-agar1@btinternet-com

GS OUTDOOR PROPERTY SERVICES

25 YEARS EXPERIENCE

- GUTTERING CLEARANCE & REPAIRS
- ROOF TILING & LEAD REPAIRS
- ROOF MOSS CLEARANCE
- CHIMNEY REPAIRS
- FASCIAS & SOFFITS
- EXTERIOR PAINTING
- GARDEN MAINTENANCE

sarahwisemantherapies.co.uk

OVEN SOLUTIONS

Sarah Wiseman Therapies

BASED IN BEENHAM

Holistic therapist specialising in Reflexology

and energy healing

Tel: 07736 298206

Put that sparkle back into your oven

- Biodegradable deep clean
- Ovens, hobs, extractors cleaned
- Repair service, replacement elements, seals and bulbs
- Non franchise established over 20 years
- Child and pet friendly. No fumes
- See our reviews via website www: Oven-Solutions.co.uk peterhudson934@gmail.com

Telephone: 07733 253 563

07511101799

Grahamsparks@hotmail.co.uk

FREE QUOTES FULL PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE



ANDREW GILKERSON PLUMBING SERVICES

Looking for a plumber?
All plumbing work undertaken
Taps, Toilets and Showers fixed
Complete Bathroom Installations
Emergency Repairs



No call out charge All work insured and Guaranteed

> Call Andy on 07956 906061 or 0118 437 7445

email: A.Gilkerson@sky.com

Bicycle care including free local collection and delivery

- Servicing of Road, MTB, Leisure and Electric bicycles
- Check & tune-up, Full Monty, strip
 & rebuild and custom build services
- Punctures, brakes, gear problems resolved and wheels trued
- · Parts and spares supplied
- E-bike conversions



Meadvale-Bays Bicycle Services

Serving cyclists across West Berkshire Call John on 07818 400440 john@meadvale-bays.com www.meadvale-bays.com







Honouring Lives with Compassion and Care

Janette Hammond Civil Funeral Celebrant

Creating truly personal funeral ceremonies that capture the essence of your loved one. Let me help you say the perfect farewell.

07939 544758 Janettehammond58@gmail.com

> Member of AOIC Fully Insured





56 Youngs Industrial Est. Aldermaston RG7 4PW

www.pumptechnology.co.uk

Your LOCAL Sewage and Wastewater Specialist



AREA SWEEP

CHIMNEY SWEEP

A PROFESSIONAL CHIMNEY SWEEP SERVICE CLEAN RELIABLE BRUSH AND VACUUM FULLY INSURED MANY YEARS EXPERIENCE

AGA'S RAYBURNS **JETMASTERS** ALL OPEN FIRES WOODBURNERS **NEST REMOVALS** OIL FIRED BOILERS



SWEEPING CERTIFICATES ISSUED CAPS AND COWLS SUPPLIED AND FITTED

CALL DARREN 01635 569195/07900398678 areasweep@btinternet.com





- ✓ ALL DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL WORK
- ✓ NEW BUILDS & EXTENSIONS
- ✓ ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING POINTS
- ✓ LANDLORD & PROPERTY INSPECTIONS
- ✓ GARDEN OFFICE & HOT TUB POWER
- ✓ FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS
- ✓ NETWORK & TELEPHONE POINTS
- √SMART DOORBELL & HEATING CONTROL

0800 955 1535

info@stanleyelectricalservices.com www.stanlevelectricalservices.com

Seasoned LOGS to your WOODPILE

Cut and split to your fire size.
Full and Half loads
available
07836 223467
please call for more details



TWK Electrical

Local & Reliable Father & Son Service

18th Edition Part P Qualified
Over 30 Years Experience
No Job Too Small
& No Call Out Fee
Call Tony & Jed For
A Fast Response
01635 826314
078 66 33 99 11
twkelectrical.com
facebook.com/TWKElectrical







PIKE BROS

Joinery and Cabinet Design

PURPOSE MADE JOINERY IN SOFT AND HARD WOOD HANDMADE

Kitchens Windows Doors Fitted and Freestanding Furniture Wood Turning

32 Bath Road, Midgham. 0118 9712664

MARIOS PLUMBING LIMITED

THE LOCAL PLUMBER!

Gas & oil boiler servicing and replacements. Central heating. Bathroom installations. Hot water cylinders. Power flushing. General plumbing.

30 years experience.

GAS SAFE registered TELEPHONE: MARIO ON 07967 123819

M.J.Sly Memorials Ltd

since

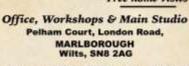
1992

Bustities

Showrooms in Marlborough, Andover and Swindon

We cover Wiltshire, Hampshire and Berkshire

~ Free home visits ~







* New memorials *

Renovations - Repairs & cleaning *Additional Inscriptions*

Telephone: 01672 516797 ~ Text: 07535 188069

Email: Info@mjaty.co.uk * View our designs at www.mjsly.co.uk