

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

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Thatcham RG19 4QB . Tel: 01635 876498

Committee Comments

As I write, the holiday season is in full swing – with the schools closed the roads are noticeably quieter and the weather, although glorious, is not so good for the garden. I have however seen lots of butterflies and insects in the garden so conditions must be just right for them.

Are you one of those people who flash oncoming cars when there is a police speed camera on the roadside? Do you think you are being clever or just helpful to other drivers? Have you ever stopped to think about the impact of your actions?

I am aware and very grateful to the parish councils and volunteers in our villages who are working hard, and at great expense, to record roads where speeding is a problem and dangerous. The information they collect is duly fed to the police who in turn come out to areas where a problem has been identified, with their cameras to capture those over the speed limit.

Roads have speed limits for good reasons. Speeding is a crime and quite rightly justice needs to be imposed for everyone's safety. Next time you see a police speed camera, stop and think how you would feel if a speeding driver caused an accident to a loved one? You are putting lives in danger. Please do not hinder the police in their work.

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

It's great to be able to share a good news story about the Foodbank Hungry Holidays initiative with our readers.

The scheme provided food and essential items during the school holidays to 1,152 children from 474 households across 47 schools. The detailed planning and organisation which started in March, the financial support from West Berkshire Council and Greenham Trust, corporate volunteers who offered their help and an army of willing volunteers resulted in the deliveries all being completed a week ahead of schedule. Fantastic!

However, there's always another side to the story. The donations this year from March to July totalled 34,056kgs compared to 39,863kgs in 2024, so more stock had to be purchased – 19,640kgs compared to 15,112kgs in 2024. Financial support is crucial for this. In June and July, the weight of purchased stock was almost equal to the weight of donations. It's not surprising that the result is that the stock level in the warehouse has fallen to approx. 20,000kgs despite almost

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

Male razors, tinned tomatoes, custard/rice pudding, shaving foam, tinned meat meals, biscuits, cup-a-soup, mugshots, tinned fish.

Items low on stock

Tinned fruit

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

Midgham News

Organ Recital at St Matthew's Midgham by Roger Judd on Friday 18th July 2025

Roger Judd, who first gave a recital in Midgham in October 2022, returned in July to give a wonderful recital to around 30 people. Roger's parents had lived in Brimpton when he was a young man and he had practised on the Midgham organ before eventually becoming organist at St George's Chapel, Windsor.

Roger's programme included pieces by Sweelinck, Byrd, Bach, Wesley and Elgar (from his Vesper Voluntaries) though he did not present them in that order, preferring to move back and forth in time so as to bring out the contrasts in different music periods. One piece, Serenade (Opus 22) by Derek Bourgeois who died in 2017 was written in 11/8 time, graduating to 13/8 by the third page. That sounds complicated but the piece was delightfully easy to listen to. Roger set the context for each piece and gave a short description of it. He ended with the Toccata in G by Theodore Dubois, a favourite in the organ repertory. It was a joy to listen to these pieces played with such ease and fluency, and to hear the variety of sound offered by the Midgham organ.

As is traditional at Midgham, there were delicious home-made refreshments to follow and our thanks go to those who prepared them.

Our next recital is on 19th September at 6 pm by Gill Blythman. Proceeds will go towards the restoration of the Gray and Davison organ in Thatcham Church, where Gill is now organist, which urgently needs restoration. Please look out for flyers and promote it in your community.



Midgham Café Church

First Thursday of the month

September 4th October 2nd

Join us for tea and cake and fellowship 2.00pm in the church

Contact Sarah Henderson for more information

Tel: 0118 9713956 henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com





Organ Recital



at
St Matthew's Church, Midgham
RG7 5UW

by
Gill Blythman
St Mary's Thatcham

Friday 19th September 2025 at 6 pm

Admission free. Retiring collection
Refreshments after recital.

Midgham Village Hall

On alternate Wednesdays coffee mornings are held in the Hall from 10 until 12. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a hot drink and cake and the opportunity to chat with their friends and neighbours. In September the mornings will be on 3rd and 17th.

HARVEST FESTIVAL LUNCH & RAFFLE

SUNDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2025

in aid of St Matthew's Church

Tickets: £12.50

(to include drinks)

Children under 5 free

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

Midgham Park Farm 12 noon



Woolhampton News

Defibrillators in Woolhampton

With the reinstatement of the defibrillator at the Village Hall, the Woolhampton area now has five defibrillators that are accessible 24/7. Others can be found at the front of the Angel Pub on the left-hand side on what used to be the Post Office and on the front of 6 Angel Mead on Station Road. Upper Woolhampton is served with two defibrillators, one in Abbey Gardens at the far end of the wheelie-bin enclosure near the entrance, and one on the machinery shed on Douai sports field near the Cods Hill entrance.

In the case of an incident, first dial 999 and explain the situation. You will be directed to the nearest defibrillator. For both defibrillators in Upper Woolhampton and the one in Angel Mead, you will need a code to open the cabinet. For the defibrillators at the Village Hall and the Angel, you simply pull the cabinet open and remove the defibrillator and preparation kit. This will set off an alarm that can be stopped by reclosing the cabinet.

You will receive clear recorded instructions on how to use the defibrillator when you open it up so that you can use it to restart the heart before the paramedics arrive. After use, contact the person responsible for maintenance of the defibrillator and return it to its cabinet.

Of course, we all hope we will never find ourselves in the situation where we need to use a defibrillator, but it is good to know that they are available if needed.

Annual Village Show 2025

The 24th Annual Show took place in the Village Hall on Saturday 9th August.

It seems to be the norm nowadays for challenging conditions for gardeners. Nonetheless, there were very good displays of vegetables but unfortunately flowers weren't so good. As usual, the cookery classes were very popular, and there were more entries in the children's classes this year due to the encouragement of parents and the presence, on the day, of school fundraising events such as a chocolate tombola, 'hook-a-duck' competition and a tin-can shy. This Show is such a fun event, it is hoped even more children can be encouraged in future, and even more local youngsters would be very welcome.

Individual prize-winners were:

Best Vegetable – Mary Owen (for her sweetcorn)

4 Vegetables on a Board – Krista May (50 points total)

Best Floral Display – Piers Everton (for his gladioli)

Specimen rose – Mary Owen

Best in Show for Cookery and Preserves – Heather Hughes (for her quiche)

'Potatoes grown in a container' competition - Woody with 15lb 9oz (from just 3 tubers)

Tallest sunflower - Harriet Molloy whose sunflower, at the time of measuring, reached 360.7cm (11ft 10in – old money!)

There were over 200 exhibits from 50+ entrants. Congratulations to all class winners and commiserations to all other entrants, who will no doubt have vowed to do better next time! (It was very encouraging to hear people saying "Oh, I'm going to have a go at that next year", across a variety of categories apparently – we look forward to seeing you next year.)

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

List of winners and more photos on woolhamptonannualshow.uk



One Village – Two Halls



In January 1929 Newbury Rural District Council considered a planning application for a village hall at Woolhampton from Mrs Whidborne of 'Kennet Orley'. This was intended primarily for the use of the Conservative Association and the British Legion. The NWN reported, "It appears that such functions as dances and whist drives are prohibited at the Gill Campbell Hall and it is proposed to let the new building provide this need." The Gill Campbell Hall had been provided in 1895 for the village as a centre for Christian activity, by Charlotte Blyth, the third daughter of the late James Blyth, a previous owner of the Woolhampton and Brimpton estate.

The plans were approved and the opening of the hall in 1929 was marked by a ceremony, organised by Mrs Whidborne, of old needlework and associated items of interest which included a miniature pack of cards crafted by French prisoners held in Porchester Castle during the Napoleonic Wars. The hall was named King George V Hall in thanksgiving for his recovery from a near fatal illness – septicaemia. (The King convalesced at Bognor and while in residence decreed that henceforth the town should be known as 'Bognor Regis'.) Villagers continued to enjoy the use of both halls - maybe the schoolchildren failed to 'enjoy' the sessions with the school dentist which were held in the Gill Campbell Hall!

The new hall, known as 'the hut', was purchased for the village in July 1945 by the generosity of the families of Mrs Whidborne and James Blyth-Currie, having been requisitioned during the war years and occupied by the Ministry of Labour. It was found that the George V 'hut' had been built on land owned by the de Grouchy family of Jersey, related by marriage to the Frankum family, and needed to be purchased by Woolhampton parish council.

In later years an unauthorised building appeared close to the King George – the very popular 'snooker hut'.

The Gill Campbell Hall is now a private residence and the old George V Hall was replaced by the present village hall built close to the site of the old 'hut', officially opened on 21st October 2006 by Richard Benyon MP. The building was partially financed by the small housing development sited on land close to the old George V Hall .

John Trigg

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 in the Village Hall on September 6th from 10am to 12noon. There is no entry charge for this popular monthly event which gives everyone the chance to find out what's happening in the area. If you're new to the village, it's an ideal way to meet people and see the great variety of merchandise on offer at the stalls. As ever, refreshments are available.

If you would like to have a table at a future market, please contact cathy.vallis@outlook.com for more details and availability.

District Councillor's Surgery

The District Councillor, Mr Chris Read, representing Woolhampton parish will be holding his monthly 'surgery' at Woolhampton Village hall on Saturday 27th September from 9 to 11a.m. If you have an issue with an area within the parish or with West Berks District services, please come along to discuss it with him.

The following monthly 'surgery' will be on Saturday 25th October, same times. Please take advantage of Mr Read's generous allocation of his time.



At Woolhampton C of E Primary School we continue to pride ourselves in living our Christian **ROCK** values in everything we do. **R** for Respect, **O** for Optimism, **C** for Compassion and **K** for Koinonia. The children articulate these values wonderfully and understand the meaning and relevance of them in their learning.



Community is so important to us as a school and as the annual Village Summer Show proved. The 'Friends of Woolhampton', FoW ran games for the villagers coming to 'show' their home grown produce; traditional activities of hook-a-duck and tin can alley along with the chocolate tombola were enjoyed by everyone. Thank you to those who supported our activities and for also those helping out on a rather warm afternoon!



Individual members of the community earlier this term generously supported our school's love for the outdoors. They kindly sourced and donated a large quantity of

compost and gardening equipment for the school to enable children to plant seeds, replace and refresh the planters and flowerbeds and the little bit left over restocked the early years 'mud kitchen'. Our school grounds will look so beautiful as a result so thank you to Anne Zorner, John Trigg, Terry and Cathy Vallis for supporting our school. It is really appreciated.

Many of you will have passed by the school during the summer break and noticed builders working hard to renovate the Old School House and school hall as well as working on making the playground a safe and fun place for all the children. Both of these significant projects needed considerable funding and the FoW, Diocese and Parish Council have all been generous in offering their support. Not only will the school children benefit from the improvements, but also the staff and wider community as we offer breakfast and afterschool club to neighbouring schools. We will look forward to sharing the results with you soon!

Finally, we would like to ask that if you would like to be part of our community, perhaps offering a skill or subject of interest to share with the children at office@woolhampton.school.org.uk, we would love to hear from you. If you have a child due to start school or would like to know more about what we offer then look out for our open-day sessions during the Autumn term, specific dates can be found on our website www.woolhampton.school.co.uk

Nikki Jordan, Chair of Governors

Aldermaston News



Competition classes for all ages

Competition Schedules are available online

HELP NEEDED, PLEASE!

For Duck Derby races & Side shows on the day. Training will be given. If interested please contact secretary@awshow.org.uk

MORE INFORMATION ONLINE

[HTTPS://AWSHOW.ORG.UK](https://awshow.org.uk)



FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Craft Stalls, Arena Events, Dog Championship, Coconut Shy, Crockery Smash, Classic Cars, Archery, Egg Throwing, Brass Band, Food stalls, Gun dogs, Community Groups, Tea & Cakes, Bar & much more

Sponsor Ducks in the Duck Derby!

The Final—1st : £250 2nd: £150 3rd : £75

Heat Winners: £40

10 ducks from each heat to final



Tickets £2 online at: DUCKDERBY.AWSHOW.ORG.UK

TOMBOLA doorstep collections,
after 5pm on Thu 28th Aug & Fri 29th Aug

ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

At the end of the summer term, we said goodbye to our Head teacher Mrs Higgs and Deputy Mr Gunn, thanking them for their years of service and commitment to the school and wished them every happiness and success for the future.

I am delighted to confirm that our new Head teacher is Miss Sophie Mosher who will join the school from 1st September. She brings a broad range of leadership experiences from diverse school settings. Over the past few years Miss Mosher has developed skills in inclusive practice, school improvement, curriculum leadership and pastoral care. She sums up her leadership as value-led, relational and focuses on developing the whole child – an approach that closely mirrors Aldermaston's own commitment to 'Nurture, Grow & Thrive'.

Our new Deputy Head is Mrs Katherine Makepeace who is already well known to our school community. She has worked at the school since 2012 and in recent years has been a key part of our senior leadership team in her role as SENCo, driving school improvement and developing good practice.

The staff look forward to welcoming back the pupils in early September and have planned a rich and varied curriculum to educate, inform and inspire the children's learning and development. More news next month.

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor

Aldermaston Parish Council - 12th August 2025

There was no open forum, which meant that more time could be spent on important planning recommendations. We had six applications to review, two of which we had seen before.

We agreed no objection to the various tree works at The Red House, The Street, nor to the resubmitted plans for the conversion of 1-2 Dixons Cottages into a single dwelling in Church Road. The three remaining applications proved more controversial. We will object to retrospective plans for the converting of Corbyn in Soke Road into in effect offices for Neals, the packaging company, as we feel their application is disingenuous, and doesn't reflect the true status of the residential building. Despite the Parish Clerk having received a letter from the land agent, we will object to Unit A at Young's industrial estate, due to the DPZ. This was the subject of our judicial review. We will not object to the application for the conversion of the redundant farm building in Fisherman's Lane, although we will insist on the same conditions as last time.

Since the last meeting, West Berks have made seven decisions on planning applications. They will not object to the tree works at Brook House The Pottery, and 33 The Street. They have decided planning permission for the demolition of an outbuilding at Burnt Pine, Reading Road, is not required. They have approved the erection of a replacement building at Cedar Lodge, Soke Road, but unfortunately they have refused the application for a garden/summer house at 26 Maida's Way. They granted approval of the non-material amendment to the application for the industrial estate at Blacks Lake.

We decided not to change the "kissing gate" at the recreation ground although signs for disabled access in the pub car park will be requested.

WBC have decided to move the railings outside the school slightly. This will be done during the October half-term.

Vegetation has been cut down on the pavement near the Church at our request.

We decided to join the proposed cross-border Liaison Committee, at the request of Baughurst Parish Council.

In her report, the Parish Clerk gave an update on the hours spent on budget reporting, which she hopes will reduce as she becomes more familiar with the process.

In his report, Dominic Boeck, our Ward member, commented on the members' bid process, which could raise £5,000 for the local community.

The Chairman expressed admiration for the long service of Councillor Alison Faulkner, who was attending the meeting for the last time because she is moving to pastures new.

There was a request for CIL funding, being the purchase of a Tithe Map by the Aldermaston History Group.

Under AOB, Wray's Farm, Raghill, was mentioned.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th September 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
Players

**25th, 26th, 27th
September**
Aldermaston Parish Hall
at 7.45pm

Book in August for £1 discount

Curtain Up!
A COMEDY
BY ADAM CROFT

TICKETS: £12
boxoffice.aldermastonplayers.co.uk
0118 971 2530



TNU is an amateur production of 'Curtain Up!' in arrangement with Long Day Theatre.

AH ALDERMASTON HISTORY GROUP

**heritage open days
Aldermaston**

Saturday 13th September 11:00 to 17:00
Sunday 14th September noon to 17:00

St Mary the Virgin Church
Thanks to the PCC, this is a chance to take a leisurely wander around this beautiful local building and learn about the art and artists.

Members of the History Group will be on hand to talk about the church and the architecture of Aldermaston.

ARCHITECTURE

More information on event and location : <https://group.aldermastonhistory.uk>

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



WASING

1759

The Return of our Pumpkin Event

We are delighted to announce the return of our annual Pick Your Own Pumpkins & Woodland Trail event this Autumn, open on selected dates between 17th-31st October 2025.

This enchanting seasonal experience offers the perfect opportunity for families to embrace the beauty of Autumn, with a magical woodland trail, delicious seasonal treats, and stunning countryside views – so get your wellies ready.

Visitors are invited to explore the estate's magical woodland trail, thoughtfully designed for little ones while also offering plenty of picture-perfect moments for special family memories.

The leafy pathways lead to our rustic pumpkin patch, where a charming fairytale pumpkin carriage awaits. After enjoying the scenic trail with sweeping countryside views, guests can make their way to the pumpkin field, wheelbarrow in hand, to choose their very own Wasing pumpkin.

Once the pumpkin picking has come to a close, indulge in a variety of seasonal snacks, including crêpes, donuts, and pizzas, all served under a cosy stretch tent – the perfect way to round off an autumnal day out before heading home to carve your pumpkins.

Don't miss this charming autumn tradition—join us at Wasing Estate for a day full of family fun and seasonal delights immersed in nature.

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



WASING

1759

An Update from Wasing Estate

As summer draws to a close, we're taking a moment to reflect on the vibrant season we've had here at Wasing.

One of the highlights was our very first Well Read Literary Festival, launched in partnership with The Hungerford Bookshop. It was a joy to welcome so many of you to this special event, set against the backdrop of Wasing's natural beauty. We're already looking ahead to 2025 and hope to see you there again for another chapter of literary magic.

And many of you will know that we welcomed the longest day with Solstice At Wasing once again this summer. This year's celebration took place in the Sacred Glade and featured world music icons Salif Keita and Anoushka Shankar, who joined us around the fire for an unforgettable evening of music.

Meanwhile, the farm has been a hive of activity. As the golden fields yield their bounty, our team has been working tirelessly to bring the harvest home. You may have spotted the combine harvester rolling through the fields at golden hour, a sight that truly captures the essence of late summer at Wasing.

Wasing Park has also been buzzing with love and laughter throughout wedding season. Our newly refurbished Garden Room has played host to countless unforgettable moments, as couples celebrated their "I dos" surrounded by friends and family.

Over at the Wild Swim Lake & Sauna, our wellbeing team has welcomed a wave of new members and visitors, including a few familiar faces from television and social media. Among them was former England Rugby captain Chris Robshaw, who post-swim said he felt "restored, refreshed, and ready for the week".

Whether you're seeking serenity or a revitalising escape, we'd love to welcome you too. Visit www.wasing.co.uk/wellbeing to find out more about memberships and exclusive hire.

Here's to the memories made at Wasing this summer.



NATURE NOTES

All those that are interested know that the diet of the cinnabar moth caterpillar (those football striped orange and dark brown ones) consists of ragwort. So it was a bit of a surprise when every piece of groundsel that appeared on the allotment had at least one of those caterpillars on it. I hadn't the heart to starve them by weeding them (the groundsel) all out, so I had to leave them until eventually they all disappeared, leaving the tatty remains of the groundsel. I removed it of course but still wondered why they were there. The mystery was solved when, idly browsing through my wild flower book, I came across this; 'At first glance groundsel and ragworts appear very different, but they belong to the same genus, united by botanical details of the flowers.' Problem solved! You learn something every day.

Beenham News

BVE's 1st Beenham Giant Vegetable and Flower Show

12 noon on 14th September 2025 in the Victory Hall

Timetable:

11am - drop off your vegetables, hanging baskets, and wonky veg for judging (we will need your name and a contact number)

11.30am - 12 noon - judging

12 noon - potato weigh-in and Show opens to everyone

Due to the dry weather, we appreciate that some vegetables may be much smaller than expected but please enter into the spirit and enter your **longest runner bean, longest carrot, heaviest tomato, heaviest pumpkin** - etc, etc.

Please photograph your tallest sunflower with a measure beside it and either email the photo to Jon or bring it along on the day to put on our sunflower height chart!

The Six Bells Trophy will be awarded to the best 14 inch (36cm) hanging basket brought in on the day by a Beenham resident (any problems please call me)

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

NEW ADDITION: Garden themed Painting/Colouring Competition

Under 5 years old – colour in a picture on the garden theme

5 - 10 years old - colour-in OR create a picture on the garden theme

10 years old and over - create and colour, or paint a picture on the garden theme

THERE ARE LOTS OF ROSETTES TO WIN!

Tea and cake for sale in aid of St Mary's church

COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FUN!!

Please bear in mind that this is our first Veg Show and if you have ANY questions at all please email Jon jondrury@hotmail.com or Pat patowen0@hotmail.com (07947478840)

BEENHAM CALENDAR 2026
Deadline for entries - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH



We look forward to receiving your photos, drawings and paintings of Beenham scenes and landmarks, wildlife, events and village life for the 2026 calendar.

Knowing the **MONTH** they were taken would be very useful.

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

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

MAXIMUM OF 3 ENTRIES PER PERSON.

Beenham Primary School

As the long summer days begin to draw to a close, we're already looking forward with great excitement to the new year at Beenham Primary School. While there are still a few precious days of holiday left to enjoy, preparations are well underway to ensure a warm and inspiring welcome when the children return.

Over the summer, our staff have been busy giving the school a thoughtful refresh. Classrooms and shared spaces have been carefully reorganised to create calm, welcoming environments that support both wellbeing and learning. The whole school is looking beautiful, ready to pupils from the moment they step back through the doors.

One of the most exciting developments has been the complete transformation of our school library. Funded by the generous support of families and friends through our summer production, the new library space is now a tranquil, inviting space. It's the perfect place for children to unwind with a book, share stories with friends, or simply enjoy a quiet moment during a busy school day.

We're also thrilled to be launching our brand new curriculum this term which will provide all children with the opportunity for enquiry-based learning. Designed to ignite curiosity and encourage deeper thinking, it invites children to ask meaningful questions, explore big ideas, and make rich connections across subjects. We can't wait to see the enthusiasm and confidence it brings out in our learners this year.

As we look to the year ahead, we're proud of the vibrant, nurturing community that makes Beenham Primary School such a special place to learn and grow. We will soon be offering tours for families considering reception places for September 2026, and our open mornings in November will provide a wonderful opportunity to experience the school in action. Details will be available on our website shortly.

If you're thinking about Beenham Primary School for your child, we warmly invite you to come and see us for yourself. To arrange a tour with our headteacher, Miss McBean, please contact the school office - we'd be delighted to welcome you.



Beenham Community Harvest Lunch

Sunday 5th October, in The Victory Hall, Beenham

12 noon for 12.30pm start

**£12.50 for an adult
£5 for children 5-10 years
Under fives: free**

To include a two course meal and a welcome soft drink.

Tickets available from:

Janette Hammond: 07917 818 283 janette@janettehammond.co.uk

Pat Owen: 07947 478 840 patowen0@hotmail.com

Everyone in our lovely village and beyond is invited to come along to a splendid seasonal community event.

Proceeds towards the maintenance of St Mary's Church

Beenham Art Group

EXHIBITION AND SALE OF PAINTINGS

Saturday 28th September

10.30am – 4.30pm

in the Victory Hall Beenham

Free entry

Refreshments available

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM – SEPTEMBER 2025

Date	Event	where	contact
Tuesdays	Art Group 10am-12pm	Victory Hall	Georgia: 07970 646713
Tuesdays	Badminton Club 8pm – 9.30pm	School Hall	Ernie: 07954 127 771
Mon 1 st	Parish Council meeting 7pm	Community Rm	
Fri 5 th	Beenham Walkers: walk to Chilton Foliat.	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Sat 6 th	Monthly Church Working Party All help is most welcome	St Mary's Church 10am	Brinelle: 07873548852
Wed 10 th	WI: Talk – "Fancy a cuppa?" Non-members £4	Community Rm 7.30pm	Sally: 07776 251 228
Thu 11 th	Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6 £4/person	Six Bells 7.30 for 8pm	9713368 to book
Sat 13 th	Village Market and repair shop 2-3.30pm	Victory Hall	Sally: 07776 251 228
Sun 14 th	Giant Veg and Flower Show-see ad Tea and cake in aid of St Mary's	Victory Hall 12 – 3pm	
Wed 17 th	Beenham Friendship Club for over 55s. Talk from Newbury Astronomy Club. £5/person	Victory Hall 2pm	Marion:9713094 Tina:01635826154
Thu 18 th	Beenham Walkers: walk to be advised	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Sat 20 th	Greyfield Woods Volunteer Morning. 8.30 – 12pm	Meet at wood entrance	John:9712924
Sat 20 th	Calleva Stick Dressers 9am–2pm	Victory Hall	David:07864 180 648
Sat 27 th	Beenham Art Group Exhibition and Sale	Victory Hall 11.00am – 3pm	Georgia: 07970 646713
Tue 30 th	Beenham Tearoom 2pm-3.30pm + Pop-Up Library (pre-booked collections only)	Victory Hall in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support	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 4th August

Public Forum

Progress on a 20 mph speed limit being introduced adjacent to the school? WBC are studying the impact of the Theale 20mph scheme and hope to form a policy

Eastbound Slip road junction of Bath Road and Beenham. WBC have advised that they consider that the Eastbound slip road scheme "to be the most suitable arrangement given the existing highway conditions. For the purposes of clarity, southbound road users travelling from Beenham Hill and wishing to join the A4 Bath Road heading eastwards are required to give way to eastbound road users already on the A4 Bath Road, as indicated by the existing road markings and traffic signs at this location."

Councillor Responsibilities

Redistribution of responsibilities. Police Liaison-Alex Cother; PC representative on Victory Hall Committee-Peter Hamblin; Roads and Footpaths-a parishioner volunteered to take on this role on behalf of and reporting to the PC.

Councillors

School bus drop off point in Stoneyfield has reverted back to its original location.

Aldermaston Wharf parking. It was explained that WBC is putting together a Parking Planning scheme, which will include Mallard Way.

Planning Matters

- 25/01497/HOUSE: 5 Back Lane, Beenham. Single storey/side and rear extensions. No objection.
-24/02808/FULMAJ. Grundon. Application has been granted. Grundon have asked the PC why they asked to see a master plan for the development of this site. As there have been several separate applications for small developments on this site, the PC was concerned about 'creeping development' on a site that encroaches upon the AONB.

Councillor reports

It was agreed to discuss a Climate Action Plan at the next meeting

Parking on pavements/footpaths adjacent to the school/Picklepythe Lane. This has been raised by the VH Committee as being dangerous for the disabled, motobility scooter users, parents with child buggies etc as access is being blocked. This has also been an issue in Back Lane. The PC will extend the request not to park in this way to the area near the school.

Repairs/Maintenance of playground and equipment. Work to be carried out by AES.

The next meeting will be held in the Community Room on **Monday September 1st at 7.00pm.**

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

All correspondence to the council should be addressed to the Parish Clerk: Lauren West Tel: 07919 916125 Email: clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk

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

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

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

BEENHAM ALLOTMENTS

Like everyone the allotments have suffered from the heatwaves, luckily the slugs have also suffered so slug damage is less.

Everyone is trying to pick fruit and veg which they have lovingly nurtured and oddly enough the courgettes / marrows seem to be doing well, so I thought I'd share another recipe with you if you're wondering what to do with the courgettes people are kindly leaving out in Beenham.

Ingredients for Chilli Jam:

- 4 medium sized courgettes, grated
- 1 tin tomatoes (or equivalent in the real thing) chopped
- 1lb 10 oz sugar
- 9 fl oz red wine vinegar
- thumb sized lump of ginger, grated
- bulb of garlic, minced
- several fresh chillies chopped finely, or dried chillies chopped (to taste – I use about 8)

Method for Chilli Jam:

1. Put everything in the pan together and boil for about an hour or until the mixture looks thickish.
2. It doesn't have to set like jam and it doesn't have to be as thick as conventional chutney, but it shouldn't have too much loose liquid.
3. Put into sterilised jars.
4. Can be eaten immediately.

This recipe can be adapted to use up gluts. I have made it with red peppers, celery and even rhubarb! The courgette one is our favourite.

If you are interested in joining the allotments do get in touch on beenhamallotment@gmail.com we'd love to hear from you.

BEENHAM PRE-SCHOOL

As I write this everything is very quiet at Beenham Pre-School as our families and staff are enjoying their summer break. However, behind the scenes we are busy making new resources, planning activities, scheduling our visits with Pop Up Play Village, Baby College and Outdoor Explorers (and more!) for the Autumn Term. I will be back on site from August 27th running bespoke Stay and Play sessions for our new families and I can't wait to meet them all again and begin their Pre-School Journey.

We ended last term with a very emotional Family Fun Day with 15 of our older children leaving for their various Primary Schools around the area. Always sad to say goodbye of course but we marked the day with a party and a picnic ... and the sun shone!

We are currently full for 2025-26 but I am running tours from August 27th onwards for families who wish to join our waiting list or for those wanting to book a place from September 2026. Do get in touch if you would like a tour or if you would like to chat about what we can offer your child. Spaces do open through the year so it is certainly worth joining the list!

We post lots of our resources and activities on Facebook which can be useful for prospective families to look at, but we also love to show people around in person either within teaching sessions or out of hours depending on need.

You can contact me on 07793116937 or info@beenhampreschool.org and I can tell you more about our "welcoming preschool with carefully planned indoor and outdoor activities ... and a meaningful and engaging curriculum" [OFSTED 2024].

Enjoy the sunshine :-)

Paula Read (Manager, Beenham Pre-School)

Greyfield Wood – September 2025



Hello to you from Greyfield Wood!

It has been another busy time in the Wood.

The last of the felled timber has now been extracted for processing and the felled areas now need to be cleared of remaining wood debris, ready for planting in November / December.

So, there continues to be plenty of work for our volunteer groups over the next few months, with the clearing of wood debris, keeping the brambles at bay, ensuring that drainage ditches are clear for when the rain returns, etc. But by the end of the year we expect to have started planting the new saplings and new life will return to the wood.

We still have a good supply of “cordwood” for sale. Our cordwood is sold in measures of 2 cubic metres, and the logs are one metre in length. Buyers will need to collect and transport the wood and also cut it to suit their fires. We do not provide dried fire-ready logs. Please let me know if you would like to know more.

If you would like to join our group of volunteers please contact me. You are not expected to be there every week, just come when you are able. Every small activity in the wood helps.

Let's hope for some rain soon!

John Hammond

john@meadvale-bays.com

07818 400440

Brimpton News

BRIMPTON WI NEWS

We had a break in August, so there was no WI meeting.

Our next meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 19:30 on 16 September. Due to ill health of our original speaker there is a change to our published programme.

Andrew Webber will be talking about "Generative AI". This is an open meeting so feel free to come along and listen to this highly talked about topic. We are assured that he will not make it too complicated!

To contact us our President is Shelley Bassil (0118 971 0563) or our Secretary Annette Dolphin (0118 971 0090) or use our dedicated e-mail link brimptonwi@berkshirewi.co.uk

Gwynedd Roberts
WI correspondent

100 Club

The 100 Club winner in August was no. 61, David and Lynne Wilcox.

Calling all Brimpton knitters and crocheters

I'm hoping to put a display of knitted/crocheted poppies in church this year for remembrance and would love to have as many people as possible contribute. The display will be spilling out from the font to welcome people as they enter the church. Any poppy pattern, any size will be absolutely perfect. I just need you to leave 2 LONG tails so I can tie them to the net I am hoping to use. You can drop off your poppies in church or I can collect from you, send me a message or call me 07946615745 Thank you all so much

Marcia

VJ Day Celebrations in Brimpton

Friday 15 August 2025 was the 80th anniversary for the end of WW2 - VJ Day.

Brimpton Village Hall hosted a BBQ - sorry about the over-cooked sausages - and bar to mark the occasion. It was very well attended by approximately 80 people from across the parish. It was a lovely, warm evening and it was great to see people chatting and having a good time.

Not wishing to forget the main reason we decided to host this event was to raise fund for Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA) the armed forces charity. Everyone who attended should feel very pleased themselves as we raised a grand total of £659.10 including the donations from those who were unable to attend.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who helped beforehand and on the evening.

John Dolphin

Chair, Village Hall Committee



Saturday 13th September

**Brimpton Church and
Berkshire Historic Churches Trust**

Please sponsor us or join the walk!

Walkers from Brimpton Church will be taking part in Ride and Stride to support our spire project and Berkshire Historic Churches Trust. **If you would like to walk with us, please contact Patricia Brims.**

We plan to visit four or five churches on 13th September, and we will be very grateful for sponsorship. Half of what we raise will go directly to St Peter's Brimpton and half to BHCT.

Berkshire Historic Churches Trust raises funds to help with the cost of repairs to the fabric of churches in Berkshire. This year, the Trust has made a generous grant towards the architectural assessment of our spire.

There is a sponsorship form at the back of the church, or you can make a donation through GoodHub. *(Please ask Patricia for a link)*

Brimpton Parish Council

The agenda for our August meeting included:

Environment

The Queen's Memorial of Stone has been installed at the War Memorial. Mr Hicks thanked Mr Bassil for his work on the project. Mr Bassil thanked Mr Brims for presiding over the ceremony and Mr Matthews for his help with installing the stone.

Baughurst Parish Council and Tadley Town Council have proposed setting up a liaison committee between the local authorities in the area. It was agreed that Brimpton Parish Council should send a representative. Mrs Matthews agreed to attend. Clerk to accept the invitation and inform Baughurst Parish Council that Mrs Matthews will attend.

Planning

25/01523/HOUSE - The Croft, Wasing Road Proposed new driveway access and garage
The Parish Council resolved to object to the second driveway access as it is unnecessary and questions the need for a modest bungalow to have a three-bay garage in addition to the existing integral garage. If West Berkshire Council is minded to grant permission for this garage, it should be subject to a condition (similar to Tarkwa in 2008) that it must never be separated from The Croft and must never be developed into a separate dwelling.

25/01522/HOUSE – 26 Brimpton Common. single-storey, side and rear extension and a two-storey rear extension to the property to provide an extended kitchen/dining and living area and a utility/WC at ground floor level and an enlarged bedroom to the first floor.
The Parish Council resolved to respond with no objections.

25/01732/OOD – Out of district. 25/01735/RET – Land off Hockford Lane - Timber five bar gate and area of hardstanding for access to agricultural land
The Parish Council resolved not to comment on this application.

Brimpton Common planning enforcement update

Mr Hicks contacted West Berkshire's Planning Enforcement to ask why no further action had been taken to enforce the stop notices that were served regarding the new entrances that were installed without permission. They confirmed that there have been 11 notices served but they cannot take action as it is not an 'engineering operation'. A resident has been told that all the cases were being reviewed but no further update has been given.

The Parish Council will meet again on Tuesday 2nd September, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend and residents may raise issues in the Open Forum that are not otherwise listed 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 John know at jhicks@brimpton-pc.gov.uk.

Nick Matthews

Vice Chairman, Brimpton Parish Council

Evelyn Ruth Weston

13 April 1936 - 23 July 2025

Evelyn was born in Quidenham, Norfolk. The family moved to Berkshire when she was a few weeks old where she lived for the rest of her life, apart from a short time in Somerset in the late 1960s. She was the eldest of four sisters. Her father was a Methodist Local Preacher.

Her first job was at Welsteads Department Store in Reading, later worked at Cold Ash Children's Hospital and then for a family in Highclere as a live-in nanny. She married Ken in 1963 but was sadly widowed in 2004. She loved her pet dogs and cats.

Many people benefitted from Evelyn's generosity. She sponsored a single mum, Kumba Bah, to go through teacher training in The Gambia. After qualifying Kumba worked her way to become a Headmistress. This has helped Kumba to support her aging parents. Evelyn also sponsored two Gambian girls through their education and bought them bicycles for their long journey to school. She paid for a well to enable the women to water their vegetable plots, play equipment in a school and a toilet in another school. She also sponsored the education of two girls in Vietnam.



Evelyn was a devout Christian. Her faith meant a great deal to her. Holy Week was a special time in the church calendar for Evelyn. She found the prayerful and reflective atmosphere uplifting and spiritually fulfilling. She was very fond of children and loved helping at Messy Church. It was a delight to see her surrounded by children, chatting away to them, helping with their crafts — and enjoying having a go herself.

Evelyn was a loyal member of the PCC for 14 years. Although her mobility prevented her from doing more physical tasks, she was generous in many other ways. When we held a church spring clean, she would come and polish the brass or do sewing repairs.

She was a sociable lady and was always well-dressed, with a pretty brooch on her lapel, whether going to lunch clubs in Tadley or Woolhampton, or enjoying tea at Midgham Café or a visit to a garden centre. She enjoyed gardening and buying plants.

She attended the local WI and appreciated listening to the speakers and chatting with other members during the break.

Evelyn will be sadly missed by all who knew her.



Brimpton Harvest Lunch

Saturday 27th September

12.30pm in Brimpton Village Hall

Adults: £12.50 Children under 10: £5

Includes a soft drink. Bring your own beer or wine

Tickets from:

Brenda Scott mrsbscott@btinternet.com

Mel Bowring mebowring@outlook.com

Sue Moore susanmoore50@hotmail.com

Patricia Brims pcbrims@hotmail.com

Cash, cheque or BACS: Account name: PCC of Brimpton

Sort Code: 30-96-96

Account number: 00481863

Please mark your payment **Harvest**

Proceeds to St Peter's Church

Collection box for contributions to West Berks Foodbank

Harvest Festival Service

10.45am on Sunday 28th September

Donations of non-perishable food etc will be gratefully received

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

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

WEDNESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2025

WEDNESDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2025

WEDNESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2025

BRING AND BUY SALE

WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2025

Everyone (including dogs) welcome

Harvest

Harvest is a time to get together,
A time to give thanks for summer weather,
A time for prayer and a time for singing,
A time to get those church bells ringing.

A time to give thanks for the food we eat
The Barley, oats, maize and wheat,
A time to give thanks for farmers all
Who grow the crops and till the soil.

If we look after our countryside
Take notice of climate change and abide,
We will be able to continue to live
And we will be able to continue to give.

So let us all celebrate harvest time,
Whether in church or with some wine,
Sing and be joyful and united be
And give thanks together, you and me.

C.N. 8.7.25



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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

CHAPEL ROW COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP

Beenham-Midgham-Woolhampton

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

0118 9713334 (Mrs Cardy)

Brimpton Baptist Church

Contact number : 07944 956242

Sunday service: 11.00 am

Wednesday night Bible study : 7.00 pm

Church of England Service Contact number: 0118 971 2891 (awb.org.uk)

St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston and St Nicholas, Wasing

7 September	10:45	Holy Communion, Wasing
14 September	10:45	Morning Praise
21 September	10:45	Holy Communion

St Marys, Beenham

7 September	09:15	Holy Communion
14 September	09:15	Morning Praise
21 September	009:15	Holy Communion

St Peters, Brimpton

7 September	10:45	Holy Communion
14 September	009:15	Holy Communion
28 September	10:45	Harvest Holy Communion

St Matthews, Midgham

7 September	09:15	BCP Holy Communion
21 September	09:15	Holy Communion
28 September	09:15	Harvest Holy Communion

St Peters, Woolhampton

14 September	10:45	Holy Communion
21 September	10:45	Holy Communion
28 September	10:45	Holy Communion

Details correct at time of going to print.



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