

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

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-pc.gov.uk

Beenham: Lauren West : 07919 916 125

Brimpton: Christine McGarvie: 0118 970 1576

Midgham: Ellie Brewer 07877 122127

Woolhampton: Ellie Brewer 07877 122127

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

After such an amazing hot, dry summer it is incredible how quickly the grass has become green and grown long, admittedly with a few bare patches. Some shrubs definitely look unhappy but they might survive and grow again.

Autumn has arrived and it is getting notably chillier in the morning and evening. The trees are beginning to change into lovely colours.

How many of you remember when on bonfire night all the leaves were down from the trees and put onto the bonfire and it was so cold that hats, gloves, warm coats and scarves were all worn. The seasons certainly seem to be shifting.

With Christmas approaching too fast, it is time to look at all the exciting events happening in our villages and appreciate all the hard work that is involved in all the organisation.

In this year of “Reading” enjoy the long dark nights with a good book!

ARTICLES FOR THE MAGAZINE

**Please note the deadline for receipt of articles is noon
on the 17th of each month**

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

Articles are included and edited/amended at the editors' discretion.



WEST BERKS FOODBANK

HELP WESTBERKS FOOD BANK END FOOD INSECURITY

The foodbank relies on the generosity of others. Could you help to make a real difference? The support of local communities and businesses is vital to the running of the foodbank. They would love more help to tackle food poverty on your doorstep. There are lots of ways to get involved: If you share their belief that no-one should go hungry in our local area, they would love to hear from you. Email: info@westberks.foodbank.org.uk or telephone: 01635 49923

The Foodbank accept fresh fruit and vegetables directly to their warehouse weekday mornings 9am-12pm

The shopping list below shows the food items urgently needed. **Please ensure that there is a long 'Use By' date on any food donated. Thank you.**

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

Christmas is coming so why not provide something a little special for those in need.

Items urgently needed

Savoury biscuits, baby wipes, deodorant, instant noodles, mug shots, toilet cleaner, toilet rolls, cuppa soup, cereal, 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

Bedtime prayers

Two young boys are spending the night at their grandparents' house. At bedtime, the two boys kneel beside their beds to say their prayers. The youngest one begins praying at the top of his lungs: 'I PRAY FOR A BICYCLE...I PRAY FOR A NEW COMPUTER...I PRAY FOR A NEW DVD PLAYER....' His older brother leans over, nudges him and says, 'Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf.' To which his little brother replies, 'No, but Grandma is!'

Make a difference...

Become a School Governor



*Would you like to help set the strategic direction of the school?
Do you want to make a positive impact on the education
and well-being of our children?*

The Governing Board of Brimpton Cof E Primary School is looking for individuals who are keen to get involved and bring fresh skills and new perspectives to our discussions.



No prior experience as a Governor is necessary, just a willingness to contribute your skills and time.



If you are interested, please contact Gayle Bonner, Clerk to Governors



g.bonner@brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk

Support. Guide. Make a difference.



BRIMPTON WI

There has been a WI in Brimpton since 1928, although the original WI closed in 1961 it was re-established 14 years later in 1975. Now in its 51st year Brimpton WI meets on the third Tuesday of the month at Brimpton Village Hall. Meetings commence at 7:30pm. As our October meeting took place after the deadline for the November magazine so will be included at a later date.

Throughout the year we have a varied programme of speakers covering topics ranging from the Guide Dogs organisation to a Medieval story teller and musician. In addition to our monthly meetings we also hold additional events including a Beetle Drive, quiz, theatre trips and a craft day, as well as being an opportunity for women to come together on a regular basis. Brimpton WI is part of the wider WI organisation and members also have access to events and activities run by Berkshire Federation and the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

New members are always welcome, you do not need to live in Brimpton. If you are interested in joining Brimpton WI you can contact us via our e-mail - brimptonwi@berkshirewi.co.uk.

Our November Meeting will take place on Tuesday 17th commencing at 7:30pm where we will be having a talk on Living Through the Civil War.

Remembrance Service



including
2 minutes silence

at

BRIMPTON WAR MEMORIAL

Wednesday
11th November
at 10.45 a.m.

*There will be refreshments in
St Peter's Church after the service*



COFFEE MORNINGS

**2nd Wednesday of the month
IN BRIMPTON CHURCH
10 am - 11.30 am**

**11th November after
Remembrance Service
9th December
13th January**

***Everyone welcome
(including dogs)***



Replacing the shingles and restoring the spire.

The PCC and the Project Group are, as always, very grateful for the wonderful support we have from our community. Readers of John Hicks's Brimpton Parish Update will know that so far we have managed to raise £31,000 towards the cost of this project. THANK YOU to all the many people who have donated money and to those who have made grants, including Brimpton Parish Council which contributed £6,000.

A large part of this money has gone to pay for architect's fees, a digital survey of the church and the detailed examination of the spire by a steeplejack. The combined result of this work is that we now have a clearer idea of what is required to save the spire and how the work will have to be undertaken. Ironically, buying new shingles is the cheapest part of the project.

The architects have prepared tender documents for potential contractors so that we can have a more precise understanding of the total cost of the project, and in January the Project Group will hold a second Open Meeting to update the parish on the latest situation. For details, please see the separate notice in the December magazine.

We are currently working on applications to grant giving bodies, the largest of which is the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Whilst other grant giving bodies may be willing to help, the NLHF is likely to be the source of most of the funds we need to secure before building work can begin. Unfortunately, following a drop in the number of lottery tickets being bought, the NHLF is giving fewer grants so our application has to be the best it can be. The application is far from straightforward and requires extensive background information, but we hope to be ready for submission early next year.

One of the factors we have to demonstrate is that St Peter's Church is a community asset and has local importance beyond being a place of worship. This means we need to show local support for this specific project through donations and funds raised from community events. Please continue to support Save our Spire in every way you can to show how much we value our church and its steeple.

Once again, a sincere thank you to all who have donated to the SOS fund and to those of you who have participated in fund raising events. We would not have got this far without you.

SOS Project Group

Brimpton Church 100 Club

October winner: No. 167 Liz and Garry Masters

The Parish Council

met on **Tuesday 6th October**. The agenda included:

Medicine Festival Traffic

Charles Brims has received an email from the organisers of the Medicine Festival acknowledging third party suppliers should have been told about the traffic management plan and they should not use Wasing Road. For the next Medicine Festival in 2028 they have agreed to use marshals and extra signage to try to stop vehicles using the Wasing Road route, Instead, vehicles will be directed along the A4 to the A340 and then to the site through Aldermaston. Andrew Perkins, Chief Executive of the Wasing Estate, accepts this is an issue for all events held at Wasing.

Overweight vehicles

The number of overweight vehicles coming through the village seems to have increased. Cases should be reported with as much information as possible. Please send details to: kirsten.goodfield1@westberks.gov.uk, together with a photograph of the vehicle if you are able to obtain one.

Impact of the construction of the AWE Future Materials Campus

John Dolphin reported on the meeting with Tadley Town Council and other parish councils in the area to discuss the impact of the construction of the AWE Future Materials Campus. The group are planning to request a meeting with AWE to discuss what mitigation will be in place to reduce the impact of the construction work. It has been predicted there will be up to 300 additional HGV movements a day during the construction.

Draft Terms of Reference for the joint group have been sent to all the councils taking part. We noted that they mention participants might be expected to contribute to any legal expenses. We will seek clarification about this because our funds are limited unless we increase our share of the Council Tax. We also noted that draft reports and other work in progress would be considered confidential to members of the group. As those members are representing public bodies who are required to be open to scrutiny, we will also raise this point with the author. We agreed for the time being Nick Matthews and John Dolphin would continue to attend the meetings.

Update on the planning issues at Blacknest Lane, Brimpton Common

There was no further news about the site at Twin Paddocks. The submission of the second planning application covering Twin Paddocks and two additional plots, and the applicant's indication that he will appeal the rejection of that application by West Berkshire Council, has frozen proceedings.

Charles Brims reported the High Court judgement regarding the caravans occupying land off Reading Road in Aldermaston Parish, opposite AWE, included a clear indication that arguments about the rights of the children living there did not change the fact the site had been occupied illegally. This is an important precedent that may affect other unauthorised occupations..

Planning Application

We considered a planning application for Jakari in Bannister Place. This is for a new single storey extension added to the existing garage, plus the conversion of the garage to a utility room and store. We decided we had no objections to the application.

Nick Matthews, Chairman, nmatthews@brimpton-pc.gov.uk

Midgham News

Midgham Café Church

First Thursday of the month November 5th

December 3rd

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



Midgham Village Hall

The coffee mornings, with cake will held on

Wednesday November 11th

Wednesday November 25th

10 until 12noon.

All welcome for a friendly chat

Sharon as Chairperson of The Midgham Village Hall Trustees was a strong leader who saved our Hall from extinction and has seen it grow as a social rallying place

She made us aware that as Trustees our first duty was to always to act in the best interest of The Hall.

The remaining Village Hall Trustees need to grieve the death of our leader but we have to regroup and carry on as Sharon would have wanted.

We need your help to do this.

We hope that others will come forward to help us continue what Sharon has started.

We wish to get all age groups involved and need some help with improving our online profile.

Good things happen when people come together.



HARVEST LUNCH

A very successful Harvest lunch was held at Hallcourt Farm on Sunday 27th September hosted by the Long Family. Over seventy families with lots of children enjoyed shepherds pies and salad followed by lots of different puddings. A raffle was held, all the proceeds going to St Matthews. Thank you to all those who contributed in different ways and to Beth and Frances for all the hard work involved in putting on such a wonderful event in their very fine barn and outbuildings. Over £1000 was raised.



In Loving Memory of SHARON McKELLAR

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear friend and village hall chairman Sharon McKellar.

Sharon and her husband Bob worked tirelessly to restore the village hall, transforming it into the warm and welcoming meeting place for coffee mornings and events that it is today. She was incredibly generous with her time, dedicating herself to getting the hall up and running for all in the community to enjoy.

Sharon was vibrant and full of energy until illness robbed her of her health, a burden she bore with tremendous fortitude and stoicism. She will be remembered by many as always being beautifully dressed, with a lovely brooch pinned to her outfit.

Sharon will be sorely missed by all those who appreciated the enthusiasm and dedication she gave to our village.

We extend our deepest condolences to Bob, who cared for her so devotedly, and all of Sharon's family and loved ones.

Sharon as Chairperson of The Midgham Village Hall Trustees was a strong leader who saved our Hall from extinction and has seen it grow as a social rallying place. She made us aware that as Trustees our first duty was to always act in the best interest of The Hall.

The remaining Village Hall Trustees need to grieve the death of our leader but we have to regroup and carry on as Sharon would have wanted.

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Woolhampton News

Village Market

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

With Christmas fast approaching, now is the ideal time to start thinking of special gifts, and where better to start than the November and December village markets for ideas and a selection of unusual and affordable gifts that are not available in shops. Some stallholders, particularly those that make items, are very happy to take orders for unique and personalised presents for collection at the Christmas Market in December.

Naturally all regular stallholders, such as the W.I. for cakes and savouries, a selection of soft furnishings and a wide choice of, books, cards and other treasures will be there, so why not come along and browse without pressure to buy and enjoy a cuppa at the same time.

District Councillor's 'Surgery'

The District Councillor representing Woolhampton parish, Mr Chris Read, will be holding his monthly 'surgery' at Woolhampton Village hall on Saturday 31st October and Saturday 28th November 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. Please take advantage of Mr Read's generous allocation of his time.

Recycling to help Woolhampton School

In Woolhampton school car park, next to the Church, there are bins for recycling fabric, clothing, curtains, sheets, etc (but not duvets), plus shoes and handbags. Please, if you have any of these items to donate, it will help school funds: if you are unable to get to the school, items can be left at the monthly Market and they will be passed on to the school.

Also, recyclables such as used stamps, milk bottle tops and spent printer ink cartridges can be brought to the Market and they will be channelled to the appropriate collector.



Woolhampton Marathon 1914

It might be presumed that local marathons were events only of recent years. The London Marathon was instigated in 1981 by Olympians Chris Brasher (gold in 3,000 metre steeplechase at 1956 Melbourne Olympics) and John Disley. However, on Easter Monday 1914 (First World War began on 28th July of that year) eight men lined up outside the 'Falmouth Arms' to compete in the Woolhampton Marathon organised by inn landlord 'Gunner Moore' and Mr Stock of Reading. Route – Woolhampton to Thatcham Station, up the hill to Crookham Common, hence to 'Traveller's Friend', to Brimpton, onward to 'Hind's Head', then to 'Aldermaston Mill', into Froud's Lane, to Bath Road, then to finish at 'Falmouth Arms'. Distance: 13½ miles.

Runners included Messrs Nightingale and Hunt, the favourites (Thatcham), Lovegrove (Midgham), Goodman (Brimpton) Hazell (Crookham) and Fremantle, Longshaw and Lenny Hobbs (all Woolhampton). The latter was the son of Mary and John Hobbs of the Corner Shop and had enjoyed athletic success at the Seven Parishes Cottage Garden Show. He and his sister Rosie later ran the shop until their deaths in 1964. Hobbs and Goodman were together at Thatcham Station but neither completed the course. Meanwhile, on the Bath Road close to the 'Plough Inn', T Hazell "was arrested in his running knickers".

The result of the race was announced by Mr Stock: 1st was A Nightingale in 1 hour 19 ½ mins.; 2nd W Hunt; 3rd F Langshaw. The day concluded with the presentation of a cup at the evening smoking concert when the inn "was packed to suffocation".

T. Hazell later appeared in court pleading guilty to stealing a pick-axe and was fined £1, paid on his behalf by his father.

A full marathon was run at the London Olympics of 1908 from Windsor Castle to the White City Stadium. Dorando Pietri was first over the line but was helped by officials and thus disqualified. Reading staged its own race on 2nd December of that year starting from Palmer Park, the cinder track being sponsored by 'Oxo' and the 'Reading Observer'. At this time 50 runners competed.

John Trigg

Woolhampton CE Primary School

Autumn's Here



After enjoying a spectacular warm summer, we have now returned to a more recognisable English autumnal climate; with that now upon us we move towards the Festive Season and mark that with the Harvest Festival.

The joyous service at St Peter's, which I was delighted to attend as a newly appointed governor was a wonderful celebration. The children were all smiles, laughter and full of song.

An informed presentation by some of the pupils illustrated that we share this festival and that it is celebrated around the world - as far away as Ghana, Thailand, Indonesia, Argentina - as well as also closer to home, in Italy.

The well curated illustration of harvest and its component parts brought us back to Roll and Vine and Jesus who simply said "Do this to remember me..."

An uplifting thank you to God and people who share in it with the Harvest Hymn, again sung enthusiastically by the children.

However, the show-stopper of "Big Red Combine Harvester" - surely a contender for a Christmas number one and inevitably a streaming sensation.

Harvest Samba closed the service and followed on setting the buzz and wonderful celebration along with the poignant reminder about those around us who may not be as fortunate and an opportunity for us to help them.

Autumn at Forest School

All year groups have enjoyed autumnal visits to our beautiful forest school sites this term. The school is very fortunate to have the use of three separate private woodlands for forest school, all within a few minutes' walk of the school. The seasonal changes have opened up lots of learning opportunities linked to the curriculum as well as the opportunity to explore and have fun with seasonal treats such as conkers and sycamore key helicopters! The older children learned the delights of cooking foraged sweet chestnuts on their campfires (although many preferred the smores they cooked!)



Community Charity Events

Autumn at Woolhampton CE Primary always starts with the annual 'Welly Walk' in aid of Jeans for Genes. This is a lovely whole school event where the children walk through the woods to Beenham park to raise money for a charity with a special link to the school. The charity funding raising continued later in the month with a Macmillan Coffee afternoon held at Daouli. The Year 6 children enjoyed doing their bit for the community by spending the afternoon serving drinks and cake.

Sporting Events

The Autumn term is also an exciting time at Woolhampton for sports with the children attending a number of competitions and events. The Year 5/6 children have been learning rugby and had a great time with other local schools at a county-wide training event. Netball, football and hockey clubs have restarted and are preparing for a number of tournaments next term. Preparations for cross country are also well underway with all children completing the 'Golden Mile' on Daouli field twice a week.

Enjoy your end of year - take care, look after each other: Christmas is next up!

Andrew Clementson
Foundation Governor

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

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 email Kate -
bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com

NATURE NOTES

As I write the weather is ideal – showers at night and sunshine during the day. I'm afraid it is not going to last this way, but we enjoy it while it does. When the drought broke a lot of things sprang back into life. Some completely recovered, others very patchily, so it will be interesting to see what happens next year. Many trees lost leaves at their extremities – will they recover, or have those branches died? Time will tell.

I learned quite recently (you're never too old!) that a certain solitary bee times its brood to take advantage of the ivy flowering. It would be nice to know which that is and recognize some. The ivy is still opening its late flowers and is still covered with insects – even butterflies on a sunny day. The first berries are well-formed and ripening for the winter birds. We shall certainly have pigeons, if nothing else!

Has the drought at spring feeding time affected our bird population? It's difficult to tell. Blue tits and great tits have been working the shrubs, and a long tailed tit was among the runner beans, so it is likely there were more. Robins, wren, hedge sparrow and blackbirds are certainly there. Jackdaws are not in short supply and our red kites are still here. Maybe it wasn't so bad!

Stella Nesbit

WASING

1759

Join Us For Christmas Carols in the Castle Barn

We're thrilled to once again be hosting **Wasing's Christmas Carols & Craft Fair** on **Wednesday 9th December** at **Wasing Park**.

From 4.30pm, step into the festive magic of our beautiful Garden Room, which will be filled with the sights, sounds, and scents of Christmas. Enjoy a heartwarming selection of festive food and drinks, from classic mince pies to steaming mulled wine, while browsing a charming craft fair featuring local artisans and Wasing's own produce, perfect for thoughtful Christmas gifts.

From 5pm, Father Christmas will make his grand entrance to his enchanting **Castle Barn grotto**, ready to welcome children and share a special gift with every little one on his Nice List.

From 6.15pm, gather round for **live Christmas carols**, beautifully performed by **Tadley Concert Brass**, setting the perfect tone for a joyful festive celebration.

Come together with family, friends, and neighbours to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year at Wasing Park.

Tickets are £5 for adults aged 12+ and £5 for children aged 0-11, including the option to visit Santa's Grotto. All proceeds will go to [The Mount Charity](#), which proudly supports a variety of local causes throughout the year.

To purchase tickets, please visit www.wasing.co.uk/tickets

For any queries, please email events@wasing.co.uk



An Update from Wasing Estate

It was wonderful to welcome so many familiar faces to this year's **Pumpkins & Woodland Trail**. Our **Woodland Trail** was more interactive than ever, with new additions to the Witch's Apothecary, including mystical fog bubbles and play kitchen, alongside fun forest school activities.

WASING

1759

We also celebrated local sourcing and traditional craftsmanship, with decorations made from flowers and seed heads foraged from our Walled Garden and besom brooms from a Tadley business with over 300 years of broom-making history. Much-loved favourites, including the roadstool forest and candle-lighting in the Area of Reflection, returned, while the **fairy-tale pumpkin carriage** once again created plenty of magical photo moments.

We hope everyone enjoyed exploring the **Wasing Woodlands**, choosing the perfect pumpkin, and indulging in some delicious seasonal treats. Thank you for joining us.

As autumn turns to winter across the estate, there's still plenty of life and activity across the Farm, Park, and Wild Swim Lake. Our Sussex cattle continue to thrive, with new calves joining the herd and bringing fresh energy to the farm.

The Wild Swim Lake & Sauna remains open throughout the winter months for members seeking the invigorating power of cold-water immersion and the warmth of the sauna. If you'd like to learn more about memberships or exclusive hire, please visit the wellbeing page of our website, we'd love to welcome you.

The Wasing Fisheries team have also been busy maintaining our lakes and riverbanks, supporting a healthy fish population through our conservation-focused approach, with some impressive catches reported this season.

We hope to see as many of you as possible next month for our **Christmas Carols & Craft Fair**. Until then, warm wishes from all of us here at Wasing. May the cooler months bring you peace and plenty of time to rest and reconnect.



Aldermaston News

ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term our Collective Worship theme is Curiosity – one of our three school values, the others are Compassion and Courage. Throughout the term, children are being encouraged to be curious about themselves, other people, the world around them and the bigger questions of life and faith. We are exploring what it means to ask thoughtful questions, listen carefully to the ideas of others, seek truth and remain open to learning.

We are also continuing to use our Windows, Mirrors and Doors approach to spirituality. Children are encouraged to look outwards at the world (Windows), reflect on what this means for them personally (Mirrors) and consider how they might respond through their choices and actions (Doors).

Our dedicated PTA team has arranged another successful Glitter and Glow Disco which was much enjoyed by the children and adults alike. Other exciting activities are planned for later in the term.

We held another Family Learning Morning which was well attended. The curriculum topic this time was Science, and parents were able to see how the subject is taught across the different classes and to get involved with various experiments including dissolving sugar in water and creating a puppet show.

Finally, a reminder that we have an Open Morning on Tuesday 10 November 9.15-10.15am for prospective families. See the school website for more information. Do come along and see what makes our school such a special place to learn, grow and belong.

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor

ALDERMASTON LADIES GROUP

On the sunny Sunday afternoon of 4th October several of the Ladies Group joined family members to say a final farewell to June Caton our long serving Treasurer. June's funeral was held earlier in the year but her ashes were interred with her late husband James at Aldermaston Church on what would have been their 57th wedding anniversary. Rev. Wayne took the short service. Rose petals were collected on the day June died, these were dried and Tommy, her great grandson, handed them round for us all to scatter them into the grave in remembrance. Her daughter Emma read a poem from Prophets about enduring love. A fitting end. Rest in Peace June.

ALDERMASTON COFFEE CLUB



1st and 3rd Tuesday of
every month any time from
10.00am – 11.30am

Join us in the café at Hilliers.

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

Everyone is welcome – just come along

For further details contact Cynthia Newman

cmnewman2021@outlook.com 01189713525

Aldermaston York Nativity Play 70th Year



Held in the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin Aldermaston

Thursday, 3rd December, 8pm
Friday, 4th December, 8pm
Saturday, 5th December, 7pm
Sunday, 6th December, 7pm

FOR FREE TICKETS:

Online at www.aldermastonnativity.co.uk
Mail to tickets@aldermastonnativity.co.uk
or send S.A.E. to: York Nativity Play, Chertsey Lodge, Aldermaston, Berks RG7 6ET



**ALDERMASTON
HISTORY GROUP**

A.G.M. & Talk

Weds 4th November 2026

7:30pm

Officers Mess, The Hinds Head Inn

A brief AGM followed by a talk on

"Reading's Victorian Industrial Development"

By Dr Richard Marks



Free to members, non members £5

print to be created and delivered

Aldermaston History Online

<https://aldermastonnativity.co.uk>

For more information on Aldermaston History Group, Aldermaston, RG7 6ET. aldermastonnativity@aldermastonnativity.co.uk

Music @ Aldermaston



Come and listen to glorious music in a fabulous setting

At St Mary's, Church Rd, Aldermaston, RG7 4HR

Friday November 13th, 7pm

Basingstoke Hospital Male Voice Choir

Saturday November 14th, 7pm

Live Jazz with Art Komlosy & band

Box Office & more information:

<https://aldermastonconcerts.org>



£8 Adult Ticket, £5 Children in full time education, under 12s free

Both nights: £27 adult, £9 children, under 12s free,
includes an arrived drink (flax or similar)

Raising funds for St Mary's Church, Aldermaston

Aldermaston Parish Council – 13th October 2026

Our busy meeting started with a well-attended Open Forum and ended with the resignation of our highly respected colleague Dave Shirt. Dave has been a Councillor for 33 years including 14-year stint as Chairman. APC is proposing to make him a Freeman of the Parish in recognition of his exemplary contribution.

Two residents expressed concerns about unauthorised development, and we had presentations from Citizens Advice West Berkshire and the WBC Library Service. CA helps clients with issues such as debt, housing and benefits, and last year 45 Aldermaston residents used the service. The CA relies on charitable funding and had made a grant request to APC; later in the meeting we agreed a contribution of £200.

The next presentation explained library services for Parish Councils. For a fee Pop-Up libraries can be set up in the community—bookshelves with access linked to suitable events like coffee mornings—or smaller community bookshelves can be placed in public spaces with borrowing on a trust basis. Councillors like the idea of improving access to books and will consider whether the services could work in our Parish. There is also an At Home Service for house-bound individuals; we requested more information to share with our residents.

Under Planning we had three applications and agreed: Objection to 21 applications for traveller pitches at the Reading Road site; No Objection to an extension in Heron Way; and No Comment to the discharge of a SuDS Condition at Young's.

Since September WBC had approved an extension at Church Lodge, and there were two new appeals and one appeal decision (Young's had partial success in appealing a Section 73 application to remove planning conditions). New appeals relate to a revised Enforcement Notice for the Reading Road travellers site and Padworth Sawmills. We will issue a written response to the latter.

Under enforcement we noted two probable planning breaches on Paices Hill—the storage of tyres at the car supermarket and open-air waste at Aldermaston Recycling. Both sites require Environment Agency permits so we will contact the agency to check rules and regulations are being adhered to.

Residents had brought to our attention several issues—loose manhole cover on Wasing Lane, anti-social behaviour and damage to the Kestrels Mead playground, and a caravan illegally parked on Winkworth Lane—all of which will be raised with the relevant agencies.

It was noted that the next AWE LLC meeting is on 4 November and that AWE has agreed a contact person to liaise with our Local Councils FMC Group. Separately our Ward Councillor Dominic Boeck will raise concerns about the FMC development at the next Full Council meeting of WBC.

Finally, we dealt with PC admin agreeing a quote for tree works on the Rec and the purchase of new Christmas lights for the display on the Eagle Gates in Aldermaston (subject to assurance from AWE that this tradition can continue!).

Our next meeting is on 10 November. For details visit <https://aldermaston-pc.gov.uk/>

Beenham News

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM – NOVEMBER 2026

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 2 nd	Parish Council meeting 7pm	Community Room	The Clerk - Lauren West: 07919916125
Wed 11 th	WI–Speaker: Peter Hague Famous jewels and their history	Community Room 7.30pm	Sally: 07776 251 228
Thu 12 th	Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6 £4/person	Six Bells 7.30 for 8pm	9713368 to book
Sat 14 th	Monthly Church Working Party All help is most welcome	St Mary's Church 10am – 2pm	Brinelle: 07873548852
Sat 14 th	2pm – 3.30pm: Village Market	Victory Hall	Sally: 07776 251 228
Sat 14 th	Awberry Farm Charity Party 7 - 11pm	Awberry Farm	info@awberryfarm.co.uk
Wed 18 th	Beenham Friendship Club for over 55s–Christmas Party	Victory Hall 2pm	Marion: 9713094 Tina: 01635826154
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	Beenham Hall Acoustic Night. Bring your own drink	Beenham Hall £2 Entry	Sheila: 07831 398 036
Tue 24 th	2– 3.30pm: Tearoom and Outreach Library	Victory Hall	Dru: 07815 055 040 Pat: 07947 478 840

If you would like to add anything to the village diary, please contact

patowen0@hotmail.com or 07947478840

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

Beenham Wind Orchestra: A Christmas Extravaganza

Sunday 6 December 2026, 4.30pm, St John's Church, Newbury

This year's extravaganza brings together some of the most loved melodies along with the festive music and Christmas spirit you've come to expect from our seasonal concerts.

Musical Director Victoria Benjamin says: "There are fun moments, twinkly moments, sensitive moments and loud, spectacular moments. There's a bit of everything. We don't just play the well-known Christmas tunes — there are lots of little surprises."

Tickets: £15 standard admission. Under 16s FREE. Early Bird price of just £12 until midnight on 15 November.

Book your tickets at the Early Bird price: <https://www.beenhamwindorchestra.org/events>

CHRISTMAS 2026 in BEENHAM – DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 4th DEC

5.00pm – 7pm: School Christmas Fair

Sunday 6th DEC

4.00pm: Christingle at St Mary's Church

5.00pm: Turning on the Tree lights on the green outside the school

5.15pm: Mulled wine and mince pies in the Community Room and School Hall with Christmas songs and carols

If anyone is willing to donate mulled wine or mince pies that would be wonderful.

Please leave them at "Fernwood", opposite the school

Wednesday 9th DEC

1.30pm-2.15pm: School's Christmas Play dress rehearsal. Tickets from the school office

Friday 11th December

11.00 – 11.45am Kindness Tea party at Beenham School – please phone for tickets.

Saturday 12th DEC

2pm – 4pm: Christmas Village Market in the Victory Hall

Sunday 13th DEC

4pm: Carols by Candlelight in St Mary's

Monday 14th DEC

From 5pm – 6.15pm: Father Christmas visits Beenham

Tuesday 15th DEC

2pm – 3.30pm: Christmas tearoom in the Victory Hall

Tuesday 22nd DEC

Carol singing around the village from Warings to Six Bells- everyone welcome. TimeTBC

If there are any other dates to add to this list, please let me know. Contact Pat Owen

07947478840 or email: patowen0@hotmail.com

ADDER ALERT

A resident who is a vet has treated several dogs recently that have been bitten by adders on Greenham Common. Some of the dogs are seriously ill.

The vet says "I've been seeing lots of dogs returning from Greenham Common with bites and needing expensive emergency treatment. Most have been dogs off lead that have run off the path on sunny days". So please keep an eye on your dog when out walking both in Greenham and in parts of Brimpton where the adders may be lying in the sun.



Beenham Primary School Christmas Fayre
5-7pm, Friday 4th December

We are delighted to be holding our Christmas Fayre again this year, with a selection of stalls providing unique gifts and treats, plus raffle prizes to be won, and festive refreshments available.

The children won't want to miss catching up with our extra special guest to make sure he knows exactly what they are wishing for on the big day!

Please join us to enjoy the community spirit and get in the festive mood.

If you are interested in having a stall at the event, please contact chairbeenham@hotmail.com for further details.

BEENHAM VILLAGE MARKET

Did you know that the village market raises funds which then help towards the running costs of the village hall? The Hall itself - and its connecting Lounge - is a charity - so if you come to the market, you are helping a charity! You're also making sure that the hall continues as a village amenity.

We would love some help with the market. Do you like baking? Would you be willing to take part in a rota to supply home made cakes for the refreshments at the market? Or maybe you are a dab hand at washing up and could help for an hour and a half? All ages of volunteers are very welcome and if you are at school and doing your Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award, this counts towards your voluntary service.

We are always delighted to have new stalls, too - and we really love to support local Beenham businesses. Having a stall is a great way to get your name out there, and also a useful way to test reactions to what you are selling.

The market is always on the second Saturday of the month, from 2 till 3.30 - so the next one is on 14th November.

If you would like to know any more, please contact

Sally on mrssallypellow@gmail.com or on 0777 625 1228.

Greyfield Wood



Hello to you from Greyfield Wood!

I announced the arrival of rain in last month's issue. Alas, as yet it has been very limited. We need more. The ditches and main Bourne stream are still dry.....

The volunteers have been busy clearing around the planted saplings and also the area to be planted this winter, when we expect to be planting another c400 saplings. At the Douai Abbey end of the wood.

We have also been clearing up the "loading area", which is improving the appearance as you approach the wood.

Many thanks to our volunteers, without whom, we could not continue to maintain the wood.

Please continue to enjoy YOUR wood.

If you would like to join our volunteers, please give me a call.

Enjoy our wood!

John Hammond, john@meadvale-bays.com, 07818 400440

CHAPEL ROW COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP

The Community Service group was formed in 1980 and is a registered charity.

It is a group of volunteers set up to help those in need by such means as:

Transport for those needing help to visit the surgery, chiropodist, dentist etc

There are two lunch clubs for those living on their own (held at Woolhampton Village Hall)

The service is available for those living in Bucklebury, Woolhampton, Midgham, Lower Padworth, Beenham and Brimpton.

To get in touch with us please phone

Mrs G Cardy 0118 971 3334

between 9.30am and 11.30am on Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

BEENHAM WI

Our October monthly meeting proved to be a real treat, as we welcomed Wildlife Photographer Simon Booker as our guest speaker. He has a passion and respect for the wildlife he photographs and he gave us a good insight into how much time and patience is needed to get such fabulous results. He even dressed in his camouflage gear which he uses to get closer to wildlife without disturbance.

Simon also raises funds for The Stroke Association by selling calendars and cards containing his work. His beautiful photographs and videos can be found on Instagram @stokerpix and www.stokerpix.com. It was a delightful evening and we also welcomed three new members and a number of guests.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 11 November, when the speaker for the evening will be Peter Hague talking about Famous Jewels and their History. Guests are again very welcome to attend, donation of £4 each. The meetings start at 7.30pm in the Community Room. If you are considering joining Beenham WI or would like to know more, feel free to contact beenhamwi@berkshirewi.co.uk

Community Conversations

Help Shape Healthy Neighbourhoods in West Berkshire

Healthwatch West Berkshire and West Berkshire Council want to hear from local residents about what makes a healthy, connected neighbourhood. Your voice matters, and your views will help shape future decisions in our community. This is your opportunity to share what matters to you, what works well in your area, and what could be improved to help people live more healthier, connected lives.

Your insight will help influence future plans and ensure local voices are heard.

Join us. Share your views. Have Your Say!

Public Events

Dates:	Place:	Time:	Registration Link:
Wednesday 28 th October	Online Session	8.30 - 9.30 pm	Scan Me for Survey
Thursday 5 th November	British Legion Pulson Lane, Reading	9.30 - 11.30 am	Scan Me for Survey

For more information, or to book your place, Call 0135 886710

West Berkshire Council

Email: contact@healthwatchwestberks.org.uk

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What happens when your NHS physio appointments stop?

For anyone who has recently finished NHS physiotherapy or occupational therapy — and for the families watching.

Most people are told when their NHS treatment will finish. Very few are told what it feels like when it does.

One week there are appointments: someone assessing how you move, checking your balance, progressing your exercises and keeping an eye on your falls risk. The next week there is a photocopied sheet of exercises on the fridge, held up by a magnet from a caravan holiday in 1998, and nobody at all asking how you got on with it.

NHS therapy comes in a set block: a few weeks at home with a community team, or a course of appointments at a clinic. It is designed to get you going again, and for a great many people that is exactly what it does.

But recovery doesn't always run to the same timetable. Plenty of people are still building strength and confidence after the appointments have finished, and needing longer isn't a sign that anything has gone wrong. It's one of the most common things we hear.

The weeks just after discharge are where a lot of hard-won ground quietly gets lost. It can be a lonely stretch, too — you were being looked after, and then quite suddenly you are getting on with it by yourself.

A few things that help

Shrink the exercises. Two minutes done daily beats twenty minutes abandoned by Thursday.

Attach them to something you already do. Beside the kettle, before the news. Anything that relies on remembering rarely survives the first busy week.

Write down what you can do now. Steps to the gate, minutes standing at the sink. Progress at this stage is invisible without a record, and invisible progress feels like none at all.

Keep one thing in the diary each week. A group, a coffee, a lift to church — something with a time attached.

If you are keeping an eye on someone, company tends to help more than questions. Asking whether the exercises are getting done usually gets a cheerful yes — the same instinct that makes us all tell the dentist we floss. Going along for the walk, or offering a lift to something they used to enjoy, does far more. And if a club has stopped being mentioned, or a lift is turned down because it feels like a fuss, that is rarely someone giving up. Usually the effort of getting there has grown.

So if you find yourself wondering, an invitation with a date attached is usually worth more than a question. Not "do let me know if you fancy it", but "I'll pick you up at two on Thursday".

And if the worry is pain, dizziness, a fall, or a sharp change in how someone is managing, that one is for the GP rather than for waiting.

Where to get help locally

Steady Steps classes. Strength and balance classes at Northcroft, Cotswold Tilehurst, Hungerford and Lambourn, a few pounds a session. Ask your GP or practice nurse for a referral. westberks.gov.uk/falls-prevention

Wellbeing Walks. Free, short, led walks for all abilities. ramblers.org.uk/wellbeing-walks

Handybus and volunteer cars. Lifts to classes, clubs and appointments. 01635 37111, or 01635 49004 for a car.

Age UK Berkshire. Small jobs at home, and free help with benefits and forms. 0118 959 4242

The West Berkshire Directory. Local groups, classes and services. directory.westberks.gov.uk
Kelli and Emma are NHS Senior Therapy Assistants who live locally. They run Stride Living, supporting people at home across West Berkshire — confident, connected, thriving. strideliving.co.uk

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

Sunday Services in November 2026 across the Benefice

1st November: All Saints

St Mary's, Beenham	9.15am	Holy Communion
St Peter's Brimpton	10.45am	Holy Communion
St Matthew's, Midgham	9.15am	BCP Communion
St Nicholas, Wasing	10.45am	Holy Communion

Remembrance Sunday

St Mary's, Aldermaston	10.50am	Remembrance Service
St Mary's, Beenham	10.50am	Remembrance Service
St Matthew's, Midgham	10.50am	Remembrance Service
St Peter's, Woolhampton	10.50am	Remembrance Service

15th November: The Second Sunday before Advent

St Mary's, Beenham	9.15am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, Brimpton	9.15am	Morning Praise
St Nicholas, Wasing	10.45am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, Woolhampton	10.45am	Holy Communion

22nd November: Christ the King

St Matthew's, Midgham	4pm	Sung Evensong
St Peter's, Woolhampton	10.45am	Holy Communion

29th November: Advent Sunday

St Peter's, Brimpton	10am	Benefice Holy Communion
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Not Fading but Glorious

As I was walking this morning,
The sun broke through the clouds
And lit up the trees on the horizon,
Just like a loving glance
That warms you.
And even when speech has faded,
A sparkling eye has a
Smile within it.
As on a gloomy day
The sun breaks through
And the fading beeches
By Midgham church
Shine bright and yellow,
Not fading, but glorious.

E.W.



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