
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: Des Farndell: 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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Thattham RG19 4QB . Tel: 01635 876498

Committee Comments

The seasons are changing and as we move towards Autumn there is much to look forward to in our local countryside. The harvests are in, the conkers are getting ready to drop from the horse chestnut trees and we start to see the mist early in the mornings. The long hot (and sometimes rainy) days of Summer are behind us, and we can reflect that with our British weather, no two days are ever the same and it always provides us a topic of conversation.

This magazine is full of local news, and we are grateful to everyone who contributes an article or sends information about a local event. If you have something to share with our local community, please contact your village representative whose details are listed below. Thanks as always go to our regular contributors, the dedicated team which delivers the magazines to you all and our advertisers whose financial support allows us to provide this magazine free of charge.

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

“Articles will be included and/or edited at the Editor’s discretion”

Brimpton News

Ride and Stride for Brimpton

Thank you to all the people who kindly sponsored us for our church-crawl on 14th September. The sun shone and we had a wonderful walk from Beenham to Midgham, calling in at Douai Abbey and St Peter's Woolhampton, where we arrived in time to join part of the Elstree School service.

Half of what was donated will go straight to St Peter's, Brimpton and the other half to Berkshire Historic Churches Trust. *Charles and Patricia Brims, and Ebony*

100 Club winner for September was no. 109 Nigel Jones



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



DROP IN ANY TIME BETWEEN 10:00 am-11:30 am
WEDNESDAY, 9 OCTOBER WEDNESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER
WEDNESDAY, 11 DECEMBER
Everyone (including dogs) welcome

Recycling at Boots the Chemist

Boots have introduced a recycling scheme where you can take your hard to recycle empty beauty, health and wellness products, from any brand, that can't be recycled at home.

What can be recycled? What cannot be recycled in this scheme?

Mascara	Lipsticks	Medicine packaging	Food packaging
Compacts	Tubes	Aerosols	Nail varnish
Pump packs	Wipe packets	Fragrance bottles	Hair dye packaging
Vitamin tubs	Toothbrushes		

Boots encourage customers to recycle at home any items such as shampoo and shower gel. Toothpaste tubes. They do not accept these items.

Register an account at boots.scan2recycle.com. You will need to enter your name, address and advantage card number to receive a unique code and validate the account. Once registered you can log into your account and upload images of hard to recycle packaging on a phone or tablet. Items are stored in the area named 'banked products' and will need to be verified as accepted in the scheme (this can take up to 24 hours excluding weekends and bank holidays). When five empties have been verified and loaded into the 'banked products' area, you can go the nearest participating store. (I use Boots at Calcot).

Once in store, select the five banked items and deposit and scan the QR code on the box. Then deposit the items in the box. You will then receive rewards on your advantage card. To redeem the reward a staff member will need to scan your advantage card and the reward barcode from their Scan2Recycle app ensuring that the items have met the eligibility criteria for the reward.

Brimpton Parish Council

At the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 3 September we were informed West Berkshire Council had served an Enforcement Order to prevent further action on the plots off Blacknest Lane known as Twin Paddocks.

In the case of the Appeal Hearing against WBC's decision to refuse planning permission for the mobile home site at Twin Paddocks, the Case Management Conference due at the end of August was delayed because the appellant had parted company from his representatives. We understand the appellant has now applied for the Hearing before a Planning Inspector to be changed to the submission of written evidence and that he is also appealing against the Enforcement Order.

We agreed to award a grant of £2,000 to the Brimpton Common Residents' Group from this year's Community Grants budget to go towards the costs incurred in the Twin Paddocks Appeal Hearing.

We are aware an illegal entrance from Plot E onto Brimpton Lane has been added and new fences have been put up. Since our meeting a caravan has been placed on Plot E and West Berkshire Council has imposed an immediate stop notice.

Still in the field off Blacknest Lane, a planning application has been received for Plot F which is not owned by the same person as the other plots where there has been unauthorised development. This seeks permission to for the land to be changed from a grazing field to domestic curtilage, and for permission to build a two storey house with associated parking and landscaping. Whilst this is for a house rather than a mobile home and touring caravan, we decided to object to this application because the proposed site is on an agricultural field which is not suitable for development. If this proposal were granted, it would set a precedent and encourage further development in the field, which would be against the agreed policies of the WBC Local Plan and the Brimpton Village Design Statement.

In other developments, Charles Brims reported that the new West Berkshire Council Local Plan does not propose any new housing in Brimpton Parish and the village remains as a 'smaller village with settlement boundaries suitable only for infill development'. As national and local policies on housing development seem likely to change in the near future, this is welcome news.

When it was delivered to the site, the lettering on the the stone to commemorate the late Queen was insufficiently clear. We agreed to allow the stonemason one month to improve the lettering or to use a different stone. As a result the planned unveiling ceremony had to be cancelled. If problems remain after this period we may need to find another supplier.

The Parish Council will meet again on **Tuesday 1st October**, 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.

Midgham News

It's 10pm Sunday night, 11th Aug. relaxing, all of a sudden bang, bang fireworks no word of warning, people, if this was you please be respectful of your neighbours and advise if you're about to let off fireworks etc.



Midgham Village Hall Coffee mornings

Midgham Village Hall

Coffee mornings are held fortnightly from 10 to 12. In October the coffee mornings will be on the 9th and the 23rd. Everyone is welcome to come and join us for a nice warm cuppa and a friendly chat.

Midgham Village Hall Roof

We are pleased to say that Midgham Village hall is to have a new roof. The existing tiles are to be replaced with new recycled plastic tiles.

You are invited to help us to fund this exciting development by sponsoring a tile for £5 .[Sponsors will be listed in the Hall.] If you are interested in sponsoring a tile please contact Sharon on bobandsharon327@gmail.com or you are welcome to call into the coffee morning to make your donation.



Midgham Café Church

First Thursday of the month

October 4th

November 7th

Join us for tea and cake and fellowship

2.00pm in the church

Contact Sarah Henderson for more information

henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com



Ride and Stride

Eleven people set off from St Matthews on Saturday 14th for the annual Ride and Stride. The weather was beautiful, warm and sunny. We had a very leisurely ride, first stop St Mary's Bucklebury, Marston, then drinks at Frilsham which was being decorated for Harvest, coffee at Yattendon, and a run down the hill to Stanford Dingley, signing in at the church and off to the very smart updated village hall where a delicious lunch was waiting for us with the help of Di Hibberd and Carol and Robert Stradling.

Slightly more effort needed for the hill to Tutts Clump and then Beenham and Woolhampton.

A big 'THANK YOU' to everyone who came along and all those that supported us on the day, helping with the hall and supplying delicious food for the buffet lunch and lastly of course with sponsorships.

If the monies could be forwarded to me in the next few weeks, I'd really appreciate it!. (Julia) Also thanks go to Julia for organising the whole event.

PS. If anyone wants a pot of Midgham Honey let me know! £4.50 a pot—Julia



Harvest Lunch

Once again the Gibbs family hosted a magnificent Harvest lunch, almost ninety people enjoyed the atmosphere of the barn , originally built for a party! Food and drink flowed freely and it was a splendid occasion to meet other villagers. Thanks go to Francine and Alan for all the hard work involved and for Leo for all the washing up!



Woolhampton News

ST. PETER'S WOOLHAMPTON

HARVEST FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER 2024

10.45 a.m.



AND AFTERWARDS DO JOIN THE BRING AND SHARE LUNCH
AT THE MILKING PARLOUR, MONKSMEAD,

UPPER WOOLHAMPTON. RG7 5TA.

Please contact catherine@monksmead.co.uk to discuss what to bring.

We will be supporting the West Berkshire Foodbank.

Please bring gifts to the church.

<https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk>.

NATURE NOTES

It is probably too late to draw your attention to the large caterpillars that are around at this time of year, but I hope you have noticed them – they sometimes cross the roads. Our attention was drawn to a very large one steadily devouring a small fuchsia in the border; my book identified it as an elephant hawk moth caterpillar and it left one flower on the fuchsia – obviously not as tasty as the leaves. We do have some marvelously coloured moths – and far more than butterflies – but as they are mostly nocturnal we don't notice.

Our summer bird visitors will soon all be gone, if they haven't gone already and it is time to watch out for autumn migrants such as redwings and fieldfares and winter residents, such as extra robins. Our resident robins have emerged again, in their refreshed plumage. They are remarkably tolerant of the visitors, considering how territorial they are in the spring.

There are no mobile Library Services in October

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

Woolhampton Parish Council

There is a Parish Council website now on-line which has minutes of meetings, new agendas, contact details, etc., but still in early stages and more information will be added as the site progresses (www.woolhamptonparishcouncil). Paper copies of the notification and agenda for meetings are available to view on notice boards (there are 3, at St Peter's Church, Sun Hill layby and outside the former shop on the A4).

Village Market

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

All visitors, and particularly new residents within the village, are welcome to this monthly community event – no entrance fee, refreshments are available (including hot bacon rolls - delicious!). Given that mince pies are already on sale in shops, it's surely not too early to start searching for that special, possibly unusual, Christmas present – you might just find it on one of our stalls with their variety of merchandise (some stallholders will even take commissions if you want something extra special). Come along and see what else is going on in your village. Look forward to seeing you there.

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 26th October from 9 to 11a.m.. If you have an issue with an area within the parish or with West Berks District services, please come along to discuss it with him.

The following monthly 'surgery' will be on Saturday 30th November, same times. Please take advantage of Mr Read's generous allocation of his time.

Woolhampton Parish Allotments

The allotment site is adjacent to the Village Hall; and there are fourteen 9 x 5 metre plots and two 10 x 9 'double' plots. Currently, there is a very short waiting list so if you want to add your name to the waiting list, please email Alice Owens (Parish Clerk) at woolhamptonclerk@gmail.com or phone 0789 6321058. Although when plots become available, they are generally left in a useable condition but it can still be hard work at first and sometimes the weather doesn't play fair but generally the result are worth it. Interested? If so, don't hesitate to get your name on the list and hopefully it won't be too long before you can join the happy band of 'allotmenters'. Good luck.

Dog Fouling

With an ever-increasing number of dogs now in the village, perhaps it is timely to remind owners that they have a responsibility to clear up after their pets. There are several litter bins within the village (at the Village Hall, at the bus stops on the A4, on corner of Angel Mead), so no excuse not to pick up (litter bins are now expected to be used for dog waste when there is no alternative). PLEASE PICK UP POO FROM YOUR DOG.

The Count, Elstree and Dunkirk



The eldest daughter of James Blyth, Isabella Burn-Blyth, who had inherited the Woolhampton estate from her father died on 7th April 1904 when wintering in Italy. She left a 2,000 acre estate valued at £44,661. The ownership of land had lost its attraction encouraged by the anti-landlord policies of the Liberal government of these years. The estate was placed for auction in 1905 and 1906 but failed to reach its £67,500 reserve. Areas of the estate were later sold in smaller lots. William Mount of Wasing purchased 1,000 acres in the Brimpton area; many acres were bought by Douai; two plots of land on either side of Woolhampton Hill were developed for residential purposes by a South Berkshire Syndicate and in 1910 the renowned architect Sir Mervyn Macartney and Dr Henry Gell occupied 'Kennet Orley' and 'Woolhampton Court' respectively – both designed by the former.

In the event, in May 1908 by private treaty, 200 acres of the estate were purchased by Count Gurowski of 'Wyfold House', Hants, which included 'Woolhampton House', 'Home Farm,' parkland and the three 'Hillfoot' estate cottages.

The Count, son of Gurowski de Wezele, a naturalised British subject, was educated at Eton, married to Hyacinth, daughter of Baron Harris van Essen of Tideholm. Two years after the purchase of the estate, the Count unsuccessfully contested the parliamentary seat of Bosworth in the General Election as the Conservative candidate and in 1914 was High Sheriff of Berkshire. The Countess, a trained vocalist, had a Concert Room built where many were entertained; she was a District Commissioner of the Girl Guides and a supporter of the Nursing Association. Her husband was a keen shot, a yachtsman, a "cheerful golfer" and enjoyed hunting in Hungary. The grounds of the estate were readily available for village events and the local children were well catered for at Christmastide. The couple had three children - Richard, Helen and John. Richard, a regular soldier, was home on leave at Lymington in 1940 yet he volunteered himself and his private boat for the trip to the beaches of Dunkirk. Alas, in the course of rescuing his fellow soldiers, he was fatally wounded.

After the Count had died in 1939, the Countess moved to 'Crazies Hill' and in the same year Commander Sanderson applied to NRDC for permission to use Woolhampton Park as a school. Thus in the first year of the war 'Elstree School', established in 1848 in Hertfordshire, settled in Berkshire.

In 1919 the Count and Countess had welcomed the troops home in the grounds of the estate, and in 1945 it was Commander and Mrs Sanderson who did the honours in the grounds of the now 'Elstree School'.

Count Gurowski and his family are buried in St Peter's churchyard. **John Trigg**

Woolhampton Fire Engine

In March it was reported that the vintage fire engine needed to be re-homed but, unfortunately, the Parish Council were unable to find suitable premises. Subsequently, Councillor Large contacted Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service who were delighted to see such an historic vehicle and agreed to take the engine to eventually put it on display at one of their depots. Which site has not yet been decided but it does mean the engine will be well looked after and will be on show, particularly at open-day events. Details will be advised when known.



Aldermaston News

ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Autumn term is well underway, and our new pupils have settled into their classes, getting used to the routines and patterns of the school day. It is a delight to see how quickly they have adapted to the school environment and to show how keen they are to learn as well as play.

The term will be full of activities both in the classroom and outside, with trips planned to local places of interest as well as to the church. These trips are a key part of the curriculum and help to develop the pupils' interest in the wider world. The children benefit hugely from outdoor learning, and we encourage this as much as possible, even if the weather is inclement; coats and wellies are always on hand.

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor

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



From the Committee of the
**Aldermaston & Wasing
SHOW**

*To every one that helped make the 2024 Show a success:
those who attended this year's show, who entered the competitions, who bought
Duck Derby tickets in advance, who set up their stalls, who helped on the day,
who provided sponsorship, and to The Old Mill team.*

Thank You

2025: Sunday 7th September



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

Aldermaston
Parish Hall

THIS IS A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR ALDERMASTON PARISH HALL (#300119)

**Harvest Festival
Service
St Mary's Church
Aldermaston**



10.45am

Sunday 20th October

Join us after the service for
Harvest Lunch in church

12.00pm 12.00pm

Adults - £10, Children - £5

Tickets available from:

Vicky Curtis curtisvicky62@gmail.com

Booking essential by Monday 14th October

Dietary requirements catered for.

Tea/coffee and soft drink available.

Bring your own beer or wine

Proceeds towards the maintenance of St Mary's



Aldermaston Parish Council – 10th September 2024

No members of the public attended our September meeting, but two residents asked us to raise issues on their behalf in Open Forum. The first was a resident of Church Road whose parked car was significantly damaged by a passing van. Several years ago, the Parish Council questioned the safety of this section of road, where parked cars often obscure sight lines, with TVP and WBC but their investigation determined that the highway layout conformed to standards and was safe.

Another resident raised concerns about the Fisherman's Lane ditch and whether it is adequately maintained to prevent flooding. Last year we discussed this issue in some detail with WBC and learnt that responsibility for the culverts is with the Council and for the ditch is with riparian owners. WBC said that they would do an annual inspection of the ditch and instruct owners if remedial works were required. APC will contact WBC to find out if the 2024 inspection has taken place and seek reassurance on the status of the waterway.

We had just one planning application to consider, requesting the Variation of a Condition to the planning consent for an industrial estate at Blacks Lake on Paices Hill granted in 2021. The applicant says the variation is necessary because some units will be somewhat lower than illustrated at the outline stage, and the illustrated site layout subject to minor changes. We were concerned at the lack of detail about proposed design changes and questioned why the requested change to Condition 5 was so extensive. The original Condition required reserved matters to be broadly in accordance with 10 separate documents/plans (including two emergency plans), whereas the requested change would only require them only be in accordance with the 2021 Site Plan. We resolved to respond with an Objection.

Since our last meeting just one of Aldermaston's pending planning applications was decided; AWE was told its demolition and clearance does not require prior approval. This was as we expected.

Due to many WBC staff being on holiday in recent weeks we were unable to obtain any updates on Planning Enforcement cases or make any progress on the Kestrels Mead playground project where we are still awaiting the outcome of an underground utilities search. On a more positive note, we did discover that WBC has appointed a new Conservation Officer and we are hoping to work with her, and a volunteer from the West Berkshire Heritage Forum, to get our Aldermaston Conservation Area Appraisal adopted. The first draft of our CAA report was submitted to WBC in 2022 so any progress will be gladly received!

On the admin side, we welcomed Abi Lewis as our Clerk and RFO. Abi works part time and will be the main point of contact for the council. Her email is parishclerk@aldermaston.co.uk.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th October at 7:30pm in Aldermaston Parish Hall. For detailed meeting notes, newsletters and meeting agendas visit our new Parish Council website at <https://www.aldermaston.co.uk>.

Beenham News

BEENHAM VILLAGE EVENTS BEENHAM IN BLOOM 2024 RESULTS

A keen team of villagers were delighted to judge these entries back in July. We judge against 3 criteria: variety of plants, colour and creativity. We all make our choices individually and then the results are collated.

So here are the results!

Children's competition For the 0 – 6 age group:

1st Place and winner of the **Edwin Roe Memorial Cup** – Sebastian Heath-Binks of 3 Stocks Cottage.



For the 6 – 11 age group: Ava-Fae Cleaver of 29 Stoneyfield.

Many congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to all the children who took part.

Adult's competition

Thank you so much for creating and looking after your beautiful baskets, tubs and gardens, they looked spectacular.



The results are:

1st Place and winner of the **Arthur Sutton Six Bells Trophy** – Elaine and Phil Cashman of 59 Stoneyfield.

2nd equal: “Debbie’s Garden” at Meadow View Cottage and Caroline Eccles of 1 Rose Cottage. 3rd Place: Philippa Heath of 3 Stocks cottage.

The prizes were presented on Saturday September 14th at the Village Market.

Many congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to everyone who entered and took part in voting.

Also, thanks go to the Six Bells for sponsoring the event and donating a lovely bottle of “Fizz” for the winner of the Arthur Sutton Six Bells Trophy and to Englefield Garden Centre who kindly donate vouchers for all our winners.

Christmas 2024

Yes, it's time to think about the Village Christmas Advent windows again!

As in previous years there will be two windows revealed each day –one created by children under 16 and one created by childlike adults!

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

The numbers go really quickly, so don't delay!

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

Notes from Beenham Parish Council Meeting on Monday September 2nd Public Forum

Verge Grass cutting. WBC apologised for the poor service but didn't refer to the safety issues raised. PC to contact WBC referencing this as primarily a safety issue.
Beenham Primary school: 8 out of 10 of the new i-pads for pupils use are functioning.

Councillors

An analysis of the current ragwort infestation was presented. (See other article)
Parking on footpaths was discussed as it is a safety issue for pedestrians. The PC will monitor the situation and discuss next meeting.

The Community Room internet router installation was approved.

Ash die back near Wickens Corner was discussed. PC to write to WBC.

Planning Matters Applications

-24/01478/LBC..Ferrises,Upper Woolhampton. Replacements of roof tiles. No objection Approved

-24/00815/COND..Awberry Farm,Beenham. Conditions for air conditioning. Noted

-24/01029/COND..Awberry Farm,Beenham. Conditions for soft landscaping and biodiversity. Noted

-24/01329/HOUSE..South Cottage,Webbs Lane. Single storey extension to replace conservatory. Noted

Parish Councillors. Some road safety signs have been covered up by foliage. WBC Highways to be contacted.

The Affordable Housing Survey: Surveys have been delivered to all households. The PC is arranging a meeting with the new Constituency MP Olivia Bailey to brief her on the need for affordable housing in the parish of Beenham.

Aldermaston Wharf defibrillator progress was discussed. Possible locations are being identified.

The next meeting will be in the Community Room on Monday Oct 7th at 7.00pm

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

Beenham Village Market takes place on the second Saturday of the month, in the Victory Hall, starting at 2pm, closing at 3.30. We have a wide variety of stalls: you can buy anything from eggs and dog food to jewellery and carved bowls. Come along to get locally reared, delicious meat from Kate Bowsher of Beenham Park Produce; or browse the many bargains on the bric a brac stall; tempt yourself to some Tropic skincare or cosmetics: or simply have a seat and a chat with friends, while having a cup of tea or coffee and some home baked cakes!

If the Repair Cafe isn't there and you have something that you wanted the team to look at, we can put you in touch. If you are interested in having a stall, whether on a regular basis or only as a one-off, please contact Sally Pellow on 0777 625 1228.

We will be focusing on Christmas goodies in our November market, so if your hobby is making things for Christmas, now is your chance to sell them.

BEENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have had a brilliant start to the new year in school, filled with positivity and optimism. September always brings with it a change in the air with cooler mornings and the evenings starting to draw in, and this autumn has allowed us to turn a new leaf and invite in new beginnings.

We have been delighted to welcome three new teachers to Beenham: Miss Aalsey who is teaching reception and year 1/2 (Tala Class); Miss Denham who is teaching year 3/4 (Torak Class); and Mr Bell-Barrett who is teaching year 5/6 (Tundra Class). It has been wonderful to see the school calm and focussed with happy children engaged in all the aspects of school life.

At Beenham Primary School, we have three 'rules' that we refer to as *The Beenham Way*.

Each term this year, we will focus on one of the rules across the school and explore how we can show kindness, safety and pride in all that we do. Throughout the autumn term, our focus will be on kindness. We will be marking NSPCC's Kindness Challenge Week from 7th – 11th October, ending with a day of positive action, when teachers will be working with their classes to take on acts of kindness across the school and community.

Another project for this year will be starting soon as we plan to create our own outdoor learning provision on our school site. We believe strongly that education is a holistic experience and enabling our children to explore the world beyond the classroom has to offer has incredible and unlimited benefits. This is going to be a big project and we aim to form a working party who can help drive forwards with planning and fundraising. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact our school office: office@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk

Looking ahead to November, we will be holding two open mornings for parents/carers of children joining reception in September 2025. These will be on Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th November and we would warmly invite anyone to come along and understand the offer of our school. We will also be able to arrange tours at other times if wanted. Wishing you all the best, *Miss Sophie McBean Acting Headteacher*

Harvest Lunch on Sunday 13th October

The Victory Hall, Beenham, 12 noon for 12.30pm start

Tickets: £12.50 for adult and £5 for children 5-10years old. Under fives free to include a hot meal with pudding, a welcome soft drink and a raffle ticket

Tickets available from:

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

Jean Chapman jean_c_chapman1910@hotmail.co.uk

Proceeds for maintenance of St Mary's Church

Beenham WI

Beenham WI returns to its normal meeting pattern this month, after a summer break with outings. Our next speaker, at our meeting on October 9th, will be talking about Royal Wedding Mishaps. We are looking forward to hearing more, and I am sure there will be lots of laughter. 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, then 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.

RAGWORT CONCERN



The issue of ragwort was discussed at September's Parish Council meeting. Ragwort is highly toxic to horses and livestock and can kill them. Many with horses and livestock say this is the worse year they can remember for it.

Ragwort can grow very tall and has a small yellow daisy type flower. It is found on grassland, verges and waste land. It can end up in gardens where it can seem like a lovely wildflower addition for pollinators. However, it can spread far and wide very quickly if not dug up or have herbicide applied.

Please could any owners and occupiers of land regularly check for ragwort and if any is found dig it up or, if it is safe to, apply a herbicide. If you dig it up do not lay dug plants on the grass. Put them straight into wheelbarrow and burn them or put them in your grey bin.

This is a community problem, so could we as a community please play our part in stopping the spread and endangering horses and livestock. The Parish Council has written to neighbouring parishes and is also writing to West Berkshire Council about this because of ragwort in verges.

This link is to a Government Document that has pictures of ragwort for identification along with other injurious plants.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a78a496ed915d07d35b14a2/pb4192-injurious-weeds.pdf?](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a78a496ed915d07d35b14a2/pb4192-injurious-weeds.pdf?fbclid=IwY2xjawFNNVlleHRuA2FibQIxMQABHaDG2l2s7lVuYoP049ps_K7aSdw5yBjfsJBzsB_4rNtGDSg-Tj1XsTCC0w_aem_NTaZyMU9qhwg8Eo0CfYLvw)

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Any questions please email me at d.hgcock@beenham-pc.gov.uk

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 5 th	Church Working Party.		
All help is most welcome	St Mary's Church 10am		Janette:07917818 283
Sat 5 th	Rock and Roll Bingo £10/book 7.30 for 8.30pm	Beenham Club	Beenham Club via FB to secure your seats
Mon 7 th	Parish Council Meeting 7pm	Community Rm	
Wed 9 th	WI – Speaker – “Royal Wedding Mishaps!” 7.30pm	Community Rm	£4 non-members Sally:07776 251 228
Thu 10 th	Circular walk from Sulhamstead Abbots passing Upton Court	Meet at Victory Hall - 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Thu 10 th	Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6	£3/person	Six Bells 9713368 to book
Sat 12 th	Village Market and repair shop 2-3.30pm	Victory Hall	01183430548
Wed 16 th	Beenham Friendship Club for over 55s-“Chocolate Man” 2pm	Victory Hall	Marion:9713094 Tina:01635826154
Sat 19 th	Greyfield Woods Volunteer Morning. 8.30 – 12pm	Meet at wood entrance	John:9712924
Sat 19 th	Calleva Stick Dressers 9am–2pm	Victory Hall	David:07864 180 648
Sat 19 th	Live Music and Acoustic Night 7.30pm	Beenham Club	9713991
Thu 24 th	Beenham Walkers: Kings Copse	Meet at Victory Hall - 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Thu 24 th	"A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood", starring Tom Hanks. £5 a ticket. Victory Hall 7.00 for 7.30pm		Claire:9713574
Tue 29 th	Beenham Tearoom 2pm-3.30pm	Victory Hall	Dru:07815 055 040 Pat:07947 478 840

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

Hello from Greyfield Wood!

We are expecting the Felling Licence from the Forestry Commission to arrive soon. This will permit us to undertake the next significant felling of trees in the wood.

This license will be provided against an agreed Woodland Management Plan to ensure we are fully compliant with Forestry Commission regulations and procedures.

Over the coming months, those of you who use the wood regularly will notice a number of changes in the wood. These will be: **(continued on page 22)**

BEENHAM PRE-SCHOOL

We have had the best few weeks saying hello to our new families and welcoming back our Pre-Schoolers who returned to us after the long summer holidays. Of course, we miss our children from last year who have moved on to their Reception Classes, but we are so lucky that their parents have been keeping in touch. It really does show what a genuine community Beenham Pre-School is!

We have started the year with a visit from Pop Up Play Village, along with lots of time in our gardens and dough discos, Active AM, yoga sessions and so much child-led learning and Free Flow. We have face to face parent's meetings coming up in a few weeks which will really give each family an opportunity to sit with staff and talk about their child away from the hubbub and noise of a working session. We can't wait!

It is unnerving how quickly we have to start to think about Christmas but already in the background we are looking at our Nativity Play script (which we adapt each year to suit the children in the group) and booking our Advent Window date. Before that we have all the learning opportunities which our rural Autumn will bring and of course Bonfire Night, fireworks, and our own child-friendly Halloween celebrations.

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?

Butterfly Conservation Upper Thames Branch Churchyard Survey 2024

It is time to report on the butterfly surveys of the six churchyards within the Benefice on behalf of the Upper Thames Branch of Butterfly Conservation. The aim is to survey each of the churchyards once a month from May to August and, unlike last year when July was missed due to wet weather, all four surveys were completed and – spoiler alert – they don't make pretty reading.

Five of the Parish Churches have designated areas for wildlife that have been left uncut to encourage butterflies, invertebrates, and small mammals. The churchyard of St Nicolas Wasing is manicured as it is a popular venue for weddings but, then again, it is surrounded by the wonderful Wasing Estate, so the butterflies are rather spoilt for choice! Once again, at St Mary's Beenham, a large proportion of the churchyard and adjacent graveyard has been left unmown with paths being cut to allow access to graves. The harebells that had re-establishing themselves in the churchyard last year have now been joined by knapweed and Devil's bit scabious, adding deeper blues to the sky blue of the ever-spreading harebells. This is certainly best practice management of a churchyard for the benefit of Nature, and this was borne out by Beenham being the best performer in numbers and species of butterflies recorded in every monthly survey.

The first survey on 27th of May was a bad start as not a single butterfly was recorded

guess it was a bit late for the orange tips, but it was an ominous omen for the months to come. The next, on the 25th of June was definitely a meadow brown day with 38 counted in all six churchyards, 16 of which came from Beenham. Pat Owen from Beenham was my helper on these surveys – I wonder if she was augmenting the Beenham sightings? Sadly, there were no ringlets recorded in any of the surveys. During the visits on 19th of July, meadow browns were still being observed in most churchyards, but gatekeepers were the most prominent butterfly, with whites (large, small and green-veined) accompanied by a few red admirals and a solitary comma and brimstone. Again, no ringlets. Appropriately enough, the brimstone was spotted in Brimpton! It may be that the brimstone is responsible for the name “butterfly” as it was once known as the “butter-coloured fly”. We squeezed the last survey in on 26th of August. With the temperature just breaking 20C and a stiff breeze, numbers were down. Beenham produced meadow browns, whites and a speckled wood, whereas Brimpton and Wasing drew blanks. A single holly blue was spotted at Midgham and this seems to have confirmed my prediction in last year’s report that numbers might decline after last year’s success for this species as the parasitic wasp that preys on it will have grown in numbers and the natural cyclical fluctuation has kicked in. Let’s hope this doesn’t continue going forward.

This noticeable decline in numbers across the board replicates the concerning results of this year’s “Big Butterfly Count” sponsored by Butterfly Conservation. Over 143,000 15-minute recordings were made by 85,000 “Citizen Scientists” between 12th July and 4th August, and this has been the worst year in the 14 years of this project with the lowest average of sightings per count. Butterfly Conservation has declared a “Nature Emergency” and is now calling on the Government to impose a total ban on neonicotinoid pesticide use. If you want to sign this petition, please go to <https://butterfly-conservation.org/emergency>.

Finally, at this time of year, ivy flowers provide much-needed Autumn nectar for butterflies and other insects, as well as Winter berries for birds, so please think twice before cutting back this much-maligned climber.

Laurence Harwood, Board Trustee of Butterfly Conservation,
<https://butterfly-conservation.org/>



Red admiral nectaring on ivy



Male gatekeeper

(continued from page 19) The felling of diseased Ash trees that could fall onto public footpaths, bridleways and most of the permissive paths. The closure of small number of footpaths around Upper and Lower Withy Copse and the boundary path with Ironmongers Copse, where we are unable to fell and therefore provide safe passage for the public.

The felling of the mature Norwegian Spruce trees in the wood, mainly along the Douai Abbey boundary. This felling will be a large operation, expected to last over three weeks and will be done by professional contractors, who we have used in previous years for other large felling operations in the wood.

The result of the felling will see a large amount of harvested wood in the loading area, some of which will be taken as payment by the contractor and some will hopefully provide cordwood for us to sell over the next 2-3 years.

The main felling is expected to be completed in October/November and then the hard task of clearing the debris and preparing for replanting can begin. For this we rely on our volunteer groups. If you would like to join our band of volunteers, please contact me. If you wish to discuss any aspect of the forthcoming work please feel free to speak with myself or any of the other directors. Please continue to enjoy our woodland. John Hammond 07818 400440



WEST BERKS FOODBANK

[WHEN PEOPLE ARE GOING WITHOUT....](#)

IT IS TIME TO GUARANTEE THEIR ESSENTIALS

The last SOS from the Foodbank was for food for families during the summer holidays. They have reported back that the *'response was amazing and immediate and much needed! THANK YOU. When we heard back from 48 schools in early June about our offer of support to children under 18 years during the summer holidays – the Hungry Holidays Initiative – we were asked to support 555 families and feed 1,276 children and this is in addition to the approx. 1,000 adults and children we support each month!'*

They are now moving forward to focus on the season of Harvest. Items requested are as follows:

Instant coffee, tins of meat, fruit and soup, tinned vegetables, rice, rice pudding, dried milk, biscuits, UHT milk, shaving foam, sugar.

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

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 weekdays 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)

Sunday 6th October

Wasing	Holy Communion	10:45
St Mary's, Beenham	Morning Praise	09:15
St Matthew's, Midgham	BCP Holy Communion	09:15
St Peter's Woolhampton	Harvest HC	10:45

Sunday 13th October

St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston	Holy Communion	10:45
St Mary's, Beenham	Harvest HC	10:45
St Peter's, Brimpton	Holy Communion	09:15
St Peter's Woolhampton	Holy Communion	10:45

Sunday 20th October

St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston	Harvest HC	10:45
St Peter's, Brimpton	Morning Praise	10:45
St Matthew's, Midgham	Holy Communion	09:15
St Peter's Woolhampton	Holy Communion	10:45

Sunday 27th October

St Mary's, Beenham	Holy Communion	09:15
St Peter's, Brimpton	Holy Communion	09:15
St Matthew's, Midgham	Evensong	4pm

Sunday November 3rd

Wasing	Holy Communion	10:45
St Mary's, Beenham	Morning Praise	09:15
St Peter's Brimpton	Morning Praise	10:45
St Matthew's, Midgham	BCP Holy Communion	09:15

Island Night

The fires of sunset have faded in the October sky
And as the dusk gathers the first twinkling stars shine out,
Around us little Pipistrelles in silence fly
And on the shoreline piping seabirds strut about.

We stroll around the bay we love
In the stillness of the developing night,
A myriad of stars above
And distant pulsing lighthouse light.

Nearby hills in the darkness loom,
A noisy silence fills the cool night air,
Unseen oystercatchers chatter in the gloom
And fresh sea breezes run through our hair.

And as the bright full moon rises among the stars
Like a diamond in the blackness of the night
It seems that heaven is but everywhere
Surrounding us with its strength and might.

No wonder we come here more and more,
This meeting with the natural world,
It is a pilgrimage of sorts for sure
In which a celestial multitude is unfurled.

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