

Villages' News



Useful Contacts

Non-emergency numbers:

NHS 111

Police 101

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

Problems with roads (eg potholes), footpaths etc:

www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem

Doctors 'surgeries:

Chapel Row Surgery: 0118 971 3252

Holmwood Surgery: 0118 981 4166

Mobile library: 01635 519827

District Councillors:

Woolhampton/Midgham: Chris Read: 07768 793 155

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

Parish Councils: Clerks' details:

Aldermaston: Abi Lewis : parishclerk@aldermaston.co.uk

Beenham: Lauren West : 07919 916 125

Brimpton: Christine McGarvie: 0118 970 1576

Midgham: Alice Owens: 07896 321 058

Woolhampton: Alice Owens: 07896 321 058

Village Halls:

Aldermaston: aldermastonparishhall@gmail.com

Beenham: 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

The sun is shining as I write this, but there are gales forecast for just two days ahead. Just a recap of the recent weather we have experienced. It reminded me of the clouds in the picture below.

That weather however has not stopped the seasonal run of harvest celebrations, even though some have been a bit on the chilly side. As usual a team of volunteers over our six parishes made sure we were more than adequately fed and watered over the season and for that we owe them a big “thank you”.

By the time you read this winter, according to the clocks at any rate, will have arrived and the nights will be drawing in and we will be thinking of Christmas fare rather than harvest fare. Or planning somewhere in the sun in 2025?



A cloud, seen over Hanbury Hall, Worcestershire, trying to blow the rain clouds away. It did not succeed. [photo by Brenda Scott]

ARTICLES FOR THE MAGAZINE

Please send articles for the magazine to:

For the villages of Aldermaston and Wasing

cathy.jones@ukmessage.com

For the village of Brimpton brimptoncommon@aol.co.uk

For the village of Beenham patowen0@hotmail.com

For the villages of Midgham and Woolhampton

henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com

Please send articles relevant to the all the villages to:

brimptoncommon@aol.co.uk and henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com

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

Advertising enquiries can be sent to mrsbscott@btinternet.com

We hope you enjoy reading your magazine.

Midgham News



Midgham Café Church

Held in the church

First Thursday of the month

November 7th

December 5th

Join us for tea and cake and fellowship 2.00pm

Contact Sarah Henderson for more information

henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com

Midgham Village Hall coffee mornings

In November the coffee mornings will be on the 6th and the 20th.

Everyone is welcome to come and join us for a nice warm cuppa and friendly chat.



Midgham Village Hall Bazaar

Saturday 23rd November 11am-2pm free entry

There will be a table top sale in the hall. Come and buy your Christmas presents early: Stalls will include beautiful handmade jewellery and household furnishings. There will also be charity stalls in aid of the hospice, donkeys and the Village Hall.

Tea and cake will be on sale [£1] and a Raffle with proceeds in aid of the Village Hall.

EVERYONE WELCOME.

Midgham Village Hall Christmas party.

On Wednesday the 11th December 10.30-2pm

Everyone from Midgham and the surrounding villages is invited to come and enjoy

a Christmas celebration with your neighbours and friends.

Please bring a plate of food to share: sausage rolls, sandwiches, mince pies....

or you can pay £5. [Tea and coffee will be available but you may bring your own drink if you prefer.]

Please contact Sharon on bobandsharon327@gmail.com if you are able to come so we can better prepare and plan a wide range of food to share.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Woolhampton News

Woolhampton & Midgham WI

Hello Everyone and Happy November! It will certainly be November when you are reading this. Dark days, long nights, fireworks and hopefully a bit of frost to replenish the gardens.

It is two months since I sent in news of our goings on at the WI. We have had two very interesting speakers. The first in September was the lovely Ailsa Claybourn from the Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre who came to talk about butterflies. Ailsa really gave us a delightful evening as she showed slides of the most beautiful specimens and told us where to find them. We learned the difference between the moth and the butterfly – not always easy to tell. We were surprised to learn that there are two and a half thousand species of moth – but only 69 species of butterfly in the British Isles. Sadly, it has not been a good year for butterflies. Ailsa told us that the floods we had over the winter and into the spring had decimated the number of butterflies which were lying dormant in their cocoons and sadly millions died. We hope the winter is kinder this year and numbers begin to recover.

Our speaker in October was Stuart Flitton, a journalist for over 30 years. He started his career in the early 70's in Johannesburg during the very strict apartheid regime writing 'News In Brief' – snippets of news no more than 50 words in length. He came up through reporting in the courts, Motoring reports, and then as a press reporter at demonstrations in South Africa. His time in Africa gave him many enviable memories – he attended the Queen concert in South Africa and ended up with Freddie Mercury sleeping in the back of his car.

His many narrow escapes as the demonstrations against apartheid became more violent and indiscriminate police brutality more dangerous led him to return to the UK where he soon climbed the ladder. Back in the UK, he luckily met an old friend who was working on The Times newspaper at a senior level, who gave him the break into the Broadsheets.

Next came the transition from the early printing presses through to the present digital age and the turmoil in the printing industry that it brought about. It was a very interesting talk which gave us a good insight into the many facets of working to deadlines on a newspaper.

We have a visit to the Needlework Exhibition at The Base, Greenham Common coming up this month. We are planning a Christmas meal out – probably at a garden centre restaurant in early December, so already our thoughts are turning towards Christmas and plans are afoot for our Christmas Party and other Festive activities.

If you like the sound of our WI group and would like to pay us a visit, we meet every month on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. You would be very welcome to come to any meeting as a guest.

Further information from our President, Mrs Beryl Smith. Tel: 01635 861374

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 30th 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.

Village Market

The next Market will be on Saturday 2nd November from 10a.m. to 12noon in the Village Hall. As Christmas rapidly approaches (yes, really!) come along to see what a wonderful chance the Market provides to seek out perhaps unusual quality presents. 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. Just ask!

All visitors are welcome to this monthly community event – no entrance fee, refreshments including hot bacon rolls (*delicious!*) are available. It's a great opportunity to meet friends and neighbours who you may not have seen for a while.

Defibrillators in Woolhampton

Ever hopeful that it will not be needed, the defibrillator sited on the (former Post Office) outer wall of the Angel has now been refurbished and is usable.

For information, there are two other defibrillators in Woolhampton, one at the Village hall and the other on the outer wall of 6 Angel Mead (with kind permission of the house owner).

Harvest Festival 2024

St Peter's Church, Woolhampton was beautifully decorated for Harvest Festival by members of the community and pupils from Elstree Pre-Prep School. Uplifting services were held for the Village, Woolhampton Primary School and Elstree School when the congregations generously gave donations for the West Berkshire Foodbank who are helping local people in crisis. It is important for us to give thanks for the wonder of nature – harvest has always been a beautiful part of life when the year's work bears fruit and the people are fed. It is symbolic of bounty, health and abundance.

A bring and share Harvest Lunch was held in the Milking Parlour at Monksmead Farm after the Sunday service. It was a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together and enjoy each other's company.

The words of John Keats in 'Ode to Autumn' sums up this time of year so well.

"Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves
run;...."

Many thanks to all of you who helped by decorating, cooking or providing donations.



Warners - the Staff of Life & Writing on the Wall

In 1875 George Warner came from Reading and established his Woolhampton bakery in the present 'Old Bakery', Bath Road. Bread, the staple diet of the majority in these Victorian years, consumed at a rate of one 1/2 lb per person daily (more than a quarter of a 4lb large loaf providing 40% of total calories). There were strict regulations regarding the sale of this staple. Bakers were obliged to have scales in their shops and on the delivery cart – a large loaf was 4lb - and their wares might be stopped to be weighed while on the road or awaiting sale in their shops.



George also catered for village events and provided pancakes for Douai on Shrove Tuesday when the whole family (there were eight children) were busy from dawn with the red crock frying pan. He was a leading member of the village Congregational chapel, a crack shot, and a member of the local Yeomanry. He was assisted in the bakery by eldest son Horace (aka Tommy) who was later employed in the bakery at Douai and his own business as jobs master – a horse drawn taxi service. During the 1914-18 war he served as a field baker. During his absence, father George died and younger brother Frank, landlord at the 'Rising Sun' took over his father's business. Blacksmith Albert Shuttle had built a shop at the foot of Woolhampton Hill for daughters Annie and Lizzie. They were pleased to relinquish the business and allow Horace to install his ovens, open a business, the 'Broadway Bakery', and display his name on the side of the present 'Willows', Bath Road - still visible today.

Prior to establishing the 'Broadway Bakery', Horace and wife spent their early married life in the present 'Old Post House' that had, in previous years, housed the village infant school at which Horace had been a pupil.

During the 1930s, Horace's younger brother Montague had built a bakery on the site of the present 'Bakewell House', Bath Road. He later moved to farming and the bakery was bought by nephew Tommy who expanded the business and in the 1960s it held a mini market. Tommy died in 1963 and the family business closed in 1975 – 100 years after George Warner had opened at the 'Old Bakery', Bath Road.

There is also writing on the wall of 'Bakewell House' – 'Old Woolhampton Bakery established 1875.' - correct but not on this site.

This is but part of the story of the Warners in Woolhampton.

John Trigg

(nb. John is always willing to have a chat about local history at the monthly market. C.V)



Woolhampton CE Primary School

Enabling all to Flourish

It is hard to believe that this year's intake of children into Beech Class (Foundation), have only been in the school for six weeks. I watched them take part in Collective Worship today, and I was incredibly proud to see how they had adjusted to school life, and how attentive and well behaved they all were.

Beech Class do a great deal of their learning outside the classroom, taking advantage of our outdoor space, where they have a variety of different areas dedicated to maths, art, music, writing, construction, science and more. Our team of brilliant teaching staff are always looking at ways to enhance this area and provide new and varied challenges for the children (and replace items damaged by this endless rain). They have provided a list that would greatly help in this and I wonder whether anyone has any of the following things, in relatively good condition, that they would be happy to donate to the school?

Musical Instruments (e.g.) maracas, bells, tambourines, drums, gongs, chimes, triangles etc.

Buckets, spades, a small wheelbarrow.

Gravel/stones to fill our construction area.

Large chalkboards.

Outdoor easel, paintbrushes large and small.

Tarpaulin, camouflage netting for dens.

Planks, cable reels, tyres, guttering, plastic pipes.

Large plant pots, compost.

If you think you might be able to help, we would be very grateful. Please do contact the school by email at office@woolhampton.school.org to arrange drop off, or we can arrange a pickup if this is easier for you.

Kate Moir
Foundation Governor

WOOLHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEER TRUSTEES

Following its opening in 2006, Woolhampton Village Hall has become a thriving centre of our community with a variety of regular group activities and one-off events for all ages.

Run by a collection of volunteers, who form the Village Hall Management Committee, additional volunteers are needed to become Village Hall Trustees and protect the longevity of this unique resource for the village.

If you feel you are able to commit to attending 4 evening meetings per year then please contact our Chair of Trustees, Nikki Jordan, for more information at: npm151924@gmail.com

What's on in Woolhampton Village Hall

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

Mondays

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

Dance Fit with Lorraine – 5.45pm

Pilates with Lorraine 6.35pm

Tuesdays

Stroke Care – 9am until 3pm

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

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

Womens 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

Releve Dance – 4pm until 6pm.

Fridays

Bowls – 2.30pm until 5pm.

For any further information please visit: www.woolhamptonvillagehall.co.uk
Bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com

Aldermaston News

Aldermaston

Coffee Club

Drop by for a chat, a chance to meet old friends and to make new ones.
Join us in the conservatory area of Hilliers' café on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday
of each month, any time from 10.00am – 11.30am.

Everyone is welcome – just come along.

For further details contact Cynthia Newman 0118 971 3525



The 68th year of the
York Nativity Play



Held in the Parish Church of
St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston

Thursday 7th December 8:00pm

Friday 8th December 8:00pm

Saturday 9th December 7:00pm

Sunday 10th December 7:00pm

For free tickets

Online at www.aldermastonnativity.co.uk

Email at tickets@aldermastonnativity.co.uk

Or send an S.A.E to

York Nativity Play, Church Lodge, Aldermaston, Berks RG7 4LT

THE ALDERMASTON CHARITY

A local Charity that manages four Alms Houses and provides relief in need for residents of the Parish of Aldermaston.

Would you be interested in part time employment as a Clerk to the Charity responsible for supporting the Trustees and some property management.

Working hours would need to be flexible for approx. 10 hours per month at £15 per hour. A high level of confidentiality would be required. The successful applicant would need their own computer and appropriate skills and access to their own transport. Closing date for applications: 30th November 2024.

For further information please contact:

Angela Boott: ange@kennetonline.co.uk or

Cynthia Newman: cmnewman2021@outlook.com

ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We sent two teams of KS1 children to take part in our local Multiskills Festival at Theale Green School to test their skills against teams from several other local primary schools. The children took part in a lovely range of activities including speed stacking, boccia, golf skills and archery, to score points for their team. Many thanks to our teachers for organising our participation and for accompanying the children and to the parents and friends who came along to encourage the children and cheer loudly. The children looked so smart in their school sports kit, and everyone was very impressed with the support they gave their teammates and their exemplary behaviour.

Our Family Learning Morning was a great success with more than 70 parents and carers coming into school to join in with music lessons. These sessions are designed for parents to learn alongside their child/ren and are encouraged to get fully involved, rather than just watching and the pupils love sharing their learning and showing what they can achieve. Each term we look at a different aspect of the curriculum for these special sessions. The music topic allowed us to show how music lessons are taught across the different classes and ages and how technology is being used to enhance the learning and skills of the children.

The PTA is busy organising a Glow & Glitter Disco which should be great fun, and we hope to see plenty of moves on the dance floor. The PTA team works hard to raise valuable money to support the school and this year so far over £3400 has been given to school, including £1000 towards remedial work on the outdoor play equipment. Future planned activities include a movie night, a Valentines disco and a Colour Run in the spring.

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor

Aldermaston Parish Council –8th October 2024

In Open Forum, we were faced by local residents who objected strongly to plans for significant expansion at Aldermaston Recycling on Paice's Hill. Volume of traffic, noise and dust pollution were among the reasons given for their objection (see also below).

On the planning front, this month we had three applications, two of which were classed (by WBC!) as major. Dealing with our only non-major application, we decided not to object to Burnt Pine, Reading Road. Essentially the owners want to demolish an existing outbuilding and replace it with a garden room to the rear of the property.

Consistent with our policy of not wishing to see any increase in HGV traffic on the existing A340, we will object to both major applications. We don't see the 7-fold expansion of Aldermaston Recycling (please see above) as feasible given their current footprint. We will also oppose the variation in conditions for the proposed new industrial estate at Black's Lake, also on Paice's Hill, as the current proposal bears little resemblance to the existing proposal that was granted outline approval 4 years ago. With regard the latter, we will also write to WBC to ascertain precisely what the granting of outline planning means.

Speaking of WBC, we were disappointed to learn of their Chief Executive, Nigel Lynn is standing down after just 3 years in post. We had great expectations of him, especially as he had been out to see us and discuss our long-term problems.

Success! The overhanging vegetation on the footpath to the Church has been cleared although how much of this is due to Triangle and how much is due to Praxis is debateable. We were advised that the gate between the Church and the car park was locked. This could cause problems for the wedding goers who are expected this weekend.

The allotments have been broken in. As well as entering several locked sheds, some vegetables have been stolen. The local police have agreed to help, but please be vigilant, especially with reporting unusual incidents. And talking of anti-social behaviour, the local rector has reported that even the Church graveyard has been targeted!

As you have probably read elsewhere, WBC are currently running a consultation on waste recycling. Amongst their proposals is the suggestion to reduce the frequency of black bin collection from fortnightly to once every three weeks. They claim such a move would be cost neutral and not lead to increases in such scourges as littering and fly tipping. If you disagree, you know what to do, noting that the deadline for comments is 6th November!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th November at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. As usual, your presence is welcomed!

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

Dave Shirt
tel. 0118 971 2549



WINTER FAYRE

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER


11AM - 3PM

Aldermaston Parish Hall

FREE GLASS OF MULLED WINE
OR HOT CIDER ON ENTRY



BAKE SALE | TOMBOLA | FACE PAINTING |
SANTAS GROTTO | ADULTS & CHILDRENS CRAFTS |
LETTER TO SANTA | GIFT STALLS | RAFFLE |
REFRESHMENTS

 Aldermaston
Parish Hall



THIS IS A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR ALDERMASTON PARISH HALL (#300110)
CARD & CASH PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

Beenham News

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM – NOVEMBER 2024

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
Sat 2 nd	Church Working Party. All help is most welcome	St Mary's Church 10am	Janette:07917818 283
Mon 4 th	Parish Council Meeting 7pm	Community Rm	
Wed 6 th	Beenham Club AGM 8pm	Club	
Thu 7 th	Beenham Walking Group: Wokefield Common and Pullens Pond	Meet at Victory Hall - 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Sat 9 th	CHRISTMAS Village Market and repair shop 2-3.30pm	Victory Hall	01183430548
Wed 13 th	WI- Jeff Evans on "Questionable History of the TV Quiz show" £4 non-members	Community Rm 7.30pm	Sally:07776 251 228
Thu 14 th	Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6 £4/person	Six Bells 7.30 for 8pm	9713368 to book
Sat 16 th	Greyfield Woods Volunteer Morning. 8.30am – 12pm	Meet at wood entrance	John:9712924
Sat 16 th	Calleva Stick Dressers 9am–2pm	Victory Hall	David:07864 180 648
Sat 16 th	Live Music and Acoustic Night 7.30pm	Beenham Club	9713991
Wed 20 th	Beenham Friendship Club for over 55s Christmas tea with Millie - 2pm	Victory Hall	Marion:9713094 Tina:01635826154
Thu 21 st	Beenham Walking Group: walk on Snelsmore Common	Meet at Victory Hall - 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Sat 23 rd	BARN DANCE with Inisheer Folk Band 7.00 for 7.30pm £10/ticket	Victory Hall Club open	Contact Nola for tickets: 01189714822
Tue 26 th	Beenham Tearoom 2pm-3.30pm	Victory Hall	Dru:07815 055 040 Pat:07947 478 840
Sat 30 th	Ukraine Fundraisers: 2 or 3 bands booked from 3pm.	Beenham Club	
DEC Wed 4 th	Bel Canto Trio Fun Christmas Concert	St Mary's Church 6.30pm	Janette:07917818 283

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

SAVE THE DATE:
WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER
Returning by popular request!
The Belle Canto Trio
Will perform a fun CHRISTMAS concert in
St Mary's Church, Beenham at 6.30pm
Mulled wine and mince pies. £12.50 a ticket.
Contact: Pat 07947478840 or Janette 07917818283

BEENHAM PRE-SCHOOL

Autumn is a very exciting time in any Early Years setting ... with Christmas on the horizon and a garden full of leaves and pine cones and then the arrival of pumpkins and all the excitement of Halloween. We have been embracing the recent dramatic weather and still getting outside as much as we can as almost every activity is better outside.

We have also been enjoying our visits from the West Berkshire Library Van and welcoming Pop Up Play Village and Outdoor Explorers, all at no charge to our families as we always ensure that everyone can join in with the fun no matter their circumstances. We have also been doing some cooking and baking this term, making soup and pizzas to warm us on chilly days. As this goes to press we are thinking about gingerbread men ... another tasty treat to bake!

Our sessions are full, but we are still doing tours for families who wish to join the waiting list for this academic year or reserve their spaces for September 2025 onwards. We can run tours in sessions or after hours depending on your schedules so, please do get in touch if you would like to know more.

Paula Read (Beenham Pre-School Manager)
Telephone: 07793 116937

Greyfield Wood

Hello from Greyfield Wood!

Regular visitors to the wood should have seen some significant changes since my last article. In early October we received our felling license from The Forestry Commission for the work we need to do in the wood. The actual felling is to bigger job for the regular volunteer team, so the work has been contracted out to Richard Edwards and his team from The Englefield Estate. At the time of writing, the start of this work has been delayed by rain! This is because the contractors will be using very heavy machinery to get into the site, fell, cut to size and then extract the timber. I trust that by the time you read this, work will be well under-way.

Please excuse the temporary closures of some paths whilst the work is being done and please follow an instructions from any signs/ barriers. Your safety is our main concern.

I look forward to posting updates on the Beenham Village and Community Facebook pages. If you wish to discuss any aspect of the forthcoming work please feel free to speak with myself or any of the other directors.

In the meantime, please continue to enjoy our woodland.

John Hammond
john@meadvale-bay.com, tel 07818 400440



BEENHAM VILLAGE EVENTS

The beautiful **BEENHAM 2025 CALENDARS** will be on sale at the Christmas Market on November 9th. We have two versions available as we received so many wonderful entries. They're £5 each and if you would like to pre-order/order one, please call Janette (07917818283) or Pat (07947478840)

CHRISTMAS 2024

The Village Advent Window Calendar

If you would like to take part in the Village Christmas Advent windows, we have a few dates left!

- If you decide to take part, you will be allocated a date in December from 1-24
- Keep your number a secret
- Plan your advent window – go as wild as you want but don't forget to include the **number!**
- Unveil your window to the world on the morning of your allocated day
- Keep the decorations up until **New Year's Day**

Contact: **Pat Owen** patowen0@hotmail.com 07947478840 – stating child or adult category and preferred date (we'll do our best to give you this)

CHRISTMAS IN BEENHAM - DATES FOR THE CALENDAR

SUNDAY DECEMBER 1st

4pm Christingle in St Mary's – please get there early to be certain of a seat.

5pm Beenham tree lighting outside the school.

Followed by the traditional village mulled wine and mince pies in the Community Hall, with The **DO COME AND PLAY ORCHESTRA (Da Capo)** playing carols

From 6pm Supper at the Six Bells!



IF ANYONE IS WILLING TO DONATE/MAKE MINCE PIES FOR THE TREE LIGHTING EVENT PLEASE LET ME KNOW OR LEAVE THEM IN THE BOX IN NOLA'S PORCH AT FERNWOOD OPPOSITE THE SCHOOL FROM NOVEMBER 15TH. MANY THANKS

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4th

Bel Canto Christmas concert in St Mary's 6.30pm

FRIDAY DECEMBER 6TH

Beenham Primary School Christmas Fayre from 5pm – 7pm.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14th

Victory Hall Market

MONDAY DECEMBER 16th

Santa's visit to Beenham from 5pm – More exciting details in December's Villages' News

TO VOLUNTEER to help at any of these events please contact: patowen0@hotmail.com
07947478840

Beenham Village Market will next take place on Saturday November 9th from 2pm to 3.30pm and is a Christmas themed market. This month you will be able to buy cashmere and silk pashminas and coats at bargain prices; buy lovely Christmas presents ranging from cosmetics to candles to jewellery to wooden bowls; order your Christmas joint of beef from Beenham Park Produce; pick up bargains at the bric-a-brac stalls; stock up on pet food - and much more. Bring your recycling to the Greener Beenham stall: or bring items for repair to the Repair Shop where we can mend anything from vacuum cleaners to jackets. And stop for a lovely homemade cake with a hot drink!

The market takes place on the second Saturday of each month and if you are interested in having a stall, please contact Sally Pellow on 0777 625 1228 or mrssallypellow@gmail.com.

Beenham allotments

Like all gardeners Beenham allotmenters have all complained about the poor season we have just had.

Even the potato competition yielded half last year's weight in potatoes.

One quick crop that everyone can grow is radish; in fact you could sow a quick crop now and produce a really tasty soup to keep you warm now the nights are closing in and the threat of frost draws closer.

Radish Leaf soup;

- 50g butter plus a good splash of olive oil
- 2 onions, peeled and chopped
- 6 garlic cloves, peeled and roughly chopped (I like garlic, reduce or leave out if you don't)
- 1 tbsp dried mixed herbs
- 500g of peeled, diced potatoes (more for a more filling soup)
- 500ml water
- 1ltr vegetable or light chicken stock
- Salt and ground black pepper to taste.
- Radish leaves – when prepared enough to fill a two litre jug or more if available.

Method to Prepare Radish leaf Soup

1. Melt the butter and oil in the base of a large pan. Add the chopped onion and garlic and cook for a couple of minutes, stirring frequently until the onion is softened and translucent.
2. Add the cubed potatoes and dried herbs to the pan. Stir for a minute and then add the water. Bring to the boil then lower the heat, cover, and simmer for about 10-15 minutes, until the potatoes are tender.
3. Whilst the potatoes are cooking, prepare the radish leaves by cutting off stalks below the leaves and washing thoroughly in cold water.
4. Check potatoes and if softened add the radish leaves and the stock. Stir and bring to a boil again. Lower the heat and simmer with the lid on for 5 minutes. The leaves should be completely wilted.
5. Use a stick blender in the pan until the soup is smooth. Add salt and ground black pepper to taste.
6. Optionally when serving stir in a couple of good dessert spoonfuls of Greek yogurt. If batch cooking for freezing, do not add yogurt which may separate when thawed and reheated.

This made enough for 10 good servings. It freezes well and keeps for at least a year at -18°C Just reduce amounts if you want to make less.

Yorkshire Lady

Three men were sitting together bragging about how they had given their new wives household duties to perform.

Terry had married a woman from America and bragged that he had told his new wife to do the dishes and make sure all the house was clean. He said it took a couple of days but on the third day he came home to a clean house and all the dishes were washed and put away. Mark had married a woman from Australia and he bragged that he had given his new wife orders to do all the cleaning, dishes and the cooking. He told them the first day he didn't see any results, but the next day it was better and by the third day his house was clean, the dishes done and there was a huge meal on the table.

Andy said that he had married a Yorkshire girl. He boasted that the duties he had ordered her to do were to keep the house cleaned, dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry washed and hot meals on the table every day.

He said the first day he didn't see anything, the second day he didn't see anything, but by the third day most of the swelling had gone down and he could see a little bit out of his left eye, enough to fix himself a bite to eat, load the dishwasher and call a landscaper.

Notes from Beenham Parish Council meeting on 7th October

Public Forum

WBC have been notified that school road sign has completely fallen over.
The Village Tea Party raised £200 for MacMillan Cancer Care in September.

Affordable Housing Survey

Connected Communities Berkshire reported 257 responses to the survey - 47% of the 550 sent out - this was exceptionally high. 68% of respondees were supportive of building between 4 -10 affordable homes for those with connections to Beenham. There is a need and demand for such a development. The full results of will be presented at a **public meeting** in the Victory Hall at **2.00pm** on **Sat 26th Oct**. Please come along to discuss next steps and possible sites.

Councillor reports

Parking on pavements has continued. The Police Community Support Officer is to look at pedestrian safety. Introducing a bye-law to cover the issue was discussed.

The future of Beenham Social Club was discussed. A new Committee is to be elected at the **AGM, on Wed 6th Nov at 8.00pm** as the current Members are standing down. A flyer has been sent out. There is no desire to close the Club permanently as it is an important Community asset. Please come to the AGM to see if you can help to keep it active.

Planning Matters

Application 24/01822/FUL. Norbeck, Bath Rd, Padworth. Proposed erection of 4 terraced houses following demolition of existing buildings. No objection – NB this may be overdevelopment.

Applications 24/01819/LBC and 24/01818/HOUSE. Malthouse Farm, Cods Hill. Proposed extension and alteration to existing farmhouse. No objection

Approved 24/01216/HOUSE. Ararat, Beenham Hill. New Garage. Approval noted.

Parish Councillors

WBC are introducing a new on-demand bus service to replace the 41/44 service from around Mon 21 October. The operating area will include Beenham. Details of how it may operate are on the notice boards.

PC has asked for more info. regarding (a) timing (b) notice and (c) will the late afternoon Connect C extend to Beenham for passengers on the bus or boarding at Aldermaston Wharf?

The acoustic fence on Awberry Farm's driveway, a requirement the wedding venue approval. There have been reports that the narrow public footpath to the right of the fence is intimidating. PC to contact WBC.

Aldermaston defibrillator. Still waiting for WBC Streetcare to visit potential sites.

Mallard Way, Aldermaston Wharf parking issues. The PCSO to be contacted.

Ragwort infestation. No replies have been received to date from other PCs.

The suggested speed limit of 20mph in the village. According to WBC we do not satisfy the criteria for this. A 20mph zone in the vicinity of the School is to be suggested.

A 3 week cycle of black bin collections to be introduced. Although the PC understands and agrees with the aim of reduced waste and increased recycling. This may make more money available for other local Community matters.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Mon Nov 4th at 7.00pm in the Community Room.

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



Beenham Primary School Christmas Fayre

Friday 6th December, 5-7pm

We are delighted to be holding our Christmas Fayre again this year, with a selection of stalls providing unique gifts and treats, plus raffles with 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 WI

Beenham WI had a fascinating talk last month on Royal Weddings, covering everything from child brides to outrageous outfits: we were enthralled, entertained and educated. At our next meeting, on November 13th, we will be welcoming Newbury author, question setter and quiz champion Jeff Evans, who will be speaking on the Questionable History of the TV Quiz show: this should be very interesting indeed. Visitors - men as well as women - are very welcome to come along: our meeting starts at 7.30 with no more than five minutes spent on WI business at the start of the meeting, before we move on to the speaker. Our speakers normally talk for half an hour to forty five minutes, and take questions; we then round off the evening with tea/coffee and biscuits, and a small raffle. The charge for visitors is £4.

Beenham WI is part of the national organisation of Women's Institutes, which has a long and successful history of campaigning on matters of national interest to women. This year's national campaign is aimed at improving the provision of NHS based dental care across the country, specifically addressing the chronic shortage of NHS dentists. The WI also provides free online learning to its members ranging from crafts to history to computer literacy courses, and, at regional and local level, offers a variety of activities and groups for entertainment, friendship and inspiration. If you would like to know more about Beenham WI, please contact Sally Pellow on 0777 625 1228 or mrssallypellow@gmail.com.



Brimpton Church of England Primary School

Amazing things happen here.....

The start of the Autumn Term has been as busy as it always is. It has been lovely listening to all the stories and adventures that the children had during their summer holidays and time off school. All the children, and staff, look amazing in their new uniform and as always look 'perfectly purple' in every way. We all look forward to the start of a new academic year and to watch our 'Brimpton family' grow with confidence and compassion and energy.

Heidi Davies - Head Teacher

Arlington Arts

One of our past pupils received an award at Arlington at the end of September for his contribution to Gymnastics and as he attended Brimpton our school choir were asked to perform at the event. It was such a special evening and our children stood up to the challenge as always. Singing at Brimpton is one of our passions and we have some beautiful voices and very proud of all our pupils



Sporting Events

All year groups at Brimpton have already taken part in a local sporting events, and as always have made us all proud! Year 1 and 2 attended Theale Green to take part in Multiskills. Year 5 and 6 took part in Foot Golf at Park House and most of our children attend Sports Club on a Friday after school.

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

We held an event after school to raise money for this worthwhile charity. Thank you to all our parents, families and the community for supporting us and helping us all to make a donation to this amazing cause.

If you require any other information regarding Brimpton School

Please contact Mrs Sarah Vockins on 0118-9712311

office@brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk www.brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk

Brimpton Parish Council

The Parish Council met at the Village Hall on **Tuesday 1st October**. Among the items discussed were:

Joanne Watson, the Chair of the Brimpton Common Residents' Group, reported on recent developments at Blacknest Lane field.

Plot E – West Berkshire Council has served the owner with a planning enforcement notice related to the work already carried out.

Plot F – The planning application for a house has been refused by West Berkshire Council.

Plot H – The planning application was refused. The applicant has until 22nd November to appeal against this decision.

Twin Paddocks – the owner has appealed against the enforcement notice served on them by West Berkshire Council. There are now two appeals related to this site. A case management conference is scheduled for 20th October and the public hearing has been scheduled for January 2025.

We discussed the new planning application for Plot E in the Blacknest Lane field, which seeks a change of use of the land to equestrian and the formation of an access bridge to Brimpton Lane. We decided to object to the application as the site is not considered large enough for a horse, there is no plan for a stable and there is no indication as to how water would be provided on the site. In addition, the application seeks permission to build an entrance from Brimpton Lane using a railway sleeper bridge. The entrance has already been created using hardcore.

We noted that planning approval has been granted for alterations to Shalford Farm House and to Brimpton House. We had supported both of these applications.

The planning application for the demolition of the Traveller's Friend pub and the building of 18 flats had been recommended for approval but awaits further information on drainage.

The application to Basingstoke & Deane Council for a change of use to car sales at the site of The Pineapple (more recently La Capanna) in Brimpton Common, which was to have been considered by the B&D Planning Committee in September, appears not yet to have been decided. This may be because there is a problem with the application, or the Committee had too many items to discuss.

The Parochial Church Council requested £3,500 for repairs and maintenance to the footpath around St Peter's Church. We agreed to the application which will be paid from the Community Infrastructure Levy funds that we hold.

The Village Hall Management Committee submitted two grant requests, one for £840.30 to replace the security alarm and another for £4,132.08 to purchase new chairs. John Dolphin, Chairman of the Committee, explained that the Village Hall's reserves could not be used as they have been earmarked to deal with items raised in the recent condition survey. We agreed to both applications which will be paid from the Community Infrastructure Levy funds that we hold.

The Parish Council will meet again on **Tuesday 5th November**, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All residents are welcome to attend the meeting.

John Hicks, Chairman, Brimpton Parish Council

BRIMPTON W

At September's meeting we took advantage of catching up during the social time.

Our talk was by local craftsman, Jason Leggett, entitled, "Working with Glass". Jason talked of several different vocations in his early working years. He was not happy or fulfilled in any of them. His life changing experience came after attending a series of short courses on aspects of working with glass.

Initially these formed a basis of a hobby. As his skill and knowledge in the craft increased, he decided to make it his career. It was a big step to take but being able to immerse himself in the craft he loved and earn a living, felt was the right thing to do.

In his studio in Mortimer he not only creates his own work but teaches others. A particular favourite he finds very rewarding is teaching Autistic children, some of whom he says are extraordinarily creative.

Most people know of the stained-glass windows which over the centuries has decorated many churches, public and private buildings in this country. Nowadays whilst glass artists are being commissioned to make new designs, there is a large demand for conservation, restoration and repair of glass windows dating back over 500 years.

This is very dirty work as the putty and lead crumbles during removal then mixes with the grime and soot on the old glass and gets everywhere. Wherever possible the original glass is cleaned and put back into the window. This is held in place by new leads. Colours are matched for correctness, and any broken or missing pieces are replaced. Some windows incorporate glass which has been painted with enamels to include detail of faces, hands, clothes etc. This requires greater artistic craftsmanship, as any new glass will need to be matched with the old.

Following the procedure used by the original craftsman, the outline of the design is sketched onto the background glass colour, and is checked against the adjacent pieces before the rest of the detail is painted in. This is then heated in a kiln to fuse the enamels onto the glass. Once cool the new pieces are placed into the design and the task of re-leading and soldering in place undertaken.

Another well-known area of glass artistry is blown glass. This is highly skilled and the way flat sheets of glass was first made. A cylindrical shape was blown then the molten glass was cut with shears. The cylinder opened and the glass uncurled itself on a flat surface. Flat sheets of glass can be painted with enamels, then piled up on top of one another, to create an image with depth and then fused together in a kiln. When looking along the edges, the number of sheets used to create the final piece can be counted.

Jason admitted that blown glass is the technique he enjoys doing most.

He gave us a fascinating talk and his enthusiasm for glass of all kinds was evident. After the meeting we had the opportunity to look at some pieces he had brought with him. These included those he uses for his beginner's workshops.

Our next meeting is at 7:30pm on Tuesday, 19 November in Brimpton Village Hall. Our speaker will be Sarah Cox who will talk on C.R.I.M.E. Tea, coffee and homemade cakes will be served after the speaker.

If you would like to find out more about our activities, please contact our President Shelley Bassil (0118 971 0563) or our Secretary, Annette Dolphin (0118 971 0090) or use our dedicated email link brimptonwi@berkshirewi.co.uk

Remembrance Service

including
2 minutes silence



at
**BRIMPTON
WAR MEMORIAL**

**Monday
11th November
at 10.50 a.m.**

*Refreshments in St Peter's Church
after the service*

**COFFEE
MORNING and
Christmas themed
Bring-and Buy**

**Brimpton Church
Wednesday, 13th November
10 am - 11.30 am**



All welcome.

Brimpton diary dates

Tuesday 5th November: Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

Monday 11th November: Remembrance Service at the War Memorial, starting at 10.45am.

Wednesday 13th November: Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale .

Saturday 23rd November: Brimpton WI's Christmas Craft Day at the Village Hall. Open to all, but not suitable for children. Cost is £20 per person, to include all materials, lunch and refreshments. For further details contact brimptonwi@berkshirewi.co.uk

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

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

Brimpton 100 Club

The 100 Club winner for October was no. 61, David Wilcox



A Brimpton Day to Remember

At Manor Farm we've celebrated parties by the score,
On birthdays, anniversaries, Rogation Days and more.
The Bowdens' hospitality is legendary here –
We feast with them and laugh and, on occasion, shed a tear.
We've blessed the cattle and the crops, miscanthus, wheat and barley,
While Mike and Mandy led the way, accompanied by Harley.

And then, in 2024 at Michaelmas, we met
To celebrate the harvest in a way we won't forget:
A century of service to the people and the land,
And such a crowd of friends that there was barely room to stand.
The service and the barbecue were truly just the best of all,
So Brimpton's thanks, dear Bowdens, for a special Harvest Festival.



RUTHANN PICKETT

4 April 1967-24 September 2024

RuthAnn will be remembered for her positive, friendly, outgoing nature. She was warm and welcoming to everyone she came across and always had kind words of encouragement, be it to make a cake or attempting craftwork.

Damien and RuthAnn moved to the Baptist Church in Brimpton 2022. They soon became involved in the local community and supported village functions where their personalities shone through. RuthAnn became a committed member of the WI, joined the local craft group and attended the CofE coffee mornings on a regular basis, often entertaining us with delightful stories of her past.

She was passionate about home education and became a homeschooler within the Baptist Church and held religion related sessions on a Wednesday for children who were being homeschooled. I have since learned that RuthAnn homeschooled her two sons, Damien Jnr and Dakota. Her other activities within the Baptist Church, which I know she undertook with energy and enthusiasm, included Holiday Bible Clubs, Prayer Groups and a number of church events such as the magnificent Firework Party and Nativity Play with a twist in 2023.

Beside all the work and activities within the church RuthAnn loved to walk in the countryside and often walked from the Baptist Church across the fields up to the footpaths beside St Peter's Church.

Sadly, as a village we did not have long to get to know her very well but those she did meet will remember with great respect, love, and for the joy she spread wherever she went.

It is difficult to relay what a kind, sincere, warm, loving lady, RuthAnn was in such a short article but I know I would have loved to get to know her better.

WRITTEN IN STONE

When you pass by this place, pause to take breath:
as your heart beats draw in the gift of life.
Remember that each one named here in death
was loved in life by mother, sweetheart, wife.

Look back across the intervening years
to the young men returning; call to mind
their brave pretence at hope, and hold your tears
to see their bodies shell-shocked, limbless, blind.

Look down where trenches split apart the earth,
and sickening stench of death rose from the mud:
let all who stand here so disturb our Earth
that from each life love flows instead of blood.

Look up and read the names carved here in stone
and make your strong resolve that war shall cease.
Breathe out your blessing, not on these alone
but all who long to see the world at peace.

Jennifer Henderson





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Drop off food donations points are listed below.

Food items urgently needed

Lunchbox individual fruit juice, wet wipes, shaving foam, tinned vegetables, variety pack cereal, tinned tomatoes/passata, tin meat meals – curry, hotpot, pies etc.

Low on stock

Tinned fruit, honey, custard/rice pudding, long life sponge puddings, tinned soup, size 4 and 8 nappies.

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
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West Berks Foodbank

NATURE NOTES

Only a few years ago gardening magazines and others were full of advertisements for products for killing almost every insect under the sun. Now they are full of products to promote their well-being. What a turnaround! And I do think they have bounced back quite a lot, what with bee hotels and 'scruffy' places left in gardens. Having said that, I think this year has not suited such things as grasshoppers, although we have seen a few crickets.

We are all aware of the damage that snails can do and destroy any eggs we find. Yesterday my daughter noticed a minute snail on vegetables I had brought in. It must have been newly hatched; it was practically transparent, but was moving purposely on her finger, with 'antennae' outstretched. It was so sweet we carefully put it outside on a leaf! How daft was that?

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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

3 November	16:00	All Souls
10 November	10:50	Remembrance
17 November	10:45	Morning Praise

St Mary's, Beenham

3 November	09:15	Morning Praise
10 November	10:50	Remembrance
24 November	09:15	Holy Communion

St Peter's, Brimpton

3 November	10:45	Morning Praise
10 November	09:15	Said Communion
11 November	10:50	Remembrance
24 November	10:45	Holy Communion

St Matthew's, Midgham

3 November	09:15	BCP Communion
10 November	10:50	Remembrance
24 November	16:00	Sung Evensong

St Nicholas, Wasing

3 November	10:45	Holy Communion
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St Peter's, Woolhampton

10 November	10:50	Remembrance
17 November	10:45	Holy Communion
24 November	10:45	Holy Communion

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Woolhampton, Watermill Ct	10.35-11.15
Wednesday	November 6th
Aldermaston, Forsters	9.30-9.50
Beenham, Stoneyfields	3.15-4.00

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