

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: 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: 07944 956242

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

Thursday 8th May, the 80th anniversary of VE Day, saw us congregated in the village hall for fish and chips, followed by the lighting of the beacon. Before that the King's representative paid a very moving tribute to mark the occasion.

But trust good old Thames Water to put a spanner in the works. For three days their contractor had had the local roads closed during the day to replace manhole covers. On the Thursday evening, with the work running over time, they decided – without either consultation or even prior notification – to close the road at the war memorial, thus cutting off the village from its village hall. And this was done while the celebrations were ongoing at the village hall. The block was a lorry pitched broadside across the road, preventing any access, thus cutting off the villagers' homeward route, and necessitating an 8-mile detour to travel home.

It was also the day that we had a new Pope, less than two weeks after his predecessor's death. Meanwhile it looks like it will be up to 18 months from Justin Welby's resignation before his successor is known. Our Parish Councils have a better track record of getting things done.

Enough whinging – enjoy the sunshine while it lasts !!

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 and edited/amended at the editors' discretion.

Advertising enquiries can be sent to mrsbsscott@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.

DID YOU KNOW - The Foodbank accepts fresh fruit and vegetables directly to their warehouse weekday mornings 9am-12pm

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. Please see the table below for food drop off points in the local areas.

Items urgently needed

Ambient sponge puddings, cereal bars, long life juice, tinned fruit

Items low on stock

Antibacterial spray, tinned meats such as spaghetti Bolognese, curry, stew, non bio washing powder/tablets, UHT milk, full fat or semi skimmed

NO pasta at present please. Thank you.

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

Aldermaston News

ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The term started with the news that our Headteacher, Mrs Higgs, is leaving us after seven years at the school, to take up a strategic role in a neighbouring local authority, remaining in education. Mrs Higgs' commitment to the children, staff, and wider school community has been greatly appreciated, and she leaves behind a strong legacy. We are now beginning the process of recruiting a new Headteacher. During this transition period, the Governors are working closely with the local authority, Diocese and school leadership team to ensure continuity and stability for our pupils, staff, and families.

We have had lots of extra-curricular trips and sporting activities recently including a team of Year 3 & 4 pupils going to a Tri-Golf Championship and Owls Class having a trip on a barge on the Kennet & Avon Canal as part of their local studies, including a guided history trail around the Wharf to discover some of our local historical buildings.

Year 5 were lucky enough to visit The Base in Greenham for a tour around their new art exhibit, INSIGHT. They spent time with one of their resident artists, looking at the different artistic skills on display. After the tour, they were invited upstairs in The Base to see some of the artists' studios. The children found their visit very inspiring and particularly enjoyed chatting with the artists themselves!

Congratulations to Keyser House Group who won the annual Aldermaston House Group Cross Country Championships. Forster were hot on their heels and every House Group scored very well! This event is a real highlight of the school calendar. We close the vehicle gates to allow the children to run laps around the field and our school building. It is the only time we encourage children to run in a car park! The event took place in beautiful sunshine and there was so much encouragement and friendship between the children clearly on display throughout each race. Every child ran in an age grouped race and the first ten children to finish scored points for their house groups. For our Wrens Class, this was their first whole school running event and many of them smiled for the full lap! The Robins Class completed two laps, Owls Class completed four laps and Kingfishers and Starlings Class needed even more stamina to finish their six-lap race. Every child demonstrated our termly value of perseverance as they completed their laps. We had a lot of fun! Many thanks to our Year 6 helpers who supported in setting up and marshalling this event.

It was a privilege to watch our Year 6 children complete their KS2 SATs. They showed such maturity and composure over the four days of assessments and should feel incredibly proud of their efforts. Thanks go to parents and carers for the support at home in ensuring the children were ready for this important week. The Starlings have mastered yet another milestone in their school career.

Finally, see the separate advert for our PTA Summer Fete – we do hope you can join us!

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor

Aldermaston Parish Council – 13th May 2025

We voted Sophie Crawford as Chairman and Rob Smith as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, unopposed, testament to their leadership skills during the past year.

In open forum we discussed the Strawberry Field developments, in particular the burning of waste, leading to toxic fumes, which was affecting the residents of Kestrel Mead/Falcon Fields. We recommended that they approach Dominic Boeck, the Ward Councillor. We also discussed the resurfacing of the A340 outside the Parish Hall. One member of the public said he “would do his own thing”. We also discussed the future of the Easy Concrete site on Paices Hill and were told that the application has gone to appeal. Timeframes were fluid.

We approved the policies and procedures associated with our business.

On the planning front, we were faced with three applications associated with conditions attached to previous planning applications and we remained silent on them all.

Since our last meeting, WBC has made five planning decisions affecting us. They have approved the application for the detached bungalow at Strawberry Farm and also the replacement windows at Barn End on Paices Hill. They have refused applications by Church Lodge and Middle Lodge, Church Road. They said that Compound B at Young’s Industrial Estate, Paices Hill is deemed lawful for the conversion of B8 storage and distribution use.

Re the Hind’s Head request for fixing of a small banner onto APC’s side of the fence at the recreation ground, we agreed to fix a notice to their gate identifying it as providing public access to the Hind's Head. We also suggested the provision of an A-frame blackboard on the rec near the gate, which we felt would be more in keeping with our conservation area village setting.

Councillors Faulkner and Smith raised objections to the heavy traffic on Raghill, particularly coming from Padworth Sawmills.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. As usual, your presence is welcomed!

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

Dave Shirt tel. 0118 971 2549

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



Summer Music @ St Mary's



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

All to raise funds for St Mary's Church, Aldermaston

Friday June 6th, 7pm

Samuel Austin & Minna (Slacker-Folk)

Saturday June 7th, 7pm

Cecily Beer (Harpist)

Box Office & more information:

<https://concerts.project-stmarys.uk>



£20 Adult Ticket, £5 Children in full time education, under 12s free

Both nights: £30 adult, £10 children, under 12s free
includes refreshments

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



SUMMER FETE

FRIDAY 4TH JULY
4pm to 7pm

ALL
WELCOME!!

**ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

FREE ENTRY

A WONDERFUL EVENT FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY!

Inflatable Fun | Fair Games
Food Stalls | Bar | Raffle | Demos
And much more!

See QR code for more info



Charity no. 297701

Or email:
pta@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk

Beenham News

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM – JUNE 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
Mon 2 nd	Parish Council AGM 7pm	Community Rm	
Sat 7 th	School Summer Fayre 1 – 4pm	Beenham Primary School	chairbeenham@hotmail.com
Sun 8 th	Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6 £4/person	Six Bells 7.30 for 8pm	9713368 to book
Wed 11 th	WI: Talk - The history of knitting 1800–1945. £4 for guests.	Community Rm 7.30pm	Sally: 07776 251 228
Thu 12 th	Beenham Walkers: walk around Hampstead Norreys	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Sat 14 th	Village Market and repair shop 2-3.30pm	Victory Hall	Sally: 07776 251 228
Wed 18 th	Beenham Friendship Club for over 55s. Coach trip to Covent Garden £25 for non-members	Pick up points	Marion:9713094 Tina:01635826154
Fri 20 th	"If the Shoe Fits" – see separate advert for details.	Victory Hall 7pm	To book call: 07752 239222
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
Sat 21 st	"If the Shoe Fits" – see separate advert for details.	Victory Hall 1pm or 7pm	To book call: 07752 239222
Tue 24 th	Beenham Tearoom 2pm-3.30pm + Pop-Up Library (pre-booked collections only)	Victory Hall	Dru:07815 055 040 Pat:07947 478 840
Thu 26 th	Beenham Walkers: Circular walk around Eccingswell.	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Fri 27 th	Band on the Rec 7.30pm BBQ and icecreams	Rec	Pat:07947478840

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

Friday June 27th 7:30pm

(Please note that the wrong date was given last month!)

- Band on the Rec – Free event

Beenham Village Recreation ground

Beenham once again welcomes Beenham Wind Orchestra

This is a special year we celebrate 25 years since Beenham Wind Orchestra (Beenham Band as was) was formed for the millenium.

Bring your family, friends and rugs/ chairs. Enjoy a barbecue by the Six Bells and Ice creams by Dave's Ices.

Hello to you from Greyfield Wood!



What great weather we have been having. By the time you read this we will have enjoyed another Open day at the wood, where visitors will have been able to have guided tours of the wood and discuss various aspects of the work being done. Many thanks to all who attended and to the team of helpers who set up the visitor area and those who made and served tea and cake!

Our main news is that after nearly 8 months of delay, due to wet weather, we have begun the Contract felling. This is to remove diseased Ash trees , initially along the bridle way and public footpaths. This is a legal requirement upon the CIC directors to ensure that public rights of way in the wood are safe. Richard Edwards and his team from The Englefield Estate are doing a great job felling and doing the initial clear-up. Our various volunteer groups will now focus on final clearing and preparation for planting later in the year. For those of you who walk the wood regularly, please bear with us as on some days certain paths may be closed, or your walk is interrupted, whilst a specific tree near a footpath is being felled. YOUR safety is our priority!

Many of the mature Norwegian Spruce trees, most of them along the Douai Abbey side of the wood will also been felled and replaced with broadleaf saplings.

The task of clearing and preparing for replanting is a huge one, with around 400 saplings to be planted over the next two years! Hence our continuous appeals for volunteers to assist us. The volunteers meet every Tuesday morning and one Saturday morning each month. If you are able to give up a morning a month to help please contact me.

Please continue to enjoy our beautiful wood.

John Hammond

john@meadvale-bays.com

07818 400440

If The Shoe Fits

MURDER MOST HUMOUROUS

A murder mystery brilliantly written by Nigel Smith

Friday 20th June 2025

Evening Performance

Doors open 7pm

Fish or Chicken & Chips served promptly at 7.30pm

Saturday 21st June 2025

Matinee Performance

Doors open 1pm

Fish or Chicken & Chips served promptly at 1.30pm

Evening Performance

Doors open 7pm

Fish or Chicken & Chips served promptly at 7.30pm



At Victory Hall, Picklepythe Lane, Beenham, RG7 5NN

£22.50 Per Adult

£15.50 Per Child (12 years and under)

Raffle & Licensed Bar

Do **NOT** bring your own drinks as you will be asked to leave due to licensing regulations

To Book Call 07752 239222, WhatsApp or email
eggcupproductions.events@gmail.com
Or find us on Facebook
Eggcup Productions and Events

Organised By



BEENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

❀ Summer Fayre ❀

1-4 pm, Saturday 7th June

Beenham Primary School are delighted to announce the return of the village Summer Fayre, to be held at school on Saturday 7th June from 1pm. There will be plenty of fayre games, tombola, bouncy castle, stalls selling locally crafted goodies, teas and cakes, and a BBQ. The Six Bells will be providing a bar.

Do bring your 4-legged friends along and enter them in our dog show. Prizes will be awarded for the waggiest tail, best child handler, prettiest bitch, and most handsome dog. Don't miss the chance for some competitive tug-of-war action – which end of the village will stay standing?

This year we are raising funds for the development of our outdoor learning provision, called 'Edwin's corner', which will be a fantastic addition to our site for the children. Free entry to all. We look forward to seeing you there!

How is your garden growing?
In preparation for the
Beenham Giant Vegetable Show
On 14th September – Beenham Victory Hall

CLASSES TO INCLUDE:

LONGEST: Carrot, Longest Cucumber, Longest Leek, Longest Runner Bean

HEAVIEST: Apple, Beetroot, Cabbage, Carrot, Cucumber, Marrow, Onion, Potato, Pumpkin or Tomato

TALLEST: Sunflower

LARGEST: Sunflower Head or Dahlia Head

PLUS: anything else we can think of!



All seed potatoes are now distributed, and we are excited to see who will have the heaviest total weight of potatoes in bucket

The Arthur Sutton Six Bells' Trophy will be awarded to the best 14 inch (35cm) 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.

To enter or for any queries please contact Jonathan @ jondrury@hotmail.com

Beenham Village Market

The market keeps growing as we take on new stalls each month, and our café is very popular. Come and see what we have on offer!

The next market is on 14 June at 2pm, where you will find a whole range of items to tempt you. If you are interested in becoming a stallholder, whether regularly or as an occasional venture, please email mrssallypellow@gmail.com or call Sally on 0777 625 1228. Your first market stall is free of charge: after that, we ask for 10% of sales which means that if you don't sell much, you don't lose out by having to pay a set fee for a table.

Beenham WI

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the VE Day poppy cascade which was displayed on the village green. We were thrilled that so many people created poppies which we then anchored onto the backing fabric: we had donations from the children in the craft classes at Beenham School, from lots and lots of parishioners, and from the craft group at Mulberry's in Lower Henwick. Poppies were made of felt or crocheted or knitted and we loved the variety of sizes and designs. We hope that you all agree that the end result was very moving. The cascade has been carefully stored, and we hope to use it again to mark the anniversary of VJ Day on August 15, and possibly also for Remembrance Day in November.

The CPR and defibrillation classes have continued and by the time this Village News comes out, the only remaining class will be the 2pm class on Friday June 13. As we write this, spaces are still available for that class: please sign up by emailing us on BeenhamWI@BerkshireWI.co.uk.

Our next routine WI meeting is on Wednesday 11 June in the Community Room, starting at 7.30. We have a speaker on the history of knitting: the meeting starts at 7.30pm and guests are very welcome. Just turn up: or if you'd like to chat first, call

Sally Pellow on 0777 625 1228.

Beenham Primary School

It is hard to believe that we are rounding the corner to the end of another year in school! The Summer term is always a busy one but this term seems to have been exceptionally so. We have enjoyed celebrating our school rule, *Be Proud*, and our value of confidence during our first Summer term by finding opportunities to recognise the achievements of ourselves and people in our community. We held a well-attended street party to mark the 80th anniversary of VE day and were delighted to welcome Alan Wheatley, who served in the British Army for over 42 years, as a special guest to give commemorative medals to our children. Thank you, too, to Beenham Village Events who very kindly donated the medals. The party also saw the second Great Beenham Bake-Off and we were blown away by the standard of entries from the school community. The judges had a very tough job deciding the winners of each category, as well as an overall Star Baker. Congratulations to all of our winners and thank you to everyone who entered!

We are enjoying the warming weather and sunnier days and the classes are making the most of our beautiful grounds with their learning. We have been delighted to welcome back Small Fires, Big Adventures for outdoor bushcraft sessions for the whole school – the children love getting involved in these, learning new skills and often making delicious treats. Work is also continuing on the development of our own outdoor learning provision on our site, which will be known as *Edwin's Corner*. We are currently fundraising to be able to start the project and hope to complete it next summer - our Summer Fayre on Saturday 7th June will be raising money for this and we would like to invite everyone to come and join us for the afternoon (1 – 4pm) to enjoy games, our dog show, tug of war, 'Gunk the Teacher', craft stalls, a BBQ and bar. We look forward to seeing lots of you there!

Finally, we would like to say a huge THANK YOU to David Churchill, a former pupil of Beenham Primary School, who has recently made a very generous donation to our school. David has said he has fond memories of the school and village and it has been lovely to hear his stories of his time here.

Looking ahead to our final term of the year, we are very excited for our annual sports day and colour run which are always lots of fun for everyone involved. We will also be going on a whole-school trip to Oxford in July to visit the Ashmolean Museum and Natural History Museum, which has also been kindly funded by a donation to the school!

Brimpton News

PLANT SALE IN BRIMPTON CHURCH



Thank you – to all the wonderful people of Brimpton and beyond who supported the Plant Sale in St Peter's Church.

We were lucky enough to have the perfect weather for the event, and on a sunny Saturday morning St Peter's Church was buzzing with chat and activity.

The plants were snapped up in record time and carried back to waiting cars by the wheelbarrow-load. One person arriving at the church met a caravan of laden wheelbarrows going in the other direction and said, "It was like meeting Birnam Wood on its way to Dunsinane!"

Our gardens will benefit from all the wonderful flowers, shrubs, fruit, vegetables and herbs that we have bought; and St Peter's Church and Thames Valley Air Ambulance have both benefited from the sales and generous donations for tea and cakes.

A big thank you to everyone who took part, as a grower, a helper or a customer (or, in some cases all three). It was a lovely morning, and much appreciated.



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

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

WEDNESDAY, 11 JUNE 2025
WEDNESDAY, 9 JULY 2025
WEDNESDAY, 13 AUGUST 2025
WEDNESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2025

Everyone (including dogs) welcome

SAVE THE DATE!

BRIMPTON HARVEST LUNCH



Saturday

27th

September



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.



VE Day Celebrations - We

celebrated in style. The children wore red, white and blue, we hung our bunting, waved our flags and Mrs Hawkes kindly came in and played some of the old wartime tunes on the piano and we all sang! It was very enjoyable and very moving.

Milestones - We had an amazing day at Milestones back 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.

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.brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk



BRIMPTON WI NEWS

Our April Speaker was a guide for St. Georges Chapel in Windsor Castle. Her slide talk took the form of a stroll around these world famous buildings, without the crowds and no aching feet at the end of it!

Ann Hughes started her career as a guide at Clivedon and Dorney Wood. She decided to apply for a role at Windsor and over a year later was interviewed and joined the team at the Castle.

The history starts with William 1 and over the centuries, various Monarchs have added, demolished, altered, and changed the use of buildings and courtyards. Initially it was built for strategic reasons, on a bluff overlooking the river by William 1, to control the Thames, as a stronghold in case of attack. Henry 1 created the area known as the Lower Ward, Henry II strengthened the protective walls, Edward III greatly increased its size when he added the Upper Bailey. The Chapel became the base for the Knights Order of the Garter, which the Tudor Kings later embellished with its magnificent fan vaulted ceiling which took over 50 years to complete. The buildings and site really form a Tally Roll of the English Monarchy. In the 18th century George III undertook a major refurbishment of the castle in the form we now see.

Windsor is a royal palace and is used for State occasions, but at the same time it's a favoured country home of the Royal family. St George's Chapel is an active place of worship, many visitors timing their visit to hear Choral Evensong. Over the centuries many monarchs and their spouses as well as other family members have been buried there including of course our late Queen. Visitors

In April we held our first social event of the year which took the form of a Beetle Drive!!! Believe it or not, when you add in a delicious supper, you can see why these social events are always thoroughly enjoyed by all.

In June our speaker will be Jean Shepherd who will be talking about "Her time on the Alan Titmarsh Show".

For further information contact our President Shelley Bassil (0118 9710563) or our Secretary Annette Dolphin (0118 9710090) or e-mail brimptonwi@berkshirewi.co.uk.

Brimpton Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 6th May. This was our Annual Meeting and agenda included:

The election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. I was re-elected as Chairman and Nick Matthews was re-elected as Vice-Chairman.

Appointment of representatives to other organisations. These included John Dolphin to the Village Hall Management Committee; Phil Bassil to the AWE Local Liaison Committee; and Grahame Hawker to the WBC Climate Forum. We did not have a nomination to the Almshouses Charity. As the trustees of the Brimpton Common Fuel Allotment Charity are appointed for four years there was no need to confirm them as our representatives.

We agreed the Annual Governance & Accountability Statement.

We approved the Statement of Accounts and Asset Register for 2024/25

We discussed the Auditor's report on financial activity 2024/25 which was positive and made no recommendations for changes to procedures. .

We agreed the dates when electors may examine the Parish Council's financial records. Details of how to do so will be on our website.

We considered a retrospective planning application received from Basingstoke & Deane BC relating to new fences on land in Hockford Lane, Brimpton Common. Details available on B&D Council website ref. 25/00767/OOD and 25/00799 RET. We decided we had no view on this and would therefore not comment.

West Berkshire Council have informed us of an enquiry from the owners of Hillcourt Lodge, Brimpton Road, as to whether a full planning application was necessary or whether their proposal to extend the house could be accepted under permitted development. As this appears to be quite a large extension we would like to see a full planning application but we understand the rules on permitted development may allow the development to proceed without it.

We were updated about the arrangements for the VE Day event to be held on 8th May. The Brimpton beacon will be lit at 9.30pm.

If you wish to look at the financial papers mentioned above, they are available on our website: www.brimpton-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Council will meet again at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3rd June 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 jhicks@brimpton-pc.gov.uk.

John Hicks

Diary Dates

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

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

Sunday 15th June: Kennet Opera Summer Concert at St Peter's Church, starting at 2.30pm. Tickets £15. Further details from Sue Moore via Susanmoore50@hotmail.com or 07801 720824 Tickets can also be obtained from: <https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/kennetopera1>

Brimpton 100 Club

The 100 Club winner in May was no. 21 Martin Hayes

Kennet Opera Summer Concert

Sunday June 15th 2.30pm

St Peter's Church Brimpton

Tickets available on the door by card or cash

Refreshments included in ticket price of £15

Parking is available at Brimpton Village Hall

Midgham News

VE Day 80 years

On Saturday 10th May a band of ringers rang a quarter peal of Great Grandsire Minor.

Taking part were

- 1 Carol Waller
- 2 Ken Waller
- 3 Jo Waller
- 4 Jemma Hurst
- 5 Mike Hurst
- 6 Ben Waller(called)

On behalf of the Midgham tower we would like to thank them for helping us celebrate the 80th event.

We are always looking for new bellringers. You will be fully trained by experts and if you are looking for a something new and different to do and meet new people this could be for you.

Contact Roy Pratley 07810103696 royprtley@yahoo.co.uk



Midgham Café Church

First Thursday of the month at St Matthews

June 5th July 3rd

Join us for tea and cake and fellowship 2.00pm

Contact Sarah Henderson for more information

Tel; 0118 9713956

henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com

Everyone welcome

Date for your diary

Roger Judd, organist at St Lawrence Ludlow and formerly of St George's chapel Windsor is once again coming to give a concert at

St Matthew's Midgham on Friday 18th July at 6pm

His previous concert was in 2022. Roger's family had connections in Brimpton and many years ago he used to practice on the Midgham organ.

We look forward to welcoming hm again.

Midgham Village Hall

Coffee mornings are held fortnightly in the Hall from 10 until 12. Everyone is welcome to come and join their friends and neighbours for a warm drink and a friendly chat . In June the coffee mornings are on the 11th and the 25th.

Woolhampton News

Woolhampton & Midgham WI May 2025

We started off the month with the cake stall at the village hall Saturday market doing very well thanks to our regular bakers.

At the lunch club we had a very tasty chicken and mushroom casserole with mash and two vegetables, finishing with three delicious puddings. Everyone always enjoys our monthly get together. The lunch club is open to any single people living in the parish.

Now that the evenings are lighter for longer we look forward to getting together at the village hall for our monthly meetings. After a short bit of business, we went on to discuss the National WI Federation's Annual resolution this year 'Anyone can be a Lifesaver'. Firstly, one of our members spoke on behalf of supporting the resolution. Her life had been saved by a foreign stranger. She was on holiday in Spain in the underground. There was a huge gap between the platform and train through which she fell. The guard did not see her and was signalling for the train to move off, but someone shouted that there was a lady down and this stranger pulled her up. There was also an example when a little girl at a festival fell into the river nearby and a man jumped up and pulled her to safety. When asked later why he did it he said it was an instinct, he had no choice. The actual lifeguards went to find a rope to pull her out, but someone had to do something very quickly and he did. We heard a few other examples of strangers saving someone in trouble, who when asked why they did it said it was instinct, a compulsion to help without thinking.

We then heard from another member for not supporting the resolution. This was a difficult task as there is not much you could say. She quoted that if she had to save someone she was not agile enough to do so. There was a discussion about what members thought then we all voted in favour of the resolution going forward to the NFWI Annual General Meeting in June.

We are looking forward to our tour of the Reading Wind Turbine in June. There is also an evening at the Mercure Newbury West Grange Hotel to see the Jersey Boys tribute with a three course meal. We are in the process of arranging a visit to the Watermill Theatre, Newbury to see Jesus Christ Superstar.

Our June meeting is a visit to two of our members gardens ending with cream tea in the village hall. July is Songs and Entertainment by Arty Michelle.

If you would like to know more about our activities please come along as a guest at one of our meetings. You will be very welcome, and you may decide to join us! Guest fee is £4 and includes refreshments. We

meet on the second Tuesday of the Month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Woolhampton.

More information from **Mrs Beryl Smith, our President – 01635 861374.**

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 and special classes for children to enter, and hopefully there is at least one class that you will want to enter. We now have the facility for the full schedule, entry form and rules to be downloaded from **woolhamptonannualshow.uk** . There is also the link from **Woolhampton Parish Council** web-site.

Paper copies of schedule, recipe for plaited loaf, entry form and rules will also be available at the June, July and August markets and will be displayed on notice boards. To encourage more entrants in the plaited loaf class in cookery section you can pick up a free sachet of yeast from Anne at the market. **Remember – there is no entry fee!!**

Don't forget to water your Show potatoes in a container!

From the previous show



Moon Walk for Breast Cancer Charity

During the weekend 17/18th May, there was a national Moon Walk to aid the charity for research into Breast Cancer. A Woolhampton resident, Heather Hughes of Station Road, opted to walk the full marathon distance of 26.2 miles along the Kennet and Avon Canal towpath. Starting from Woolhampton at 5.45a.m., Heather turned at the halfway point just after the Dundas Arms in Kintbury and she completed her chosen course in a time just shy of 8 hours, a truly magnificent effort. Nursing sore feet but still buoyant, Heather enjoyed a glass of champagne with a small group of neighbours who had gathered to cheer her home. Several local residents and business associates sponsored Heather and she raised, to-date, in excess of £600 for the Breast Cancer charity. Although the walk has finished, it is not too late to donate to her efforts for the charity if you are encouraged by her. Well done Heather!!

<https://giving.give-star.com/microsite/walkthewalk/themoonwalklondon2025/fundraising-page/heatherhughessmoonwalk/>



WAR - Evacuees, School Dinners, etc.

The Nation celebrated Victory in Europe VE Day on 8th May 1945.

On 1st September 1939 it was announced "instructions have been sent to local authorities to set up ARP Emergency Committees and local ARP controllers to assume duty (ARP – Air Raid Precautions). Work on public shelters to be accelerated and local authorities given power to requisition premises for civil defence purposes and for public shelters. Evacuation of children, expectant mothers, blind persons and cripples from certain congested areas including Greater London and Manchester will begin today. Some 3,000,000 people are affected, about a half of whom are children".

At 11am on 3rd September 1939 Britain declared war on Germany and 60.000 civilians would be killed before the end of hostilities. On 3rd September Don Attwood of Woolhampton had the following thoughts "That Sunday afternoon most of the village seemed to be standing around on the side of the Bath Road. Whether they just wanted reassurance from one another or whether they were waiting for arrivals from London to appear".

In April NRDC was informed that 3,300 evacuees could be accommodated in the Newbury district and the first 800 were to arrive by train over a period of 4 days.

However, the first evacuees to arrive in Woolhampton were staff and pupils of Elstree School, Hertfordshire, and 74 boys arrived on 18th September. Other evacuees were welcomed at Sun Hill, the 'Limes', at the 'Fancy Shop' (now 'Bow Cottage'), 'Tudor Cottage' and 'Woolhampton Court'. Some relationships so formed continued into the post-war years.

On 19th June 1940 official evacuees from Dagenham were admitted to Woolhampton village school and on 12th October 12 boys admitted from Pollard Hill School, Mitcham, Surrey. The roll on 22nd November showed 65 Berkshire children and 46 evacuees. The latter would seem to have departed before the end of 1942.

At this time school meals were brought from a depot established at the old 'Blue Coat School', Thatcham, later from 1944 at a site in 'Crown Court', Thatcham, serving meals to 2,000 children employing 28 staff. Pupils also enjoyed regular gas mask inspections from Air Raid Warden, Mr Walton. The school was also designated as a 'Rest Centre' and older girl pupils regularly 'turned the mattresses'.

Correction to last month's article : The names of the Cripps brothers are held on the Midgham memorial not Thatcham.

John Trigg

District Councillor's Surgery in Woolhampton Village Hall

Our District Councillor, Mr Chris Read, holds a 'surgery' in the Village Hall on the last Saturday of each month from 9 to 11a.m. He welcomes interaction from local residents about issues of concern for our parish and environment. We are grateful for Mr Read to give up his time for the benefit of our community

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

What's on in Woolhampton Village Hall

Village Hall Market – 1st Saturday of every month from 10am until 12 noon.

Mondays

Dance Class (Ballroom/Line Dance) – 2pm until 4pm.

Dance Fit with Lorraine – 5.45pm

Pilates with Lorraine 6.35pm

Tuesdays

Stroke Care – 9am until 3pm

Kool Kids Dance – children's combo dance class at 5pm

Dance Studio Reading – adult beginners Ballroom & Latin at 6pm

Women's Institute – 7.30pm until 9.30pm, every second Tuesday of each month

Wednesdays

Lunch Club - 1st and 4th Wednesday of each month at 12 noon

Thursdays

Flexercise – 10am until 12pm

Art Class – 1.30pm until 3.30pm and 7pm until 9pm

Fridays

Bowls – 2.30pm until 5pm.

For any further information please visit: www.woolhamptonvillagehall.co.uk

Bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com

Village Market

The next Market will be on Saturday June 7th from 10a.m. to 12 noon in the Woolhampton Village Hall. There are more unusual stalls with unique jewellery, glass ware and decorated pottery, woodwork plus all your favourite stalls, from books to buns, from honey (local) to homeware, and much more. Not your cup of tea? Well there are other refreshments available and it is a great chance to meet up with friends and neighbours, or just get to know what goes on in the village.



Woolhampton Parish Council

Woolhampton Parish Council seeks a highly motivated, enthusiastic person to take on the post of Clerk to the Council

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woolhamptonclerk@gmail.com

07896321058

Closing date for applications:

30/06/2025

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

0118 9713334 (Mrs Cardy)

NATURE NOTES

No one seemed to have heard the cuckoo until mid-April this year. This is very late, especially considering that our springs seem to be starting earlier. Gone are the days when he/she could be heard from morning till night, but this is good news for the small birds that would be rearing baby cuckoos. Of course, there are far fewer of these anyway.

My granddaughter tells me I should just enjoy the birds that are here and not regret those that aren't, but it's like remembering and regretting friends that have gone. Forgive me if I have said this before – it is the ramblings of old age! Although it has been very dry lately, perennial plants, which usually have deeper roots, are looking very lush, so we'll see what happens. The changing climate keeps us guessing.

80 years on.

Today is 'Victory in Europe Day,'

Eighty years on

Most veterans are gone

But the few that are left have their say

And tell their account of their day.

Stories of courage and sadness and dying,

Of family grief and tears and crying,

But little of the price they had to pay.

So let us give thanks for all that were there,

Who together stripped the aggressor bare,

Gave us all freedom and an enduring peace

When on victory day hostilities ceased.

May all nations realise the horrors of war

And may peace be cherished for evermore.

C.N. 9.5.25

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Please contact:

Annie Nethersole 07990 594591 or annie.nethersole@outlook.com



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 : 07944 956242

Sunday service: 11.00 am

Wednesday night Bible study : 7.00 pm



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Church of England Services

Contact number: 0118 971 2891 (awb.org.uk)

St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston and St Nicholas, Wasing

1 June 10:45 Holy Communion, Wasing

8 June 10:45 Holy Communion

15 June 10:45 Morning Praise

St Marys, Beenham

1 June 09:15 Holy Communion

8 June 09:15 Holy Communion

15 June 09:15 Holy Communion

St Peters, Brimpton

1 June 10:45 Morning Praise

8 June 09:15 Holy Communion

29 June 09:15 Songs of Praise

St Matthews, Midgham

1 June 09:15 BCP Communion

15 June 09:15 Holy Communion

22 June 17:00 Evensong

St Peters, Woolhampton

8 June 10:45 Holy Communion

22 June 10:45 Holy Communion

29 June 10:45 Holy Communion



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