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# Villages' News



### **Useful Contacts**

Non-emergency numbers:

**NHS 111** 

Police 101

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

Problems with roads (eg potholes), footpaths etc:

www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem

Doctors' surgeries:

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

Mobile library: 01635 519827

**District Councillors:** 

Woolhampton/Midgham: Chris Read: 07714 081565

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

Parish Councils: Clerks' details:

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

Beenham: Lauren West: 07919 916 125

Brimpton: Christine McGarvie: 0118 970 1576

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

Village Halls:

Aldermaston: aldermastonparishhall@gmail.com

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

Woolhampton: bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com

Churches:

Aldermaston & Woolhampton Benefice: 0118 971 2891

Brimpton Baptist Church: 07944 956242

Douai Abbey: 0118 971 5300

Magazine advertising:

Brenda Scott: 0118 971 3113 mrsbscott@btinternet.com

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Thatcham RG19 4QB . Tel: 01635 876498

### **Committee Comments**

As I drive around our local area, I am often struck by the variety of countryside we have on our doorstep. You don't need to go far to see the trees and plants are revealing a variety of buds, blossoms and colours and the birdsong is a vibrant symbol of springtime. It is a special time of year.

This May marks an important date, the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May. There will be many people in our community who will have personal memories of that day and recall the great sense of relief, optimism and joy which spread across the country. There will be several events to commemorate this anniversary, both nationally and locally. We can take time to pause and reflect on the sacrifice of the previous generations and give thanks for the freedoms we now enjoy.

Thanks as always to our advertisers, contributors and team of delivery volunteers who bring this magazine to you each month. I hope you enjoy your May issue.

### 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 17<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Articles are included at the editor's discretion.

Advertising enquiries can be sent to mrsbscott@btinternet.com We hope you enjoy reading your magazine.

# WEST BERKS FOODBANKS HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

### West Berks Foodbank relies on your goodwill and support.

Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in The Trussel Trust network is donated by the public – that's why food donations are absolutely vital to their ability to give everyone referred a balanced and nutritious three-day supply of food.

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

The shopping list below shows the food items that are needed right now and items low in stock. If you are happy to drop off food donations, please see the table below for our food drop off points in the local areas.

### Items urgently needed

Ambient sponge puddings, cereal bars, long life juice, tinned fruit

### Items low on stock

Antibacterial spray, tinned meats such as spaghetti Bolognese, curry, stew, non bio washing powder/tablets, UHT milk, full fat or semi skimmed

### NO pasta at present please. Thank you.

Drop off locations:

Aldermaston and Wasing: The Rectory, Wasing Lane and 19 Swan

Drive, The Wharf.

Beenham: Under community noticeboard.

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

Hairdressers.

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

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

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

### **Woolhampton News**

### **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: <a href="mailto:npm151924@gmail.com">npm151924@gmail.com</a>

### What's on in Woolhampton Village Hall

### Village Hall Market – $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$ Saturday of every month from 10am until 12 noon.

### Mondays

Dance Class (Ballroom/Line Dance) – 2pm until 4pm. Dance Fit with Lorraine – 5.45pm

Pilates with Lorraine 6.35pm

### **Tuesdays**

Stroke Care - 9am until 3pm

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

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

Women's Institute –7.30pm until 9.30pm, every second Tuesday of each month

### Wednesdays

Lunch Club -  $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$  and  $\mathbf{4}^{\text{th}}$  Wednesday of each month at 12 noon

### **Thursdays**

Flexercise – 10am until 12pm

Art Class – 1.30pm until 3.30pm and 7pm until 9pm

### Fridays

Bowls - 2.30pm until 5pm.

For any further information please visit: <a href="www.woolhamptonvillagehall.co.uk">www.woolhamptonvillagehall.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com">bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com</a>

### **Parish Council Website**

The development of the new Parish Council website is progressing well. Minutes of meetings, agenda for the next meeting, details of parish councillors, etc., should be available on the website (www.woolhamptonparishcouncil.com).

### Village Market

The next Market will be on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May in the Village Hall from 10a.m. to 12noon. Our stallholders offer a diverse range of goods from fresh cakes to locally-made jewellery, and from local honey and handicrafts to wild bird food, and much more in between. So, as the weather improves, it provides a great social event where everyone is welcome. No entry charge and refreshments are available.

### **Woolhampton Annual Show 2025**

No doubt you have already highlighted the date in your diary but in case you haven't, it's Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August. For those entering the potato-growing and/ or sunflower competitions, hopefully planting has taken place and germination is progressing despite the current adverse conditions. And if you are intending to enter the photography competition, perhaps you've already spotted a suitable opportunity to compose a prize-winning entry. Cooks, growers and hobbyists will, of course, be anticipating the Show schedule (which should be available early-June) to confirm the categories to enter (again no charge for entries). Copies of the schedule and entry forms will be available online at woolhamptonannualshow.co.uk but hard copies will also be available if required.

### **Woolhampton Litter-picking**

Credit for the relative tidiness of our area must be attributed to the diligent persons who spontaneously monitor 'their patch' and clear-up as they find rubbish. Our past mountains of rubbish, generally discarded by uncaring motorists or thoughtless pedestrians, thankfully seem to have diminished. Larger items, e.g. fly-tipping, dead animals and/or bulky objects dumped, which cannot be easily removed by individuals, can be reported to WBC for their attention (Customer Services - phone 01635 551111 or email customerservices@westberks.gov.uk).

### Mobile Library

Unfortunately, WBC will be withdrawing the mobile library service but a 'home delivery' service may be available to qualifying residents. To find out more, please refer to At Home Library Services, telephone 01635519827 or email library@westberks.gov.uk.

### **Peace Celebrations 1919**

A telegram addressed to William Mount MP, was received at Woolhampton Post Office on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918 read, "Germany accepts Armistice signed 5 o'clock this morning". Newbury Post Office released the same joyous news. Celebrations began in the town started by the boys of the Albion War Hospital and joined by the Tank Boys and Munition Girls from the racecourse. Victory had come at a huge cost. Over 889,000 of British forces had lost their lives. This was 6% of the male population, 12% of those who had served. The 1921 census would record 109 women for every man. On 1st July 1916, on the first day of the Somme, there were 57,000 casualties. The toll of the war on families had been devastating. Mr and Mrs Cook, Chapel Street, Thatcham, lost three sons killed in action and the names of two of the four serving sons of Mr and Mrs Cripps would appear on the Thatcham village war memorial. There were only 54 'thankful villages' across the country from where all who served survived and returned safely. Alas, there were no fortunate villages in Berkshire.

The official national peace celebrations were planned for 19<sup>th</sup> July 1919 (the late date was a result of delay in demobilisation). On the day earmarked for celebrations the folk of Woolhampton were in 'holiday garb' when they assembled in Woolhampton Park for a communal meal plus a programme of sports arranged by Count Gurowski and Dr Gell of 'Woolhampton Court'. Villagers ran, jumped and skipped and the men enjoyed a race on the pond when they swam towards the finishing line propelling a tub. There was dancing in the evening followed by the lighting of a large bonfire and a firework display that was "visible for miles around". *John Trigg* 

### **Woolhampton (Midgham) Station Flower Beds**

Users of Midgham Station will no doubt have noticed the planters on or just outside each platform. GWR arranged the installation of these by 'Bee Friendly' and also arranged the ongoing upkeep by Woolhampton Community Group (in conjunction with Woolhampton Parish Council). Hitherto this upkeep (planting, watering, deadheading, etc.) has been undertaken by only a couple of group members. However, the challenges of keeping the planters suitably watered in this dry weather means asking for more volunteers to assist. If you are interested and would like to help, please contact me at <a href="terry.vallis@outlook.com">terry.vallis@outlook.com</a> for more information.

### Woolhampton & Midgham WI

I love this time of year when the trees are dressed in Spring Green and the evenings are getting longer. It is nice to be able to sit in the garden and watch the sunset — and we have been getting some beautiful sunsets with all the unseasonal warm and dry weather.

Our April WI meeting was, as expected, a big hit. The duo who performed a tribute Act to Flanders and Swann were very good indeed. They sang some of the more popular songs and gave us a very good insight into the lives of the famous duo. Michael Flanders My only complaint — they didn't play for long enough! I think everyone there enjoyed the Act judging by the applause and the comments as we consumed the lovely cakes brought by members and cups of tea and coffee. It was good to see so many visitors enjoying the entertainment, the food and the chatter.

The village lunch club was well attended. The guests enjoyed a meal of chicken casserole with rice followed by two puddings! The lunch club is run by our WI members and is open to pensioners who live alone in the village.

We have several outings planned in the coming weeks. I am looking forward to our tour of the Reading Wind Turbine in June. Outings to two NGS gardens are planned for May. We are also trying to get enough members and friends together to run a trip to The Picadilly Theatre in London to see Moulin Rouge in September. We have the opportunity to have a generous group discount on the tickets.

Every year at the National Federation Annual meeting a new campaign is introduced and debated. This year it is about informing and teaching CPR to the wider public with the aim of saving the lives of people who are suddenly struck down with a heart attack outside the medical environments – for example in the high street! Would you know what to do if someone walking in front of you collapsed on to the pavement? 'Anyone can be a Lifesaver' is the campaign title. Every WI debates the issue in their May Meeting and results of the debates are sent to the National Federation Meeting. We shall be holding our debate at our next meeting in May.

I hope this text has been of interest to you. If you would like to know more about our activities please come along as a guest at one of our meetings. You will be very welcome, and you may decide to join us! Guest fee is £4 and includes refreshments. We meet on the second Tuesday of the Month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Woolhampton.

More information from Mrs Beryl Smith, our President – 01635 861374.

### **Woolhampton School**

The most recent term at Woolhampton CE Primary School has flown by and the children have certainly been enjoying the first signs of spring. Several classes have benefitted from the beautiful surroundings that we live in with visits to Douai forest school and Ferrises Wood (thanks to the generosity of Kate Moir, one of our dedicated governors).

As governors, we are keen to support the school in building links within our community. At the end of March, Chestnut class visited the West Berkshire Museum to complement their work on Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and Oak class recently participated in a Baylab Science workshop where they learnt about how the heart works and the human circulatory system, thanks to Bayer UK.

The school continues to have excellent links with local primary and secondary schools and regularly attend sporting events. On 25<sup>th</sup> April, many children represented the school at the Kennet cross country at Newbury Showground.

A group of pupils from years 4, 5 and 6 sang beautifully for the Junior Music Festival at the Hexagon. The theme was 'A Night at the Musicals' and the children were centre stage. Parents, families and governors were in awe of the dedication shown, not only by the pupils, but also the commitment of the staff who have given up countless hours of their time to prepare for this special night.

As governors, we are always very proud of the extra-curricular activities that our small school can offer, and we thank the staff for the unwavering commitment in enabling all to flourish.

Kelly Mitchell, Parent Governor.

### **Aldermaston News**



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 Aldermaston Charity**

is looking for a paid part time clerk approximately 10 hours a month

Flexible hours, working from home, supporting the Charity Trustees.

High level of confidentiality required.

Own computer and access to own transport would be needed.

### Further information from:

Angela Boott: ange@kennetonline.co.uk

Cynthia Newman: cmnewman2021@outlook.com

### Aldermaston Parish Council – 8th April 2025

This being our Annual Parish Meeting (APM), we kicked off with a series of presentations – Sophie Crawford as Chair of APC, Domin Boeck as our Ward Member, who told us of the demise of WBC following a recent initiative by our Labour central government, Cathy Jones on behalf of the Governors of the Village Primary School, Ben Green of the Scouts (who were attending an APM for the first time), Peter Hulme of the local History Group, Cynthia Newman of Aldermaston Charity, and last (but certainly not least!) Ange Boott on behalf of the Parish Hall. All speakers gave a good account of their achievements for the last year and what they plan to do next year! In Open Forum we were petitioned by the arguments surrounding the special case for allowing temporary residential use of an existing property at Young's Industrial Estate. We explained that for DEPZ reasons we would normally Object to any such residential use, and we felt that the temporary terms were too generous. We also discussed the regular flooding that occurs on the A340 outside Sascron. This issue, which occurs due to blocked drains, is well known to us, and WBC have earmarked a considerable amount of 2025/26 Capital Spend to resolve.

On the Planning front, we reviewed four applications. We will not comment on an application by the power company to replace two wooden poles in the Soke Road area, nor a new dwelling at West View Farm, Baughurst as it is not in our Parish. We will Not Object to the residential use described in Open Forum, though we suggest conditions be attached. We will Object, however, to the amended plans for the Industrial Estate at Black's Lake, Paice's Hill, using words we have used before (we are strongly against this further industrialisation)

Since our last meeting, WBC has made several Planning decisions affecting us. They have granted permission for: (i) a tree order at Church Lodge, Church Road

(ii) proposed guest accommodation at Corner Cottage, The Street (iii) a scaffold yard at Young's Industrial Estate.

They have Refused, however, chimney work at 30, Maida's Way (due to appearance). To our relief, the massive expansion proposed by Aldermaston Recycling has been withdrawn by the Applicant (but what will it be replaced by?)

We had a further discussion on the provision of a new defibrillator for the Parish Hall. For its utilisation, we agreed it was better to have it closer to the centre of the population, i.e. at the bottom of the Village.

We deferred a decision on dogs on leash at the Recreation Ground till next month. This has the benefit of allowing greater participation by the activists, so you know what to do!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. As usual, your presence is welcomed!

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

Dave Shirt tel. 0118 971 2549

St Mary the Virgin Church Aldermaston RG7 4HR



### Thursday 8th May



### A Shared Moment of Celebration



### Aldermaston Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe

5:30pm Assemble at the Lychgate Bagpiper - Neil Gauld International Tribute Service of Hymns, Readings and Prayers Lamp Light of Peace 6:30pm Bells of St Mary's ring out

Together, we honour the past and celebrate a future built on unity, hope, love and peace
Participate by placing a lantern in your window

# Summer Music @ St Mary's



Come and listen to some glorious music in a fabulous setting

All to raise funds for St Mary's Church, Aldermaston

Friday June 6th ,7pm

Alex Austin Band (Folk)

Saturday June 7th , 7pm

Celia (Harpist)

Box Office & more information: https://concerts.project-stmarys.uk



£20 Adult Ticket, £5 Children in full time education, under 12s free Both nights: £30 adult, £10 children, under £2s free includes refreshments:

St Mary the Virgin, Church Rd, Aldermaston, RG7 4HR

### ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

If you were one of those attending the Hexagon Theatre in Reading at the end of March, you would have been lucky enough to see our Kingfishers Class (Year 4/5) performing in 'A night at the movies', the Junior Music Festival 2025. The class had attended multiple rehearsals, learnt a huge number of lyrics and had worked hard on their performance skills. This annual festival is a great opportunity to work alongside other local schools.

Recently we took 29 children from Owls, Kingfishers and Starlings Class (our KS2 pupils) to the West Berkshire and North Hampshire Cross Country Championships at Newbury Showground. We had put in some regular training in the weeks leading up to this event, but anyone would still feel a little nervous when facing the sheer scale of this competition. There were 1597 children who finished in the four races, and they represented 52 local schools. Amazing! Thank you to our staff and all the very vocal family members who came to support us. We couldn't have been prouder of our determined athletes who ran beautifully and excelled in supporting each other.

The children have demonstrated excellent safe behaviours during an (unplanned) fire drill and a (planned) lockdown practice! We are required to practice our fire drill regularly and plan these into the school diary. However, a little cooking steam gave children the chance to show how well they knew the routines. We also practice a lockdown once a year. This is a calm and relaxed drill, and children and staff know when it will take place. Both practices were completed swiftly and in line with expectations.

Thank you, PTA! A generous donation of chocolate eggs has resulted in lots of seasonal fun and smiles as children gratefully received their

chocolate treat and many classes participated in a traditional egg hunt. An 'eggcellent' way to end the term.

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor

### **Beenham News**

### **Greyfield Wood**

We have been focused, during this spell of good weather, in clearing the areas where we have been felling. This has entailed creating "dead" hedges where we can lay, in an orderly fashion, branches of felled trees.

These will rot down and become a great environment for insects and



small animals. The cleared areas will have bramble roots removed and towards the end of the year, be re-planted with Broad leaf saplings.

**Bluebells.** The wood is now showing signs of Bluebell leaves sprouting, which by the time you read this should be a marvellous canopy of bluebell flowers. Please visit the wood to enjoy this spectacle.

Date for your diary: Greyfield Wood Open day - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2pm-4.30pm. Organised walks, opportunity to meet the directors and volunteers. Tea & cake. Please put this date in your diaries and join us in the wood to enjoy the environment and see what a marvellous and calming facility the wood is.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

John Hammond john@meadvale-bays.com 07818 400440

### **Scarecrow Festival 2025**

We're all going on a Summer Holiday... I hope, but not before we have our annual Scarecrow Festival. Will you be Running up that hill, with Jack and Jill, past the Wonderwall to Strawberry Fields? Dancing in the street in a Purple Haze or Sittin' on the dock of the bay asking yourself How much is that doggy in the window? Or meeting Little Bo-Peep somewhere Over the rainbow? Just Imagine! And then make your scarecrow to illustrate a song title, put it somewhere we can see it and let me know if you'd like to be considered for the John Thurley Cup. Scarecrows should be up by Monday 26th May and judging will take place over the following few days. To enter, please email your name and address to lesleymcewen@btinternet.com.

Thanks - and be Lucky Lucky! Lesley McEwen

### WATCH OUT!

### The Bears are back in Beenham!!

From 18<sup>th</sup> May until 1<sup>st</sup> June our mischievous bears return to Beenham.

They may be hiding up trees, in windows, on roofs or simply hanging around the village!

Look out for more details on FB, Beenhamonline or on the Community Notice boards and see if you can match the bears to their locations and maybe win a small prize



### DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM - MAY 2025

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
Thu 1 <sup>st</sup>	Beenham Walkers: Circular walk from	Meet at Victory	Pauline Stares
	Hillier's Garden Centre at Hermitage -	Hall at 9.30am	01189713481
	3.5 miles mainly flat.	for car share	
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Monthly Church Working Party	St Mary's Church	Pat: 07947478840
	All help is most welcome	10am-12pm	
Mon 5th	EARLY BANK HOLIDAY		
Thu 8 <sup>th</sup>	Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6	Six Bells 7.30 for	9713368 to book
	£4/person	8pm	
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	Village Market and repair shop 2-3.30pm	Victory Hall	Sally: 07776 251 228
Mon 12th	Parish Council Meeting 7pm	Community Rm	
Wed 14th	WI: Speaker's meeting. £4 for guests.	Community Rm 7.30pm	Sally: 07776 251 228
Thu 15th	Beenham Walkers: Cherry Blossom walk	Meet at Victory	Pauline Stares
	from Whitchurch Hill	Hall at 9.30am	01189713481
Thu 15 <sup>th</sup>	Film night: £5 a ticket (cash only)	Victory Hall	Claire: 9713574
		7.00 for 7.30pm	
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	Calleva Stick Dressers 9am-2pm	Victory Hall	David:07864 180 648
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	Greyfield Woods Volunteer Morning. 8.30 – 12pm	Meet at wood entrance	John:9712924
Sat 17th	Live Music and Acoustic Night 7.30pm	Beenham Club	9713991
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	Greyfield Wood Open Day		
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	Beenham Friendship Club for over 55s.	Pick up points	Marion:9713094
	Coach trip to Stratford £25 for non- members	500	Tina:01635826154
Mon 26th	SPRING BANK HOLIDAY		
Tue 27 <sup>th</sup>	Beenham Tearoom 2pm-3.30pm	Victory Hall	Dru:07815 055 040
	**************************************	0.02404-10221.000017	Pat:07947 478 840
Thu 29 <sup>th</sup>	Beenham Walkers: Amble around Ladie	Meet at Victory	Pauline Stares
	Hill and return via Lord Webbers estate.	Hall at 9.30am	01189713481
	4 miles with steep climb at the end!	for car share	

If you would like to add anything to the village diary, please contact <a href="mailto:patowen0@hotmail.com">patowen0@hotmail.com</a> or 07947478840

Victory Hall Bookings contact NoIa - nolesandfrank@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01189 714 822

### Pop-up Library in Beenham

As you may know, the Mobile Library Service has been discontinued. West Berkshire Council are now exploring the feasibility of providing Pop-up Libraries in rural locations. A successful pilot has been carried out in Compton. Two options are proposed:

**Pop-up Libraries** Suitable for those parishes without a library branch in their locality. A pop-up library is a collection of 350+ books and resources made available on a regular basis to the community at a venue chosen by the parish e.g. village hall or community centre. This option is staff/volunteer supported to provide added value and establish a rapport with residents. Book reservations made online can be collected from the pop-up venue, and advice given on all the library services.

**Community Bookshelf** A collection of books (roughly 150 titles) delivered to a suitable venue identified by the parish council. Book collections changed and replenished quarterly or termly with new titles, depending on the need of the parish.

The costs are not yet clear, but it seems that WBC are looking to Parish Councils to provide most of the funds.

We are looking for a "Champion" who can look into the possibility of having a Pop-up Library in Beenham. This would include discussions with residents, Beenham PC and WBC. It may also include discussions with neighbouring villages into the feasibility of a shared resource.

If you would like to help with this project then please get in touch: p.mcewen@beenham-pc.gov.uk



Beenham Primary School are delighted to announce the return of their Summer Fayre, to be held at school on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June from 1pm. There will be games, stalls, bouncy castle, BBQ and more. This year we are raising funds for the development of our outdoor learning provision, called 'Edwin's corner', which will be a fantastic addition to our site for the children. Save the date and come and join us! If you would be interested in having a stall at the event, please contact secretarybeenham@hotmail.com

### **BEENHAM PRE-SCHOOL**

The Summer term is about to start and we are all excited to move even more of our resources outside and really make the most of our wonderful garden and views across the fields while the sun shines. Our free flow system means that children are always able to choose where to explore so the children really do lead their own learning, and we follow their interests (which can take us in some very unexpected and exciting directions for our play!).

We are excited to have added Baby College to the list of providers who visit us regularly, giving our preschoolers a really wide breadth of experiences, as well as the opportunity to welcome new faces and new voices to work alongside our full time staff. We absolutely love having visitors! The Summer term will be focused on School Transitions for our older children who are leaving us to go on to a wide variety of primary schools locally (and further afield) and building the confidence and communication skills of our younger children so they are ready to come back to us in September. We continue to focus on a gentle therapeutic approach with all of our children, so they know that their voices are heard, and their opinions valued.

Face to face parents' meetings at the end of the Spring term were a fantastic way for us to talk about the children with parents and guardians and really share in their successes and what we are planning as the next steps in each of their unique educational journeys. We will be sending a survey out to our families at the start of next term so we can really understand what parts of our provision our families love most and if there are extras we could bring - always looking for ways to improve and be the best possible Early Years setting! I am sure we will share the results on social media and in our newsletters.

We are as busy as ever and now full for September 2025 apart from one space on one day. We have more tours booked over the coming weeks as families ask to join our waiting list hoping for September 2025 spaces (and many families already joining for September 2026 and beyond to avoid disappointment).

If you would like to know more about that we offer, please do get in touch. We post lots of our resources and activities on Facebook which can be useful for prospective families to look at but we also love to show people around in person either within teaching sessions or out of hours depending on need. You can contact our Manager (Paula) on 07793116937 or <a href="mailto:info@beenhampreschool.org">info@beenhampreschool.org</a> and we can tell you more about our "welcoming preschool with carefully planned indoor and outdoor activities ... and a meaningful and engaging curriculum" [OFSTED 2024].

Enjoy the sunshine :-)

Paula

### Notes from Beenham Parish Council Meeting 7th April 2025

WBC Streetwise to be contacted re the fly-tipping at the bottom of Beenham Hill.

The WI is creating a poppy waterfall to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day in May on the grassed area next to the school. The idea was fully supported as a welcome initiative for the Community.

The WI reported that the first of five courses for use of the defibrillator and CPR had been held with 13 participants.

#### Councillors

The WBC response re selling of Sovereign Houses in Beenham is that they cannot do anything about it.

Affordable Housing initiative. A meeting to be held with WBC shortly to discuss the progress of the initiative.

WBC and two other authorities have submitted proposals to merge after the Government announced their intention to streamline local authorities.

There has been some interest in the provision of a pop up library to replace the withdrawn mobile library.WBC has suggested that Beenham PC pay for the catalogue of books required. The PC expressed concern that having had the mobile library withdrawn by WBC,and with the resulting lack of a library facility being available to parishioners, WBC should not be asking for funding of the supply of books.

### **Planning Matters**

25/00568/AGRIC: 3 Hall Place Cottages Beenham. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed track across the owners farmland. It was suggested that any parishioner with views on this application should contact WBC Planning.

25/00086/HOUSE: 4 Hillfoot Cottage, Beenham Hill. Erection of storage shed.

24/02654/HOUSE and 24/02655/LBC: Old Dairy Webbs Lane. Single storey extension.

24/01899/FULMAJ: Beenham Landfill Site, Grange Lane. Installation of PV Solar Panel Farm. All Applications granted.

Broken barrier posts adjoing the Rec have been replaced

Goalmouths on the Rec have been repaired. Please do not use until the new grass has established.

Community Room. Fence posts are broken. AES to be asked for a quote to repair.

The Beenham Walks map has been completed. It was resolved to print them and make these available.

### **Financial Matters**

The closing budget for 2024/25 was agreed.-The budget for 2025/26 was agreed.

The next PC meeting and Annual Meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 12th May in the Community Room at 7.00pm.

All correspondence to the council should be addressed to the Parish Clerk.

# Beenham Giant Vegetable Show Classes 14<sup>th</sup> September – Beenham Victory Hall

Longest Carrot Longest Cucumber Longest Leek Longest Runner Bean Heaviest Apple Heaviest Beetroot Heaviest Cabbage Heaviest Carrot Heaviest Cucumber Heaviest Marrow Heaviest Onion Heaviest Potato Heaviest Pumpkin Heaviest Tomato

Heaviest total weight of potatoes in bucket (please contact Jonathan asap as the seed potatoes are ready to collect)
Tallest Sunflower Largest Sunflower Head Largest Dahlia Head

**The Six Bells' Trophy** will be awarded to the best 14 inch hanging basket brought in on the day by a Beenham resident.

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

To enter or for any queries please contact Jonathan @ jondrury@hotmail.com

### Beenham WI

We had a fascinating talk about Margery Kempe, the 14th century mystic and pilgrim, at our last meeting. Most of our meetings in the year involve a speaker, followed by chatter and refreshments, and we are always delighted to welcome guests to those meetings. Our next meeting is our birthday meal, which marks the anniversary of our founding.

CPR and defibrillation sessions

Dates for our CPR and defibrillation sessions have now been set and have been circulated by village email and on the village Facebook pages: there are four further sessions. Two are in the afternoons - from 2 till approximately 4.30 - and these are on Thursday May 1 and on Friday June 13. The other two are in the evening, from 7 till approximately 9.30, and these are on Wednesday May 7 and Wednesday May 28. For places on the courses, please contact us

on <u>BeenhamWI@BerkshireWI.co.uk</u> and let us know which session you would like to come to. Children aged 8 and over are very welcome but must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

### DATE FOR THE DIARY

### Friday June 21st 7:30pm - Band on the Rec - Free event

Beenham Village Recreation ground

Beenham once again welcomes Beenham Wind Orchestra

This is a special year we celebrate 25 years since Beenham Wind Orchestra (Beenham Band as was) was formed for the millennium.

Bring your family, friends and rugs/ chairs.

Enjoy a barbecue by the Six Bells and Ice creams by Dave's Ices.

### **Brimpton News**

### **BRIMPTON WI NEWS**

I don't think Brimpton WI has ever had a Speaker before of such high ranking academic status as that of our March Speaker, Emeritus Professor Lawrence Harwood. His talk was entitled "Genetically Modified Food – Saving the World from Frankenfood". "Frankenfood" is an informal (slang) term for food or a crop that has been genetically modified.

By 2030 the population of the world is expected to reach 8 billion and continuing growing. This means that the demand for food will rise by 50%. Climate change is expected to put further pressure on agriculture for increase in output. Agricultural land is already under pressure in some countries. Livestock is increasingly dependent upon other food crops, so that that will also build pressure for maximising the output from the crops we grow. We will need to have higher yields from our agriculture and a decrease in the meat products we consume. Elimination of the losses caused to output by treating plant diseases is an expensive option, and the traditional selective breeding is both too slow a process and is a Lottery as to whether or not desirable or non-desirable traits arise. All the above is the background to Genetic Modification of our crops, as a means to increase the output from agriculture.

Professor Harwood gave us much information on just how the modification is carried out, allowing genes from both bacteria and selected resistant plants to be inserted into the cells of food crops. Interestingly 85% of the current GM crops relate to preventing plant diseases damaging crops. He discussed the question of Technological safeguards where countries may have different standards in place.

Then there is the "hot potato" around who and how we should regulate and police the supply and use of GM crops. Is it the Politicians? / Scientists? / supply chain Industry? / agricultural industry? Consideration needs to be given to such questions as Who draws up the Rules? How do you discover the Rules are being broken? What are the Penalties for infringement?

Interestingly the first question which he answered following his talk, was "How we as consumers can tell that we are eating foods made from GM crops?" The answer being that currently there is no legal requirement in place. Having heard earlier that two thirds, of the world's Soya production, is now from GM stock, this lack of openness might be of concern to some. It was a fascinating lecture, which provoked much "Food for thought" by those of us fortunate enough to have heard him.

Our May Meeting has no Speaker as we shall be considering the Resolutions for this year's national AGM, followed by a Social time. If you want to know more about us please contact

our President Shelley Bassil (0118 9710563) or our Secretary Annette Dolphin (0118 9710090) or use our dedicated e-mail link <a href="mailto:brimptonwi@berkshirewi.co.uk">brimptonwi@berkshirewi.co.uk</a>

Gwynedd Roberts WI correspondent

### PLANT SALE COFFEE & RAFFLE

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 10.00 am – 12.00 at St Peter's Church,
Brimpton RG7 4TJ



Donations of labelled plants welcome Please deliver to the church on <u>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May after 15.30</u>

Proceeds to St Peter's Church, Brimpton

### **COFFEE MORNING**

(SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH)



# IN BRIMPTON CHURCH

DROP IN ANY TIME BETWEEN
10:00 am-11:30 am
WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY 2025
WEDNESDAY, 11 JUNE 2025
WEDNESDAY, 9 JULY 2025
WEDNESDAY, 13 AUGUST 2025
Everyone (including dogs)
Welcome



Brimpton Church 100 Club
The new round starts in May
- it's not too late to join!

One number is drawn every month, and the winner gets a cash prize of £30.

Each number costs just £12 for the year. **How to join** 

Please contact Patricia Brims (0118 9714085), <a href="mailto:pcbrims@hotmail.com">pcbrims@hotmail.com</a>

Your number(s) will be put into the draw every month for a year.

BACS Transfer: <u>Brimpton PCC 100 Club</u>, Sort Code 30-96-96.

A/c no. 04419615. Give your name as the BACS reference

or

Cash or cheque for £12 per number, payable to <u>Brimpton PCC 100 Club</u> Please give to Patricia Brims, Brimpton Lodge, Wasing Road, RG7 4TG

### **Brimpton Parish Council**

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 1st April.

We decided to ask the company responsible for the Solar Farm why the replanting of the surrounding trees and hedge had not been carried out as promised. However, before we made contact work began. Perhaps it was telepathy, or more likely, the weather.

The recent placement of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) in Brimpton Road gathered evidence of significant speeding. The report was sent to West Berkshire Council and they are looking at the data. We are discussing with West Berkshire Council putting the SID in the Village Hall car park to record speeding in Crookham Common Road.

Thames Water has responded to our request for information about the problems of the sewage pumping station. Unfortunately, we are not much wiser as a result. They do not have flow monitoring in place on the site so information is limited. They did tell us the pumping station has two pumps but struggles when there is a high-water table and heavy rain, which then requires tankers to remove the excess water. I suspect most of us had worked that out already.

Information on future plans to resolve the issue was not forthcoming. In its reply Thames Water directed us to a plan for Woolhampton but it is unclear how this would help the situation in Brimpton. Our MP, Olivia Bailey, is taking up the matter but we suspect the answer is that Thames Water has no plans and probably no money for the necessary improvements.

A representative of the Brimpton Common Resident's group (BCRG) gave an update on the outcome of the recent planning appeal regarding a mobile home and caravan site in Blacknest Lane field. The appeal was dismissed and the Planning Inspector agreed with most of the points put forward by the Resident's Group, which included concern that it would set a precedent for other plots in the field if the appeal was upheld. The owners have been given 12 months to remove the mobile home from the site. We thanked the group for their efforts in objecting to the planning application which we had supported financially and at the appeal hearing.

There were no new planning applications to consider.

We approved a grant request from the Parochial Church Council for £2000 towards grass cutting in the Churchyard.

Nick Matthews reported that the organising group has met to plan the Beacon Lighting to mark the  $80^{\rm th}$  anniversary of VE Day. It will take place at the Village Hall on Thursday 8th May. A "fish and chip" supper is included in the ticket price. .

The Parish Council will meet again at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025** at the Village Hall. The meeting is open to the public and residents are welcome to come along and raise any issue of concern which is not already on the agenda. You can receive Parish Council news and more about local events if you receive by email the Parish Update. If you would like to do so, please let me know at jhicks@brimpton-pc.gov.uk.

John Hicks Chairman, Brimpton Parish Council

### **Midgham News**

### Midgham Café Church First Thursday of the month May 1st June 5th

Join us for tea and cake and fellowship 2.00pm in the church
Contact Sarah Henderson for more information

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

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

### MIDGHAM VILLAGE HALL

Everyone is welcome to come and join us on the fortnightly coffee mornings held in the Hall from 10 until 12 where you can be sure of a hot drink and a piece of cake and more importantly a warm welcome. In May the coffee mornings are on the 14th and 28th. Well behaved dogs welcome.

# Plant sale On Saturday 24th May in Midgham Village Hall from 10am until 2pm.

Come and restock your garden from the wide range of beautiful plants on sale. There will also be bric a brac, handmade jewellery and a charity stall in aid of donkeys.

Tea and cake will also be on sale, and there will be a raffle, in aid of the Village Hall.

Well behaved dogs welcome

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

### **NATURE NOTES**

I have just returned from a Devonshire holiday with the family. We stayed in a holiday let beside a tributary of the Dart, and I had hoped to come back with some exciting nature viewings, but no such luck. Everything was much the same as it is here. An egret was a daily visitor to our stretch of the river, and an occasional heron, but we can see these at any time we care to visit our local lakes, and various gulls too. We had a noisy rookery close by, but we're all familiar with those. Grey wagtails (or were they yellow?) came to our garden regularly, but they are here too. Never mind – we just have to keep eyes and ears open for our own summer visitors. Some are bound to come aren't they? The hedge flowers were beautiful!

P.S. We are convinced that a pair of barnacle geese paid us two visits, but they are not expected in South Devon.

Stella Nesbit

### Midgham Village Hall

### A Talk relating to falls and strokes.

On 19<sup>th</sup> March Darius from Harino care services was invited to join the Midgham Village Hall coffee morning to give us a [free] talk which included demonstration videos, on how to fall to minimise injuries and how to recognise the symptoms of a stroke. The statistics relating to falls, broken hips and strokes in the over 65s is alarming and Darius gave a talk that everyone found to be interesting, useful and relevant, and Darius was happy to answer any questions.

After the talk we were made aware of the services offered by Harino and one of our guests has a family member who is cared for by the Harino team. He made an impromptu speech indicating that he is very happy with the care his family member gets and is impressed to get a daily update on the condition of his relative.

There was no hard sell. Harino wanted to make people aware they exist and the services they offer so they may be considered if anyone needs their services in the future.

The team brought delicious cakes which they served with hot drinks and even washed up which was a real bonus and everyone left with a lovely goody bag! If you feel your group would benefit from this talk, you can easily arrange this with Darius who can be reached on: <a href="mailto:darius.papara@harinocare.com">darius.papara@harinocare.com</a>

# Date for your diary Roger Judd, organist at St Lawrence Ludlow and formerly of St George's chapel Windsor is once again coming to give a concert at St Matthew's Midgham on Friday 18th July at 6pm His previous concert was in 2022. Roger's family had connections in Brimpton and many years ago he used to practice on the Midgham organ. We look forward to welcoming hm again.

### Open Garden



The Dell" woodland garden will be open on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 3.00pm** - **5.30pm** in aid of St Matthew's Church, Midgham

Lindens, Carbinswood Lane, Upper Woolhampton
RG7 5UB
Donations of £5 or more. Children free
No dogs please
Tea will be served

For more information contact Tony Billington on 07836 231369

# WASING

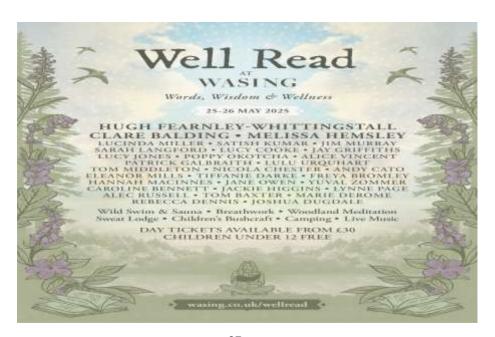


### An Update from Wasing

Spring has sprung at Wasing & how glorious the blossom is around the estate! The Farm has been a hive of activity recently with all our spring cereals now planted and emerging very well. The very dry March meant we completed spring planting three weeks ahead of last year, this will hopefully lead to better crops come harvest. With all the spring cereals planted, we now begin planting our vast array of environmental mixtures to include refreshing some of our wildflower margins around our arable fields to aid pollinators and invertebrates. We will also be planting multiple blocks of wild bird food which help to keep our native farmland birds fed over the winter. Our early calving group of cows are due to start calving this month & it's also a busy time of year for our resident shepherd, who has welcomed plenty of new additions frolicking around. At the lakes and along the rivers we are busy with mowing and swim maintenance and will soon be preparing access to the rivers ready for the start of the fishing season on the Kennet and Enborne on 16<sup>th</sup> June. We do still have some spaces available on our Kennet & Enborne syndicate, if interested please call Olivia in the office or email fisheries@wasing.co.uk for more details.

### Solstice Festival At Wasing

Join us in the woods for Solstice Festival to celebrate the energy of Summer, the cycle of nature and music from around the world, with the pinnacle solstice moment being marked with a beautiful Sunrise Ceremony. The Fireside Sessions, headlined by Anoushka Shankar on the Friday evening and Âpe Chimba on the Saturday, spark the Solstice celebration's shift from day into night & offer a magical experience around the fire and under the stars in Wasing's Sacred Glade. GRAMMY® and Mercury Prize award-winning James Blake will perform a stunning piano solo set & the whole weekend will be jam packed with workshops, wild swimming & nature connection meditations. Find out more at wasing.co.uk/solstice







### UNLOCK WALK 42 Saturday, 12 April 2025

Pat Owen and I set off on a beautiful, spring morning for our 7.8 mile walk around Kennington, Camberwell, North Brixton, Stockwell and Battersea.

On the way we stopped off at five churches of differing denominations including CofE, Methodist, Baptist and the Salvation Army. We were given a very warm welcome at all of them. The Walworth Methodist church had an organist playing who we stopped to listen to for a while. They had a beautiful courtyard at the back of the church where we enjoyed a well-earned rest and our lunch.

Each church produces a flier giving details of their mission; work with different cultures of all ages and the various clubs and organisation that use the buildings. So inspiring.

We did around 31,000 steps on our journey having got lost once and ended back in the church we had just left and on one occasion when the map was unclear (a bad workman always blames his tools!) and we were unsure which direction to head off in. We got it right in the end. And at the same time managed to answer all the questions on the set quiz.

A huge thank you to all our sponsors – between us we have raised circa £500 for this wonderful charity.

\*\*Brenda Scott\*\*

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7,45 am Mass

12.50 pm Midday Office 6.00 pm Vespers 8.00 pm Compline

Sundays

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10:30 am Mass

But no Compline

### **Brimpton Baptist Church**

Contact number 07944 956242

Sunday: 11.00 am

Wednesday Bible Study 7.00 pm

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Church of England Service	S Contact number	er: 0118 971 2891 (awb.org.uk)	
St Mary the Virgin, Aldermas	ton and St Nich	nolas, Wasing	
4 <sup>th</sup> May, <b>Wasing</b>	10:45	Holy Communion	
11 <sup>th</sup> May	10:45	Holy Communion	
18 <sup>th</sup> May	10:45	Morning Praise	
1 <sup>st</sup> June <b>Wasing</b>	10:45	Holy Communion	
St Marys, Beenham			
4 <sup>th</sup> May	09:15	Holy Communion	
11 <sup>th</sup> May	09:15	Morning Praise	
18 <sup>th</sup> May	09:15	Holy Communion	
1 <sup>st</sup> June	09:15	Holy Communion	
St Peters, Brimpton			
4 <sup>th</sup> May	10:45	Holy Communion	
11 <sup>h</sup> May	09:15	Morning Praise	
25 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00	Manor Farm	
1 <sup>st</sup> June	10:45	Morning Praise	
St Matthews, Midgham			
4 <sup>th</sup> May	09:15	BCP Communion	
18 <sup>th</sup> May	09:15	Holy Communion	
1 <sup>st</sup> June	09:15	BCP Communion	
St Peters, Woolhampton			
11 <sup>th</sup> May	10:45	Holy Communion	
18 <sup>th</sup> May	10:45	Holy Communion	
25 <sup>th</sup> May	10:45	Holy Communion	
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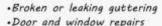
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