# Villages' News



# **Useful Contacts** Contacts

Non-emergency numbers:

**NHS 111** 

Police 101

Environment Agency hotline (eg for flooding, pollution): 0800 80 70 60

Problems with roads (eg potholes), footpaths etc:

www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem

**Doctors 'surgeries:** 

Chapel Row Surgery: 0118 971 3252 Holmwood Surgery: 0118 981 4166

Mobile library: 01635 519827

**District Councillors:** 

Woolhampton/Midgham: Chris Read: 07768 793 155

Aldermaston/Beenham/Brimpton: Dominic Boeck: 07956 546 506

Parish Councils: Clerks' details:

Aldermaston: vacancy parishclerk@aldermaston.co.uk

Beenham: Lauren West: 07919 916 125

Brimpton: Christine McGarvie: 0118 970 1576

Midgham: Alice Owens: 07896 321 058 Woolhampton: Alice Owens: 07896 321 058

Village Halls:

Aldermaston: aldermastonparishhall@gmail.com

Beenham: 07793 116 937 Brimpton: 0118 971 3731 Midgham: 07941 093 853

Woolhampton: bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com

Churches:

Aldermaston & Woolhampton Benefice: www.awb.org.uk
For local contacts please see church notice boards

Brimpton Baptist Church: 0118 971 2059

Douai Abbey: 0118 971 5300

Magazine advertising:

Brenda Scott: 0118 971 3113 mrsbscott@btinternet.com

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Thatcham RG19 4QB . Tel: 01635 876498

#### **Committee Comments**

Well – here we are in June [I know it is the July magazine but I'm writing this in the first half of June to meet the deadline]

When I was a bit, or should I say a lot, younger, we had expressions for the seasons, such being:
- April showers; May madness; and flaming June. Well we've had the April showers and I'm not sure they have stopped, as to May madness it seemed like April showers did a repeat, then to flaming June and like the rest of you I'm still waiting for the flaming bit to arrive. Although we have had a couple of nice days, the cold winds and drizzly showers still persist, although longer term shows a bit of promise for better weather.

Anyway with the weather a bit drier we are able to get out and go for a walk without needing wellies [as I don't have wellies I have been confined to base most of the winter]. I must say it is lovely to get out in the fresh air again, get some exercise and call in at a local hostelry, if not for a meal then just a quick drink. I would comment though that it is a shame that we have lost a few of our local pubs in the area over the past few years.

Well in case you haven't heard elections are with us. I'm sure I'm not the only person who is glad they only come round every 5 years. I am looking forward to the 6th July when news will return to being news and newspapers will have proper stories once again [I know the election is on the 4th but the 5th will be crammed full of every analyst's dissections of the results]!!

With that passing message of doom and gloom I wish you happy reading of our now well established "Villages' News". Don't forget to check the advertisements in the back as the advertisers I have used are excellent.

#### **ARTICLES FOR THE MAGAZINE**

Please send articles for the magazine to:

For the villages of Aldermaston and Wasing <a href="mailto:cathy.jones@ukmessage.com">cathy.jones@ukmessage.com</a>
For the village of Brimpton <a href="mailto:brimptoncommon@aol.co.uk">brimptoncommon@aol.co.uk</a>
For the village of Beenham <a href="mailto:patowen0@hotmail.com">patowen0@hotmail.com</a>
For the villages of Midgham and Woolhampton henderson.sarah.c.@outlook.com

Please send articles relevant to the all the villages to: <a href="mailto:brimptoncommon@aol.co.uk">brimptoncommon@aol.co.uk</a> and <a href="mailto:henderson.sarah.c.@outlook.com">henderson.sarah.c.@outlook.com</a>

Please note the deadline for receipt of articles is noon on the 17<sup>th</sup> of each month.

# **Woolhampton News**

# Village Market

The next Market will be on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July from 10a.m. to 12 noon in the Woolhampton Village Hall. Hopefully, Summer will have arrived then (at time of writing it's still late-Winter, early-Spring temperatures and conditions!!) but no matter what the conditions are, there will be refreshments to suit your needs, hot or cooler. And the friendly stallholders will always help you 'discover' the items that you never knew you needed. What's not to like!

Occasionally there is spare capacity, so if you are entrepreneurial and have, preferably, homemade items for sale, please contact Cathy (email <a href="mailto:cathy.vallis@outlook.com">cathy.vallis@outlook.com</a>) to check viability.

#### **Woolhampton Annual Show 2024**

Please don't forget that this year's Woolhampton Show will be on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August in the Village Hall. There will be classes for each of vegetables, flowers, cookery, photography, handicraft and special classes for children to enter. A schedule is available at the July (and August) market, or can be picked up from the Corner Gift Shop as well as being available to download from woolhamptonannualshow0.wordpress.com. So, in these erratic weather conditions, be sure to nurture your vegetables and horticultural contributions and practise your cookery skills to definitely make this *your* year to win; do encourage your children to enter as well!

Don't forget the tallest sunflower competition, we are all suffering the same growing conditions so we're not expecting to beat previous heights.

#### The Listening District Councillor

In case you haven't seen the notices on the notice boards sited around the village, our (relatively) new West Berks District Councillor, Chris Read, is intending to hold a 'surgery' in the Woolhampton Village Hall on the last Saturday of each month, at least up to Christmas. The next scheduled ones are on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June and then Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July.

Mr Read is keen to meet local residents and hear of any issues or concerns that you may have. It is a terrific opportunity for you to help him to try to make our community and environment as pleasant as possible.

# Recycling

Just a reminder that certain items that are not collected by WBC can be recycled by bringing them to the Village Market (held on the first Saturday of each month in the Village Hall) which also help charities and the local school. Specifically, these items are:

Milk bottle tops (see Hazel at the pet food table)

Used stamps (see Ann at the Air Ambulance table)

Empty printer ink cartridges (see Cathy at the plants table)

Other bulky items such as plastic food trays can be taken to containers sited in the Waitrose (Thatcham) car park, as can tetra paks and small electrical items (or to the Padworth Recycling Centre, if more convenient).

#### Mikron Theatre

The annual visit from the Mikron Theatre has yet to be advertised but it is on 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Shows normally start at 7pm in the Rowbarge grounds. If you've not been before, this is an event not to be missed. Always topical, often irreverent, often hilarious, sometimes controversial, the cast (who travel around on a barge) are very entertaining. You are advised to bring your own seating as there are limited arrangements at the Rowbarge. Entry is free but donations are gratefully received to help fund the event.

#### **Douai via Charing Cross to Woolhampton**

On the evening of 18th June 1903 a group of 30 monks and 65 boys arrived at Charing Cross after their journey on the boat train. These were the monks and boys expelled by the French Government from the religious community and school at Douai, Northern France, who were seeking refuge and a new home in Woolhampton. The Catholic Earl of Fingal, a previous owner of the Woolhampton estate, had sold the estate in 1786 to John Crewe, a non-Catholic. However, the Earl's chaplain, Father Amstead, remained and was endowed, by the Earl, with seven acres of land where the present Catholic church and parts of Douai now stand. St Mary's School, later a college with many overseas students, was established in 1833. In 1848 the present St Mary's church was built, part of the abbey church opened in 1936 and the larger abbey church completed in 1993.

These exiles from Douai had been expelled under the law of Association, part of the French Government's policy to separate Church from State. The community had been offered the opportunity by the Bishop of Portsmouth of taking refuge at Woolhampton to assume the management of the ailing college. In that summer of 1903 Woolhampton villagers glimpsed a party of chanting monks ascending Woolhampton Hill, advancing with some trepidation towards their new home.

These new villagers managed to bring to England valuable books and the cricket square roller plus the white rowing boat that had been moored along the River Scarpe in France — the former was moved up the hill, the latter remained at the station and was placed for auction.

There followed an expansion both in building and the acquisition of land In the years 1906/07 at the time of the 'break-up' of the local estate. A parcel of land was purchased from the estate across the road from the abbey and became Douai School playing field. In 1919 land on the Bucklebury road was acquired from the Blyth-Currie family (preventing its use as a site for local authority housing). Land was also acquired from the adjacent Ferris's Farm estate.

Snag — at start of term much luggage for Douai School arrived at Mitcham rather than Midgham!

NB: In 1568 English College established at Douai to send missionaries to England.

#### John Trigg

#### WOOLHAMPTON SCHOOL

What an exciting time it is at our school this term.

The children are looking forward to the long summer holiday

Hopefully, our weather will improve and the cold wet days we have been experiencing will be a thing of the past.

Happy days ahead, maybe lots of things to do at home with fun days out with family and friends?

There are however natural concerns that their lives are about to change.

Year Six is coming to the realisation that they are about to leave our school altogether at the end of term.

Friendships that have built up over the years at Woolhampton Primary may diminish once the students have moved on to their new Secondary Schools.

They leave in the positions of Seniors and arrive as Juniors in the next step of development of their further education.

A scary thought for some but in fact an exciting prospect for all.

We Governors strongly believe that Woolhampton Primary has fully prepared our pupils for that next step of progression towards young adulthood.

We are sure that our founding principal around R.O.C.K. have taught our children how to cope with the rigours of life experienced through the transition from Primary to Secondary School.

Our parents, families, Teachers and Governors, still remember how it was for them. Of course, to become used to the new learning regime, takes time to get used to.

We know that it will not take long to make new friends and to join in with the whole

Fresh activities to enter into. New sports teams to sign up with, and exciting new subjects to study and to get to grips with.

Throughout our school each year group will be moving up the to new prospects in a higher class.

Fresh subjects to contend with and perhaps led by a new teacher.

All these adjustments are so important to the development of our children.

Indeed, can any of us adults remember how it was for us?

We at Woolhampton School will always endeavour, with the help of our parents to monitor

And see to it that our charges settle in without any concerns whatsoever.

So Thank you to all our children and their families and to all our Teachers and Staff not forgetting our Governors

Enjoy your Summer Holidays to the full, recharge your batteries and return ready to begin a new school year in September.

#### Terry Webster. Foundation Governor.

Secondary School experience.

#### **WOOLHAMPTON & MIDGHAM WI**

Over the past couple of months, we have been busy, firstly with our NFWI Resolution "Dental Health Matters" which at the NFWI Annual Meeting in June the most members voted to support the campaign by the WI.



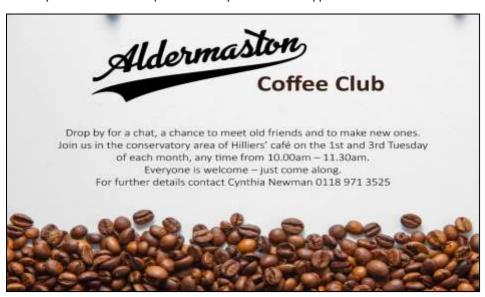
18 of our WI visited two members gardens for our June meeting. One was a large garden with lots of apple trees, some lovely roses and a well-established small wild garden. The other was a smaller garden. With many vegetables just coming up . One of the planters of potatoes was growing nicely. These are earmarked to be displayed at the Village Show in August. There are bedding plants popping out all over the place which makes it quit a nice natural garden.

Afterwards we all trooped back to the village hall for scones, cake, tea and a special cake made by one of our members for our WI 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We all thoroughly enjoyed chatting with each other and some of our old members who we had invited. It was a good evening.

A small group of us went to Littlecote recently meeting for a coffee, looking around the hotel and gardens then having a very nice lunch. We spent the afternoon looking at the Roman Villa and the Orpheus mosaic. It was a very enjoyable day.

At our next meeting we have someone coming to talk to us about wildlife. We have had him before and look forward to seeing his fabulous pictures.

If you would like to know more about our friendly group, please just come along on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. I am sure you won't be disappointed.



#### **Aldermaston News**

# Aldermaston Parish Council - 13th June 2024

We abandoned our usual practice of meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, and met on a Thursday evening to meet the requirements of our temporary locum clerk, Karen Ross, who looks after another parish council on the same day as we normally meet.

We were pleased to welcome back Mrs Tasneem Nurbhai, an ex-parish councillor who attended the meeting as a member of the general public. She addressed the council in open forum, pointing out that the proposed additional play equipment in Kestrels Mead could lead to more anti-social behaviour by visitors. We thought this unlikely, given the type of equipment we were suggesting, but agreed an additional option to the questionnaire effectively proposing that nothing is done. The survey will now be put to the residents to get their views, but we believe the local police have an important role to play in dealing with anti-social behaviour issues.

We were also glad to note the positive progress being made in our search for a new clerk, which has resulted in five applications, though none lived in our parish. As a parish council, we agreed a short-list, and the interview process. We hope to finalise a decision at our next meeting,

On the planning front, this month we had just one application to review, a proposal for further demolition work by AWE. We agreed "no objection", but in the interests of neighbouring properties, we have suggested a reduction in the Saturday operating hours. Since the last meeting, there have been six decisions by WBC, all consistent with our recommendations. The most significant of these being refusal of Easy Concrete's plans for Woodstock (though the soil heap remains) and approval of our plans for a skateboard ramp at the recreation ground (over to you, Organising Committee!) as well as approval of our thoughts regarding construction techniques for the Lock-Up, also at the recreation ground.

We reviewed the latest RoSPA report into their findings of our play equipment at the recreation ground, and agreed appropriate mitigation measures (which thankfully are not too onerous!)

There was criticism of the HGV traffic levels at Raghill, and the apparent illegal activity at Padworth Sawmills, including damage to the verges. We agreed to report such activities to the appropriate authorities

We concluded the meeting with a review is our financial procedures, taking advantage of the presence of our locum clerk. She advised us that we could not meet the grant request of the Parish Hall for essential electrical work as the work had already started and the grant request would therefore be retrospective, and not allowed. She gave us advice on what would be allowed, and helped us with the annual audit returns

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday  ${\bf 11}^{\rm th}$  July 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 <a href="https://www.aldermaston.co.uk">www.aldermaston.co.uk</a>

Dave Shirt, tel. 0118 971 2549



#### ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We welcomed in the Mental Health Support Team into school to work with our Robins class (Years 1 & 2). The session was well timed as children are starting to think about the changes that will happen at the end of this school year. For our Year 2 children, this involves joining Owls Class as Year 3 children and enjoying the new challenges in KS2. For our Year 1 children, it's being at the top of their class and helping to support the younger children when they join as Year 1s in September. The children talked about what it means to feel anxious or worried and answered the question, 'What is a worry?' They were able to talk about how someone might feel if they were worried. The team helped them learn how to make their worries smaller by talking to a trusted adult or using strategies which included breathing exercises. It's been lovely to see the children's confidence grow in recognising when they are worried and understanding which zone they are in on their Zones of Regulation chart.

A team of twenty athletes represented our school at the recent Quadkids athletics competition. The conditions were warm and sunny and there was an amazing turnout of children and supporters from schools around the local area. Each child took part in four events: a sprint, middle distance run, vortex javelin and standing long jump. It was an amazing experience and the children's performances were impressive with many excelling in their favourite events and all taking on the challenge of a proper middle-distance race in very hot conditions.

Please see the advert for our Summer Fete being organised by our PTA. We do hope that you can join us – Fun for the whole family!

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor

#### D-Day 80 and Lamp Light of Peace in Aldermaston

Thank you to everyone involved in making the D-Day 80 commemorations so special in Aldermaston.

The lantern workshops were very well attended and resulted in more than 200 beautiful hand made lanterns of varying types including willow, bamboo, jam jars and transparent paper. Workshops were held with the Aldermaston Scouts, Aldermaston CE Primary School, Aldermaston Craft Group and in Aldermaston Parish Hall. The Loosey and the Lychgate (the war memorial) were beautifully decorated with poppy bunting and lanterns.

**The D-Day exhibition** in the Officers Mess in the Hinds Head was organised by the Aldermaston History Group and the Tadley and District History Society. Those attending included children from the school who completed a short quiz and received D-Day stickers. The exhibition included some fascinating details and photographs, such as a photograph of the visit to RAF Aldermaston of General Dwight D Eisenhower ahead of D-Day and much information and photographs on the preparations and the important role of the gliders on D-Day itself.

Many people ate fish and chips as part of National Fish and Chip Day, which took place in recognition of Stan Hollis, the only Victoria Cross recipient from D-Day - he saved many lives through his bravery and his first job had been in his Dad's fish and chip shop.

The global call of ringing out to peace was supported by the Church of St Mary the Virgin.

The Lamp Light of Peace had a great turn-out with a moving and touching lantern parade led by the Bagpiper Bill Copland, Wing Commander Jim Watchorn and the Aldermaston Scouts. The lanterns looked amazing both on the parade and at the Loosey. The haunting melodies of the piper included those played on D-Day itself by 21 year piper Bill Millin, dressed in ancient Scottish garb, he inspired those fighting alongside him on the Normandy beaches.

The "International Tribute" was read by Wing Commander Jim Watchorn which included recognition of all those who played a vital role in the war and those whose sacrifice enables us all to enjoy the peace and freedom we have today.

We finalised our parade by visiting Aldermaston Parish Hall for summer punch and D-Day cupcakes. Thank you to all those who made charity donations including for the D-Day Poppy Pins and for the hall.

The D-Day commemorations were a wonderful tribute to the beacon of light created by the Normandy landings and a recognition of the importance of peace for us all.

Particular thanks to all those who planned and organised the D-Day 80 events and the groups that supported and sponsored the arrangements including Aldermaston Parish Council, Aldermaston Parish Hall, Aldermaston History Group and Aldermaston Craft Group.

Words by Karen Dignan and photos taken by Ed Tilsley.





#### Melody Cooper - 1930-2024

Melody Cooper, known to many living in and around Aldermaston, died in hospital in Bath on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2024, aged 90, after a long period of failing health.

She lived in the village for more than fifty years. While known to many, she kept only a select group of friends who understood her resolute independence and very private lifestyle; to them she was a loyal friend. She had a keen interest in good films and books. She made occasional visits to far-flung cousins and friends and loved a lively conversation and the occasional party.

As a young woman and into later life she had glamorous looks – black, coiffed hair, dark eyes and olivey skin - and the most elegant dress sense. She held both long into her later years, even after parting with her non-PC mink coat! She seemed to subsist on black coffee - and cigarettes, a habit she kicked finally at the age of 70.

Melody was the only child of third-generation British and Irish expatriates living in Argentina. Born in 1933 in the capital, Buenos Aires, she grew up speaking English and Spanish and was educated by kind nuns in a convent school. In 1947, she was sent as a teenager to be educated in England, at Roedean School, as her mother had been. For three years she did not return to Argentina.

She then trained in Buenos Aires as a top-flight secretary. She joined Lever Brothers (later Unilever) for some years before coming back to England in her twenties in 1958. Working for a series of senior directors in big corporations, initially in London, by 1970 she gravitated to Aldermaston where her widowed godmother, Helen Caiger-Smith, lived in The Cottage, later re-named Kiln House. To take the train to work from Aldermaston station, she braved the A340 by bicycle, long before there were any cycle paths away from the heavy traffic.

At first, Melody lodged at the Red House, but in 1973 she moved into the upper flat at 22b, next to Kiln House – her home for almost fifty years. As well as her regular work, she undertook Spanish translation work with great skill.

Her free enjoyment of retirement was dashed by a necessary leg amputation in 2018, confining her to a wheelchair, and then the brutal isolation of Covid. She moved in 2021 to more suitable independent living in Wiltshire, nearer the three daughters of a life-long British friend from Argentine days, one her own goddaughter. She longed to return to Argentina in her last years but had not the strength to travel.

#### **Beenham News**

# Beenham Village Market Saturday 13 July from 2.00 to 3.30 Victory Hall

We are very lucky in our Village Market: the range of stalls is wide. Each market is slightly different: watch out for Facebook posts and village emails just before the market for final details: but the current range of stalls includes Beenham reared beef and pork; dog, cat and bird food; turned wooden Tropic cosmetics; wax melts; pre-loved jewellery; bric-a-brac and loads more. You can also enjoy a piece of home-made cake with a cup of tea - a chance to sit and chat. Bring your more specialist recycling for Greener Beenham, or perhaps put our very own Repair Shop to the test with your broken household electrical equipment.

If you would like to run a stall, either on a one-off basis or as a regular, please contact Sally Pellow on <a href="mailto:mrssallypellow@gmail.com">mrssallypellow@gmail.com</a> or on 0777 625 1228. It's a great way to find out if there's interest in what you can supply!

#### BEENHAM PRE-SCHOOL

The summer term can be the most glorious time of the year at Pre-School as we use our garden as a classroom and the children have so many opportunities to explore the environment. We have been particularly lucky this term to have a few special visitors including some tractors and some chicks as we have been thinking about farming and farmers and the great work they do! Of course, it can be an emotional time as we are also getting ready to say goodbye to our older children who are moving on to their different primary schools around the area, so we are focusing on the skills they will need to be confident and independent in their new classrooms, just as we are preparing our younger children to come back to us in September and welcome lots of new faces.

We have just launched our Virtual Sports Day so families are busy at home taking part in all the challenges to earn points for their teams and then we will be hosting a week of sporting activities and challenges in setting, to make sure that absolutely everyone has a turn. The last few years it has been a close result between Red Team, Blue Team and Yellow Team ... but we can cheer for everyone who takes part and we all get a medal! The results will be announced at our Family Fun Day at the end of the term along with a performance of Music, Poetry and Makaton which the children are busy learning.

Some spaces for September are still available but they are limited, and we have tours booked throughout the remainder of the summer term. If you would like to book a tour, or simply to find out more about what we can offer you, please do get in touch with our manager as we would love the opportunity to show you what Beenham Pre-School can offer your family.

Paula Read (Beenham Pre-School Manager)

Telephone: 07793 116937

Email: info@beenhampreschool.org

We are so proud of our award-winning setting ... why not come and see why for yourselves or check out our public Facebook page?



We are on the home straight now to the end of the summer term and what a busy time it has been in school.

At the beginning of June, the children in years 5 and 6 enjoyed a residential trip to Croft Farm in Tewkesbury where they took part in various activities such as archery, katakanuing, rock climbing and abseiling. This was a fabulous opportunity for the children to take part in outdoor activities and stay away from home.

The children learnt to work together as a team, develop independence, confidence and an ability to recognise strengths and weaknesses in a constructive way. A great time was had by all with many lasting memories made.

Our key stage 2 children enjoyed a trip to Englefield Estate to take part in their 'Estate Schools Days' alongside other local schools.

The grounds around Englefield House were transformed into a marvellous outdoor classroom, with stands and activities. This offered a fantastic opportunity for the children to explore the countryside and learn about many aspects of sustainability, including farming, soils, forestry, wildlife conservation, river health, wellbeing and history. The children even had the chance to look around the beautiful Englefield House.

Our thanks go to the Benyon family for this opportunity.

We have lot's more to look forward to in the last few weeks of term with Sports Day and the Colour Run being a popular highlight of the school calendar.

To finish off a great year in school, the whole school will visit Windsor Castle in the last week of term which coincides with some super topic work on 'Magnificent Monarchs'.

Lastly, we will be saying a sad goodbye to our year 6 children who will be moving onto the next phase in their educational journeys. We wish them the very best of luck for the transition to secondary school and beyond.

Visits to the school are always warmly welcomed. Please contact the office to make an appointment.

#### Tel: 0118 9713397

www.beenhamprimary.co.uk

#### Notes from Beenham Parish Council Meeting Monday June 3rd

#### **Public Forum**

A Parishioner raised concerns about the overgrown grass verge on the junction of the Bath Road and Beenham Hill as well as other junctions. This has created dangerous limitations of visibility when joining traffic. WBC had been contacted. WBC are only cutting the grass once per year now.

The same Parishioner raised further concerns about lack of advance warnings, diversions and signage for road closures, which result in potential traffic problems on minor roads – discussed later

#### **Councillor Reports**

Graham Bowsher reported that he would follow up on the quote for Christmas tree manhole cover.

Update on fire curtain for the Community Room: Alex Cother was absent, update at the next meeting.

SIM card/router for Community Room wifi. Alex Cother to update at the next meeting.

The CCB (Connecting Communities in Berkshire) initiative for possible affordable housing in Beenham was discussed. The Parish Council feels there may be a need for such housing for Beenham residents and those with connections to the village. At this stage, it was agreed to initiate, as an information gathering exercise, a proposed survey of parishioners in order to establish what those possible needs may be.

#### **Planning matters**

24/00785/FUL Peartree Copse, Webbs Lane, Beenham. A variation to conditions for this approved application is being sought for clay lining to the approved ponds. This would entail the delivery of clay by 175 lorries (350 total movements to and from the site) along Webbs Lane from Beenham Hill. The Parish Council decided to strongly object on the basis of traffic and personal safety. This would have done at the time of the planning application if it had been known.

#### **Parish Councillors**

The issues of overgrown grass verges and lack of road closure advanced warning etc, as raised in the Public Forum, were further discussed. The Parish Council will contact WBC on both issues, expressing their concerns about safety. Although it was noted that WBC has decided to only cut the grass once per year, this is a matter of road safety and, at the very least, the currently dangerous verges in the vicinity of junctions should be cut to allow an uninterrupted view of approaching traffic.

#### Parish Council Assets.

Rospa has provided a report on the condition and safety of the childrens play area on the Recreation Ground. The Parish Council will obtain quotations to rectify the issues raised. Rospa also asked that the rope swing attached to the tree by the childrens play area be removed as it is unsafe. This swing was not erected by the Council, nor has permission been sought for its construction.

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

Date	Event	where	contact
Tuesdays	Art Group 10am-12pm	Victory Hall	Sunny: 9712255
Tuesdays	Badminton Club 8pm – 9.30pm	School Hall	Ernie: 07954 127 771
Mon 1st	Parish Council Meeting 7pm	Community Rm	
Thu 4th	Beenham Walkers - Walk to	Meet at Victory Hall	Pauline Stares
	Padworth church and Ufton Court back via canal - coffee at cafe if required.	- 9.30am	01189713481
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	Church Working Party. All help is most welcome	St Mary's	Janette:07917 818 283
Wed 10th	WI - 7.30pm £4 non-members	Community Rm	Sally:07776 251 228
Thu 11 <sup>th</sup>	Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6 £3/person	Six Bells	9713368 to book
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	Village Market and repair shop 2-3.30pm	Victory Hall	01183430548
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	Charity Karaoke Night	Six Bells	9713368 for more info
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	Beenham Friendship Club for	Pick up points	Marion:9713094
	over 55s-coach trip to Swanage. Non-members £23		Tina:01635826154
Thu 18 <sup>th</sup>	Beenham Walkers - Walk to	Meet at Victory Hall	Pauline Stares
	Bucklebury Village along river Pang - coffee at Bucklebury Farm.	- 9.30am	01189713481
Thu 18 <sup>th</sup>	"The Duke", based on a true	Victory Hall	Claire:9713574
	story starring Jim Broadbent	7.00pm film starts at	
	and Helen Mirren. £5 a ticket.	7.30pm	
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Greyfield Woods Volunteer	Meet at wood	John:9712924
	Morning. 8.30 - 12pm	entrance	
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Calleva Stick Dressers 9am-2pm	Victory Hall	David:07864 180 648
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Live Music and Acoustic Night 7.30pm	Beenham Club	9713991
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup>	Beenham Tearoom 2pm-3.30pm	Victory Hall	Dru:07815 055 040 Pat:07947 478 840

#### DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM - JULY 2024

#### Useful contact numbers:

Victory Hall Bookings: 01189714822 nolesandfrank@hotmail.com

Community Hall Bookings: Paula Reade: 07793116937 info@beenhampreschool.org

Church Warden: Janette Hammond: 07917818283

#### **Greyfield Wood JULY 2024**

Hello from Greyfield Wood!

Since the last edition there has been a lot of activity in the wood. Mainly the rapid growth of ferns and brambles!!!

In the last month we have had two Saturday Volunteer sessions where we have been scything the paths and some areas around recently planted trees. Many thanks to our band of volunteers for their commitment and hard work. However, at this time of year keeping the vegetation down is a continuous battle.....



Many thanks also to those of you who came along to our Open Day. The weather held and tea, cake and conversation were in abundance. It was good to speak with some of the more "mature" villagers who were involved in getting the Greyfield Wood project off the ground some twenty-five years ago.

Of special note was the woodland walk, led by Ian Johnson, where the scale of the spread of Ash dieback was clearly shown. The CIC Directors are still in the process of agreeing with The Forestry Commission on the next steps in dealing with this urgent matter in our wood and keeping woodland paths open in safety for all villagers. Hopefully, more on this next month.

In the meantime, please continue to enjoy our woodland.

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

John Hammond 07818 400440

### **Brimpton News**





# **Brimpton News**



# Brimpton Church of England Primary School

Amazing things happen here....

#### Winchester Science Museum

The topic for this term is 'Space'. The whole school visited the Science Museum to see the planetarium and take part in various workshops associated with space to help the children with their learning

#### Governor in School Day

Our governing body came into school in early June to observe classroom lessons and to engage with the children and staff to see how a typical day at Brimpton is conducted. They were even brave enough to stay and have their lunch with the children! Our Diocese Adviser came later in the day to talk with staff about our upcoming SIAMS Inspection - Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools

#### Year 6 Transition

This is always a busy time and an anxious time for our Year 6 children as they start thinking about and preparing themselves for Secondary School. All the schools offer transition days during July and all the Year 6 children will have at least 2-3 days in their new schools to get use to where they will be. Children from our school have extra visits. We are sending children to six different secondary schools this year!

#### Ice Cream Friday

We have started an 'Ice Cream Friday' event whereby each class donate and sell ice creams and lollies for £1 each at the end of the day on a Friday. We are hoping to raise enough money to help pay for a coach to take us to the O2 in January for the Young Voices choir event. If anyone from the village would like to come along at 3pm every Friday and purchase an ice cream or two you are very much welcome. This will continue until Friday 19th July.

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

# Susan 'Sue' Caroline Storey 14 March 1948-27 April 2024

Sue will always be remembered for being the lady with a lovely smile. She lived in Brimpton all her life and was well known and loved by all she met.

She was a keen member of the church. Was a member of the PCC, was on the flower rota and used her magical creative flair to decorate the font and porch for special occasions and festivals, she played an important role in making a new altar cloth to celebrate the churches 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, she was the verger at weddings and baptisms and helped at the monthly coffee mornings ensuring everyone was always

made welcome.



Sue was in her element when the church started the 'prayers and bears' group for the under fives and also loved to help out when Brimpton school children held their special services at Easter and Christmas, handing out the treats and drinks to the children.

It can't be stressed enough how important Sue was within the life of Brimpton church and everyone will really miss her.

Family was very important to Sue and she loved her parents, her husband Harry, sons Craig and Glen and brother Nigel. Her family was the absolute centre of her world. Dogs played a special part in Sue's life and she would always

stop for a chat when out walking Micky and later Greg.

Being part of Brimpton WI was something Sue welcomed for the friendship and companionship. From WI Christmas parties, beetle drives, barbecues, bingo and quiz nights, Sue wholeheartedly threw herself into the fun.

Sue was a fabulous artist and one of her personal highlights was when she spent a week in Harrods demonstrating painting miniature scenes from the English countryside onto parchment lampshades. Her beautiful work was sold all over the world, but mainly in America. She created things of beauty because they gave her and others pleasure, but she wasn't a show-off.

We all have our special memories of Sue which we will cherish forever. Sue was the most wonderful and caring person and will be greatly missed. She was kind and thoughtful. She was creative and humble. She was fun to be with. She made everyone feel valued. Rest in peace Sue, our beautiful friend.

#### **Brimpton Parish Council**

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

Following the rejection of the second planning application for a mobile home site on Blacknest field, there has not been any further increase in the number of mobile homes on the site. However, the illegally sited mobile home on the plot known as "Twin Paddocks" remains in place. As there has not been any action or information from West Berkshire Council, I have asked for a meeting with Councillor Denise Gains, Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing, our local councillor Dominic Boeck and WBC senior officers. This has been agreed and I am waiting for a date for the meeting.

We decided to request an update from West Berkshire Council on the repair to the bridge in Brimpton Road, near the Baptist Church. There has been no news regarding other road repairs and replacement road signs other than they are "on the list". We will be asking about likely dates for action. Thames Water has reinstated the verge in Brimpton Road which was damaged by the tankers removing waste from the sewage pumping station. However, there is still no long-term solution to the fact that the pumping station overflows when there is high rainfall.

I reported on the Eastern Parishes Conference held by West Berkshire Council in May. The meeting was largely comprised the urban parishes around Reading, with only Brimpton, Aldermaston and Basildon representing rural parishes. It appears the Liberal Democrat administration in West Berkshire intends to revisit the Local Plan when the Government's review is complete. You may recall that when the Liberal Democrats won control of WBC in 2023 they sought to withdraw the Local Plan which the previous Conservative administration had completed and sent to the Government for approval. They were refused permission to do so but it looks as if the battle over the location of future housing development in West Berkshire may not be over.

There were no new planning applications to consider.

We reviewed the current policies and procedures which we are required to follow. (You'll find them on our website if you need to fill a wet afternoon). The only changes required are to the Financial Regulations in the light of changes being brought in nationally. We will do this at our July meeting to allow councillors time to consider the proposed changes.

Nick Matthews outlined the present position as regards preparations for the beacon lighting event. I reported on arrangements for the (Bring Your Own) Picnic when the Three Rivers Community Choir will be performing songs from the 1940s. We are grateful to the Brimpton W.I. who will be providing tea and cakes. Nick also outlined numbers and arrangements for the barbecue at the Village Hall on Saturday evening.

The Parish Council will meet again on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All residents are welcome to attend the meeting. This article is a shortened version of my report in the Parish Update, a fortnightly newsletter circulated by email. If you would like to receive the Update, please send your email address to me at:

jhicks@brimpton-pc.gov.uk.

John Hicks, Chairman, Brimpton Parish Council

# Brimpton Marks the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day

To commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day Landings, we organised three events at the Village Hall. The first was held on 6 June when we lit the Brimpton Beacon, symbolising the triumph of light over darkness. Before this, Charles Brims read the words of the national tribute. Over 100 people attended the event which followed a fish and chip supper.

On the following Saturday afternoon we held a Family Picnic on Jubilee Green and were joined for a performance of 1940s songs and music by 49 members of the Three Rivers Community Choir. Add to this a similar number of their families and friends and mix in nearly 100 local residents, and this was a very attended event. For those who did not bring a picnic, and maybe for some who did, the Brimpton W.I. served tea and home-made cake.

On Saturday evening we held a BBQ and dance evening with live music. Like the other events, there were new and familiar faces present. To add to the atmosphere some of the guests wore authentic 1940s uniforms or dresses. It was an evening of good food and excellent music.

On Sunday, there being no service at St Peter's, the members of Brimpton Baptist Church invited residents to join with them in a service of thanksgiving for the bravery and sacrifice of those who took part in the D-Day landings. The service included readings from the diaries of two solders — one British and one American — describing the challenges they had faced.

Whilst these events were organised for people to enjoy themselves, throughout the weekend the flags of the allied nations involved in D-Day flew over Jubilee Green as a reminder of the sacrifice made by a previous generation in defence of our freedom.

I would like to thank everyone who helped organise and run these events. You are a very talented team!

#### John Hicks

# **Brimpton 100 Club**

The 100 Club winner in June was no. 87, held by Jon Hunt

### **Brimpton Village Hall**

Sat 3 August - Bacon Butty Morning from 10am to 1pm Sat 24 August - Pizza Night from 7pm

#### **BRIMPTON RECREATION GROUND CHARITY**

This is a summary of the report made by the trustees to the Brimpton Annual Parish Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May.

We are delighted by the success of the Jubilee Green which is being much used for community events, and we thank Wasing for making this possible.

Having set up the Jubilee Green, the Recreation Ground charity still has funds of about £130k in its bank. The trustees have three options for the use of these funds and, before making a final decision, is inviting feedback from parishioners.

Option 1 is to keep the funds on deposit in case we find another piece of land that is both suitable and available. The field next door would have been suitable and initially we thought it was available. But, after several years of discussion with the owners, it has become clear that it isn't, and won't be, available to us. In addition, we have now had the Jubilee Green for long enough to see that it is, on its own, big enough for our purposes.

Option 2 is to keep the funds on deposit and only use the annual interest to make grants. Depending on interest rates, our long-term income is likely to be about £3k per annum. This option, therefore, would only enable us to make small grants and thus would restrict our ability to make significant grants which could be of material benefit to the inhabitants of Brimpton.

Option 3 is to use the funds in the most effective way possible to provide benefit to the community. The trustees would look at each grant application on its merits before deciding whether to fund it and, if so, how. This would give the trustees the flexibility to make significant grants without being restricted to the annual interest.

This is the option we favour. But, before making a final decision, we are open to feedback in case anyone thinks we have missed something.

If you would have any thoughts or questions, please contact one of the trustees:

Charles Brims cdbrims@brimpton.com

Anne Johnson anneandmac@gmail.com

Wendy Matthews wendy.matthews6@btinternet.com

#### **Brimpton diary dates**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July:** Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July:** W.I. BBQ at Manor Farm. £7.50 per person. Please contact Shelley Bassil or Annette Dolphin

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July:** Coffee morning in St Peter's Church; drop in anytime between 10am and 11.30am. Dogs welcome.

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July:** W.I. Annual outing for members and invited guests to visit Whitchurch Silk Mill. Please contact Shelley Bassil or Annette Dolphin

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August:** Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August:** Coffee morning in St Peter's Church; drop in anytime between 10am and 11.30am. Dogs welcome.

#### Can you help?

We need a kitchen volunteer to help provide a hot meal at our Stroke Care Group in Woolhampton Village Hall over lunchtime on a Tuesday.



Stroke touches the life of millions. Local charity, Stroke Care for Newbury & West Berkshire provides support to stroke survivors and their families in West Berkshire,

Part of our service is a re-enablement group which meets Tuesdays in Woolhampton Village Hall. We provide physiotherapy, exercises and mental activities in an enjoyable social setting with refreshments and a hot lunch.

We have a wonderful team who run the sessions and we now need a volunteer to help cook a simple meal for all to share, which our members so enjoy. We always provide help and a planned menu and groceries. You would need to come from 11 until 1.30 and are welcome to stay for lunch.

Please contact Jo Teece on 07970 131074 or johanteece@gmail.com

Our website for more information: strokecarenewbury.org.uk

### **Midgham News**



#### Saturday September 14th

#### Midgham's annual Sponsored Ride & Stride event!

Once again Midgham won the annual cup prize for receiving the most sponsorship money and involving the whole community.

Thanks go to all those who participated: cycling, walking, providing lunch, sponsorship etc.

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



It is a fun day with a great group of people
If you wish to join us contact Julia for more information.
The sponsorships help keeping St Matthew's
and other local churches open for the community.

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# Organ Recital by Gill Blythman in Midgham Church on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024

A brilliant recital by Gill Blythman at Midgham Church was the reward for the forty or so people who came to hear her on  $1^{st}$  June, a good number for an organ recital. Gill had given one six years ago in June 2018 after the organ had been restored, and it was a pleasure to welcome her back.

Gill opened with lively works by Buxtehude and JS Bach, then moved on to two works

by English composers, SS Wesley and Stanford which were chosen to show off the organ as particularly well suited to these works. She then played a modern toccata dedicated to Ukraine by Matthias Nagel, which had strong roots in slavonic dances. Two pieces by the French nineteenth-century organist Alfred Lefebure-Wely followed and Gill finished with a virtuosic piece by the Norwegian composer Mons Leidvin Takle. Gill's exciting programme brought to most of us some wonderful pieces that we have never heard before, and showed off the full range of tones this lovely organ can offer.

Afterwards we were all treated to the delicious culinary treats for which Midgham has a deserved reputation



#### **NATURE NOTES**

I don't know what has happened to 'Flaming June'. By the time you read this, of course, it could have turned so warm that you forget what the beginning of the month was like. Well, it has been very cool, but the wind has dried the ground so that everything needs watering. Gardeners are never satisfied! I have been delighted that several people have remarked on the wonderful display of wild flowers and grasses along the road between Woolhampton and the garage — it has been worthy of notice. It included some very fine hemlock specimens near the entrance to the new estate. I have not mentioned these before because people are shy of hemlock, even though several of our cherished garden plants, such as laburnum, are just as poisonous. Alas, someone has now cut them down in their prime — but left them lying about!

It is perhaps too early to say there are not as many baby birds as usual, so 'Il leave the birds until next month.





#### WEST BERKS FOODBANK

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

The demand for help is such that the Foodbank is sending out **over 11 tonnes** of food each month. The Hungry Holidays scheme will be run again for the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Schools have been asked to identify families that they feel will really struggle over the summer holiday period. A one-off delivery will then be made to the schools before the end of term to distribute to these families. Last year, almost 1500 additional people across 40 West Berks' schools were supported and have already heard from 42 schools requesting help this year. I'm sure you can imagine the impact this will have on stocks. Last year, they sent out **20 tonnes** in July!

They are therefore sending out an urgent plea for your support to enable them to meet this need as well as the regular demand for help. Please can you consider buying an item or two for the foodbank when you do your weekly shop?

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

#### FOOD ITEMS URGENTLY NEEDED

Cup a soup, rice pudding, instant noodles, cereal bars, coffee, custard, tinned fruit

#### LOW ON STOCK

Pasta sauce, fruit squash, tinned soup

#### WELL STOCKED

NO BAKED BEANS OR PASTA REQUIRED THANK YOU.

#### Drop off locations:

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

Beenham: Under community noticeboard.

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

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

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

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

#### **MOBILE LIBRARY**

Alaermaston		іліадпат:	
Wednesdays	July 3rd & 24th	Thursdays	July 4th & 25th
Foresters	9.30-9.50	Goddard's Drive	10.1010.20
Beenham:		Woolhampton:	
Wednesdays	July 3rd & 24th	Thursdays	July 4th & 25th
<b>S</b> toneyfields	3.15-4.00	Watermill Ct	10.25-11.10

#### **Church Services in the Villages**

#### **Douai Abbey**

Contact number 0118 971 5300

Weekdays

6.20 am Matins & Lauds

7,45 am Mass

12.50 pm Midday Office

6.00 pm Vespers 8.00 pm Compline

Sundays

As above, plus

10:30 am Mass

But no Compline

#### **Brimpton Baptist Church**

Contact number 0118 971 2059 Sunday: 11.00 am and 6.00 pm Wednesday: 7.00 pm

#### **Church of England Services**

(awb.org.uk)

St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston

14 July 10:45 Holy Communion 21 July 10:45 Morning Praise

St Mary's, Beenham

7 July 09:15 Morning Praise 14 July 09:15 Holy Communion 28 July 09:15 Holy Communion

St Peter's, Brimpton

7 July 10:45 Holy Communion 21 July 09:15 Morning Praise 28 July 09:15 Holy Communion

St Matthew's, Midgham

7 July 09:15 BCP Communion 21 July 10:45 Informal Holy Communion

28 July 17:00 Evensong

St Nicholas, Wasing

7 July 10:45 Holy Communion

St Peter's, Woolhampton

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

Details correct at time of going to press.





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