

# 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:aldermastonparishhall@gmail.com)

Beenham: 07793 116 937

Brimpton: 0118 971 3731

Midgham: 07941 093 853

Woolhampton: [bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mrsbscott@btinternet.com)

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Thatcham RG19 4QB . Tel: 01635 876498

## Committee Comments

Well, I wonder if we have had our “Summer” for this year? I have to say that I hope I’m wrong and that by the time this edition of the Villages’ News is delivered we will be enjoying glorious, sunny weather, with the rain showers arriving at night to cut down on the watering. I can dream!!

Following the results of the Big Butterfly Count 2024, Butterfly Conservation have declared a butterfly emergency and need our help more than ever before.

The Big Butterfly Count for 2025 begins on July 18th through to August 10th. Each survey takes 15 minutes, and you can undertake it anywhere, during bright (preferably sunny) weather. Record your results by going to : Big Butterfly Count. The Count is fun for everyone and is a chance to improve identification skills of these important creatures. If you have a smart phone the results can be recorded via an App.

This Spring may have provided better conditions for the butterflies and bees. I certainly saw many more butterflies: from the tiny Holly Blues to the beautiful yellow Brimstones. In St Mary’s church in Beenham we rescued many more Peacock butterflies this year (they overwinter as adults).

On two recent walks (one along the Kennet tow path) we were fortunate to spot several “nests” of Peacock caterpillars on nettles. This is something I haven’t seen for many years and bodes well for this species, this year.

So, get or download an identification chart and get out into our beautiful local countryside and see what you can spot! Have fun!

## ARTICLES FOR THE MAGAZINE

Please send articles for the magazine to:

For the villages of Aldermaston and Wasing: [cathy.jones@ukmessage.com](mailto:cathy.jones@ukmessage.com)

For the village of Brimpton: [brimptoncommon@aol.co.uk](mailto:brimptoncommon@aol.co.uk)

For the village of Beenham: [patowen0@hotmail.com](mailto:patowen0@hotmail.com)

For the villages of Midgham and Woolhampton:

[henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com](mailto:henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com)

Please send articles relevant to the all the villages to:

[brimptoncommon@aol.co.uk](mailto:brimptoncommon@aol.co.uk) and [henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:mrsbscott@btinternet.com)

We hope you enjoy reading your magazine

# Foodbank Shopping List For Hungry Holidays 2025



Ambient sponge pudding

Biscuits

Cereal

Cereal Bars

Instant Noodles

Jam

Long Life Juice

Sugar

Tinned Fruit

Tinned Meat Meals Spag Bol,

Curry or Stew

UHT Milk Full Fat or Semi-skimmed



Your donations will make a BIG difference.  
Thank you.

## Drop off points

**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**

## Beenham News

### **Notes of Beenham Parish Council meeting Mon 2nd June**

**Public Forum** -No members of the public attended.

**Election of Chairman**-Graham Bowsher was re-elected as Chairman

-WBC to be urged to cut grass verges on junctions with Bath Road and The Avenue due to limited visibility.

-The new Library Service - moved to next meeting as District Councillor was not present.

-Affordable Housing project. No willing landowner has yet been found to join the scheme.

-Individual Councillor responsibilities to be discussed at the next meeting.

**Planning Matters** -No new planning applications have been submitted.

**Council Policies** -It was resolved to maintain all Council policies as they currently are.

### **Councillor reports**

-The parking issues at Mallard Way, Aldermaston Wharf are getting worse.

- An ongoing dispute involving the Canal and River Trust re maintenance of land adjacent to the canal at Aldermaston Wharf reported.

-Victory Hall Management Committee meeting reported the good financial status of the Hall.

- Beenham Club is now under new management, and will hopefully thrive.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Community Room on Monday July 7th at 7.00pm.**

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

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

Parish Clerk: Lauren West Tel: 07919 916125 Email: [clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk)

CR Bookings: Paula Read Tel: 07793116937 Email: [info@beenhampreschool.org](mailto:info@beenhampreschool.org)

Parish Council website: [www.beenham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.beenham-pc.gov.uk)

Beenham Community Website: <https://www.beenhamonline.org/>

## Beenham Village Market

The next market will be on Saturday 12 July: come along and enjoy browsing everything from genealogy magazines to locally reared beef and lamb. Are you interested in having a stall yourself? Get in touch! Stalls do vary from month to month so if you are keen to find out if a particular stall will be there, contact Sally on [mrssallypellow@gmail.com](mailto:mrssallypellow@gmail.com).

Doors open for customers at 2pm and the market is only on for an hour and a half,

finishing at 3.30 - an ideal amount of time to potter round, then sit and have cake and a hot drink. And please bring your recyclable items too - Greener Beenham is there to collect your aluminium foil, ink cartridges, your cosmetics tubes and so much more.



## Beenham WI

We have been very busy. The last of our five CPR and defibrillation sessions took place, and as a result of these sessions, dozens of members of the Beenham community are more confident about what to do in an emergency, have practised using a defibrillator and performing CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation). We are very grateful to our First Responders and to South Central Ambulance Charity for their time, support and advice in the demonstrations; and we are also grateful to the Parish Council who sponsored this.

Also in June, we were delighted with the laughter generated by our Human Fruit Machine at Beenham School Fayre: if you haven't seen the video on the Beenham Village Facebook page, then it's worth hunting out. We raised money for the school and for our own WI.

Our speaker last month was very entertaining: she talked about fashions and development of wool and knitting and had made lots of the knitted costumes for films like 1917. We were particularly amused at the knitted swimming costumes and underwear. We are hoping our speaker next month will be just as enjoyable: she will be talking about the fashions of the 1940s. Come and join us: we are a very relaxed group, and once our ten minutes of WI business is over at the start of the meeting, we listen to the speaker and then have a cup of tea and a chat. We meet in the Community Room, starting at 7.30pm and guests or prospective members are always welcome. If you'd like to know more, contact our President, Sally Pellow, on 0777 625 1228 or on [mrssallypellow@gmail.com](mailto:mrssallypellow@gmail.com)

## Hello to you from Greyfield Wood!

As promised the “big fell” has been completed with a large proportion of the diseased Ash and Mature Spruce having been felled and cut into appropriate lengths for processing. By the time you read this, those lengths of log will have been stored in the loading area, or just off the bridle path by the loading area. There is a lot of wood. What happens to it? The Ash will be processed for fire logs. The Spruce that is not too wide or too small a diameter will be processed and most likely become fence posts. The rest will become chipwood and used in the production of chipboard. Spruce chipboard, a versatile building material, is commonly used in construction for floors, walls, and roofs. Additionally, Spruce chipboard finds applications in packaging, joinery, and even for temporary buildings.

Once the wood has been cleared of the cut logs, the brushings and other debris from the felling will be scraped to create dead hedges. This will ensure that the felled areas are clear, ready to be prepared for planting in the winter. We will also be working with this debris to create cordwood to be sold locally.

So, our sturdy band of volunteers will have much to do in the coming months as we prepare for planting, when we will see the appearance of our lovely wood change again.

If you would like to join our group of volunteers please contact me. You are not expected to be there every week, just come when you are able. Every small activity in the wood helps.

Please continue to enjoy the summer! John Hammond [john@meadvale-bays.com](mailto:john@meadvale-bays.com)  
07818 400440



### The Bears of Beenham!!

Thank you to everyone who took part in the bear hunt from 18<sup>th</sup> May until 1<sup>st</sup> June and we hope it brought a smile to your face spotting those cheeky bears in trees, windows, on roofs or simply hanging around the village!

Did you spot the “BEAR WARNING” as you entered the village from the A4?

**SIMPLY BRILLIANT!!**

## Beenham Primary School PTFA

A massive thank you to everyone who came out and supported the Beenham Primary School summer fayre! Your presence and enthusiasm truly made the day special.

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we managed to raise an amazing £500 for Edwin's Corner! This is a fantastic achievement, and every penny will go directly towards making a real difference.

We're so grateful for your continued support and for helping us create such a fun and successful event for the kids and the community.

# How is your garden growing? In preparation for the **Beenham Giant Vegetable Show** On 14<sup>th</sup> September – Beenham Victory Hall

## CLASSES TO INCLUDE:

**LONGEST:** Carrot, Cucumber, Leek, Runner Bean,

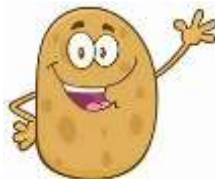
**HEAVIEST:** Apple, Beetroot, Cabbage, Carrot, Cucumber, Marrow, Onion, Potato, Pumpkin or Tomato

**TALLEST** Sunflower

**LARGEST:** Sunflower Head or Dahlia Head

**PLUS:** anything else we can think of!

## How are your potatoes growing?



**The Arthur Sutton Six Bells' Trophy** will be awarded to the best 14 inch (35cm) 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](mailto:jondrury@hotmail.com)



## DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM – JULY

Date	Event	where	contact
<b>Tues- days</b>	Art Group 10am-12pm	Victory Hall	Sunny: 9712255
<b>Tues- days</b>	Badminton Club 8pm – 9.30pm	School Hall	Ernie: 07954 127 771
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council meeting 7pm	Community Rm	
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>	WI: Talk -1940s Women's Fashions. £4 for guests.	Community Rm 7.30pm	Sally: 07776 251 228
Thu 10 <sup>th</sup>	Car share to Nettlebed: lovely woodland walk.	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Thu 10 <sup>th</sup>	Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6 £4/person	Six Bells 7.30 for 8pm	9713368 to book
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup>	Village Market and repair shop 2-3.30pm	Victory Hall	Sally: 07776 251 228
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup>	Beenham Friendship Club for over 55s. Coach trip to Bognor Regis £25 for non-members	Pick up points	Marion:9713094 Tinai: 01635826154
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup>	Greyfield Woods Volunteer Morning. 8.30 – 12pm	Meet at wood entrance	John:9712924
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup>	Calleva Stick Dressers 9am–2pm	Victory Hall	David:07864 180 648
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup>	Live Music and Acoustic Night 7.30pm	Beenham Club	9713991
Thu 24 <sup>th</sup>	Beenham Walkers: walk around Hampstead Norreys	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Tue 29 <sup>th</sup>	Beenham Tearoom 2pm-3.30pm + Pop-Up Library (pre-booked collections only)	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](mailto:patowen0@hotmail.com) or 07947478840

Victory Hall Bookings contact Nola – [nolesandfrank@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nolesandfrank@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 01189 714 822

## **Brimpton News**

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

**DROP IN ANY TIME BETWEEN**

**10:00 am-11:30 am**

**WEDNESDAY, 9 JULY**

**WEDNESDAY, 13 AUGUST**

**WEDNESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER**

**WEDNESDAY, 8 OCTOBER**

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



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**BRIMPTON HARVEST LUNCH**



**Saturday**  
**27<sup>th</sup>**  
**September**

# Kennet Opera in St Peter's, Brimpton

If you didn't manage to get to this concert, I am afraid you missed a great treat!

The singers of the Kennet Opera Chorus with their wonderful accompanist Oliver Williams gave a rousing performance of favourite pieces from opera and operetta. We heard music from Verdi, Mozart and Gilbert and Sullivan; from Donizetti, Puccini, Saint-Saens and Wagner. *Embroidery* from Britten's *Peter Grimes* was followed by *The Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves* – and of course, a highlight of the afternoon was a performance of the Letter Duet from *the Marriage of Figaro*, sung by Brimpton's own Sue Moore, together with Lucy Fitt.

It was a varied and exciting programme, under the directorship of Ben de Souza. And on a beautiful sunny afternoon the audience was able to enjoy a cream tea with home-made scones outside in the churchyard during the interval.



A big thank you to Sue Moore and Kennet Opera for arranging a lovely afternoon's entertainment.



**100 Club winner no: 24 Jackie Megarity**

## **Memorial to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

The memorial stone to commemorate the life and service of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, will be unveiled by Charles Brims, Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Royal Berkshire, at **2.30pm** on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July**. It will be located on the grass area alongside the War Memorial.

Light refreshments will be served in the Church afterwards.



## Midgham News

### Midgham Café Church

First Thursday of the month  
July 3rd August 7th

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](mailto:henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com)

### MIDGHAM VILLAGE HALL

#### Coffee mornings

There are coffee mornings in the Hall on alternate Wednesdays from 10 until 12. Everyone is welcome to come and join their friends and neighbours for a warm cuppa and a chat. In July the coffee mornings are on the 9th and the 23rd.

#### Plant sale

The plant sale was a huge success, thanks to the wide variety of high quality plants which were donated, and to the generosity of the villagers who attended. Many thanks to all the contributors!



# **Organ Recital**

By Roger Judd MVO

St Lawrence Ludlow and formerly of  
St George's Chapel Windsor

**St Matthew's Midgham on Friday  
18th July at 6pm**

Admission free. Retiring collection

Refreshments after recital.

We look forward to  
welcoming him again



## Open Garden

A very successful afternoon was had on May 25th when The Dell woodland garden was open, the sun shone and tea and cakes eaten by all. Vintage cars were on display. Thanks go to the Billington family for hosting such a wonderful afternoon, all proceeds went to St Matthews Church.





## Woolhampton News

### **Woolhampton** + Parish Council

### **Update from the Chair —** **Woolhampton Parish Council**



Dear Residents,

I feel privileged to have been elected the chair of your Parish Council.

Dating back to the 1800s, the Parish Council is a team of local residents who are committed to improving and supporting the village.

We are currently working on a number of initiatives to benefit the broad village community, including to improve the safety of our roads and railway crossings, directing infrastructure funding to our local primary school and recreation ground, and much more!

I hope residents will feel some of the tangible benefits of our efforts over the next year or so, and I intend to keep you up-to-date on our activities via this magazine.

If you need to contact me for any reason, my email is:  
[ben@woolhamptonparish.gov.uk](mailto:ben@woolhamptonparish.gov.uk)

Thank you for your continued support.



Ben Holden-Crowther  
Chair, Woolhampton Parish Council ([www.woolhamptonparish.gov.uk](http://www.woolhamptonparish.gov.uk))

### **Mikron Theatre**

The annual visit from the Mikron Theatre has yet to be advertised but it is on 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Shows normally start at 7pm in the Rowbarge grounds. If you've not been before, this is an event not to be missed. Always topical, often irreverent, often hilarious, sometimes controversial, the cast (who travel around on a barge) are very entertaining. You are advised to bring your own seating as there are limited arrangements at the Rowbarge. Entry is free but donations are gratefully received to help fund the event.



## **Our Station – Brunel to Beeching**

In 1840 the railway from London reached Reading and continued the 120 miles to Bristol. During 1846 there were indications of the need for a further extension westward from Reading. The necessary Bill was passed, and Isambard Kingdom Brunel prepared to lay the track to Hungerford via Woolhampton. During October 1847 the extension had



reached Thatcham Marsh aided by 'Jack of Newbury' which when "put to work moved 150 tons of earth with ease by means of 32 trucks attached to it". In December the engine 'Phoenix' left Newbury station for a trial run with a Government inspector on board. It was decided that the line would open on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 1847 with the proposal that five trains would run daily each way. On midday on the appointed date the first train down to Hungerford left Newbury under watchful eyes of 700 spectators. The cost was reported at £20,000 per mile. The station at Woolhampton designed by Archibald Bertram was built on peat land owned by Charles Frankum for which he received £600 compensation and Lord Falmouth received £2,000 for his loss of land. The station was renamed Midgham in 1873 "because too many mistakes kept arriving because of confusion with Wolverhampton". (There was a 'story' that Queen Victoria's horses were despatched for a Wolverhampton race meeting ...) Charles Abbott was the first station master and lived at 'Clock House' as, until 1915, did his successors.

The station was a boon to dairy farmers, osier growers, local gentry and the yard's coal pens supplied Henry Naylor, coal merchant in Station Road. The railway would have been an added attraction for squires Blyth and Green when purchasing the Woolhampton and Midgham estates.

The enthusiasm for railways continued and in 1880 agreement was reached between the Didcot, Newbury Junction Railway Company and William Mount for the line of the proposed railway from Southampton to pass through his estate to Aldermaston via Brimpton with a station at Shalford Bridge. In the event the line was not built for commercial reasons.

In 1960 Dr Richard Beeching was appointed Chairman of British Rail and his report led to the removal of 2,000, mostly rural, station buildings. Aldermaston was the first of our local stations to be demolished followed by Midgham at the hands of 'Bow Bells' of London who transported the lead to local traders. There followed a reduction in rail services and much protest from local users.

*John Trigg*

## **NATURE NOTES**

The Solomon Seal sawfly larva are now eating my Solomon Seals. It happens every year and still the plants and the caterpillars come back! They are obviously not at all attractive to birds, as they make no attempt to conceal themselves, but munch away in full view. They remind me of the huge change of attitude in gardening in recent years – gone are the poisons and the insecticides which so dominated gardens, and I'm sure we're all better for it.

We are all hoping for a real downpour before summer really sets in. Some will remember '76 and the drought. We took the children on holiday at the end of the school holidays. Our youngest gloomily predicted rain. His father said "If it rains on holiday I'll give you £1". It started raining as we were packing up to go home! Lucky boy!

*Stella Nesbit*

## **Woolhampton Parish Council Meeting**

*Allotments:* allotment invoices will be sent out annually by 1<sup>st</sup> July.

There are currently two vacancies for allotment plots; please contact

[woolhamptonclerk@gmail.com](mailto:woolhamptonclerk@gmail.com) if you wish to be placed on the waiting list.

*Clerk recruitment:* applications are being considered for the role of the Parish Clerk position which will be available from the beginning of September.

*Donations:* the parish council pledged £2000 to Woolhampton Primary School under Section 137 expenditure. Further consideration is being given to allocating CIL money and surplus funds to community projects.

*Meeting Frequency:* from July, meetings will be held bi-monthly on 'odd' months (e.g. July, Sept, Nov, Jan etc)

*Next meeting:* **21<sup>st</sup> July 2025 at 7.45pm in Woolhampton Village Hall**

## **Village Market**

The next Market will be on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July from 10a.m. to 12 noon in the Woolhampton Village Hall. My goodness, Summer has arrived with a bang now but no matter what the conditions are, there will be refreshments to suit your needs, hot or cooler. And the friendly stallholders will always help you 'discover' the items that you never knew you needed. What's not to like!

Occasionally there is spare capacity, so if you are entrepreneurial and have, preferably, home-made items for sale, please contact Cathy (email [cathy.vallis@outlook.com](mailto:cathy.vallis@outlook.com)) to check viability

## **Woolhampton Annual Show 2025**

Please don't forget that this year's Woolhampton Show will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August in the Village Hall. There will be classes for each of vegetables, flowers, cookery, photography, handicraft and special classes for children to enter. A schedule is available at the July (and August) market, or can be picked up from the Corner Gift Shop as well as being available to download from [woolhamptonannualshow.uk](http://woolhamptonannualshow.uk). So, in these challenging weather conditions, be sure to nurture your vegetables and horticultural contributions and practise your cookery skills to defiantly make this *your* year to win; do encourage your children to enter as well!

Last year, one of the children's classes was to decorate a wellie. However, some adults expressed interest in having a go, so the Committee have listened and included it in the handicrafts section for adults.

Also, if you want to try the bread recipe and don't normally buy yeast, sachets will be available at the market

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

## **The Listening District Councillor**

In case you haven't seen the notices on the notice boards sited around the village, our West Berks District Councillor, Chris Read, holds a 'surgery' in the Woolhampton Village Hall on the last Saturday of each month.

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

## **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](mailto:npm151924@gmail.com)

## **WOOLHAMPTON SCHOOL**

### **Celebrating in style**

It is not often that we get to share in and be part of a truly historic event, but this month, along with people and schools up and down the country, we celebrated in true Woolhampton School style the wonderful VE Day 80. To mark the occasion, the children attended a remembrance and celebration tea party at the Douai Pavilion along with music, games and team sports from the 1940s. It was amazing to see all the children so engaged and thank you Mrs Smith and Mrs Javes for organising such a great event.

Here's are photo 's of the children enjoying the day and their counterparts of 80 year's ago



### **Bravo year 6**

The pupils in year 6 have taken their SATs. It's

obviously an important moment at the end of Primary School education and not least for the pupils, for whom doing a test under exam conditions for the first time is quite challenging and stressful.

With the encouragement to do 't ir best', all the year group did just that and we as governors are immensely proud of all of them.

### **Books galore**

Recently the teachers took delivery of a large number of non-fiction books for each class linked to the topic areas they are studying. The FoWS team were pleased to be able to use money raised through their activities to support the teachers who chose the books based on the curriculum.

### **Wellies ahoy**

Mrs Cox has been out in her waders sharing a wonderful geography trip to Rushall Farm with the year 4/5 class. With key fieldwork skills learnt, river studies undertaken and lots of water activities, it was great to be able to enjoy this wonderful weather we have been having recently, gain some new skills and knowledge and have some fun.

### **On your marks for the Race for Life**

We've been limbering up for the big race with a few 'golden mile' warm-ups on Douai field over the last few weeks.

This all leads us to the Race for Life, where, each year, the school asks the children to join the race and help raise sponsor money for Cancer Research UK. This is a truly special event which brings the school and children together.

However, whether running, walking 'fast' or just cheering from the sidelines, it's all about community spirit, inspired children and everyone raising money for life saving cancer research.

### **Taking a little time to reflect**

Finally, with all the sporting, events and fun activities going on, the pupils have also been encouraged to pause for a moment and take some time to reflect on themselves and the bigger world around them. Often with a theme in mind, the school has recently looked at 'making mistakes.'

Personalising that through stories like The Titanic has excited and engaged the pupils and inspired them to think in different ways. *Adrian Dean Foundation Governor*

### **Change of Use for a Property in Woolhampton**

With the plethora of properties in Woolhampton either 'For Sale' or 'Sold', it is interesting to note that another, the former village shop which was previously named The Newspaper Shop (see property frontage), has gained approval for change of use. It is currently being refurbished as a ground-floor residential apartment.

### **What's on in Woolhampton Village Hall**

**Village Hall Market – 1<sup>st</sup> 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 - 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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: [www.woolhamptonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.woolhamptonvillagehall.co.uk)

[Bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com](mailto:Bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com)

## Aldermaston News

### *Aldermaston* Coffee Club

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

Everyone is welcome – just come along.

For further details contact Cynthia Newman 0118 971 3525



### TEA DANCE

Aldermaston Parish Hall



**Saturday 30 August 2025, 3pm - 6pm**

**Tickets - early bird tickets only £15 each**

**Afternoon tea, dancing, 1940s music, raffle**

**Dress code: 1940s dress or dress for dancing!**

**Help raise funds to maintain and sustain this beautiful Parish Hall**

**Commemorate VE/VJ 80th Anniversary**

To book, contact Ange Boott on 07748 791544 or email  
[aldermastonparishhall@gmail.com](mailto:aldermastonparishhall@gmail.com)

### Join our team!

1st Aldermaston Scout Group are recruiting new volunteers to join the team.

Our group continues to grow from strength to strength. To ensure we continue to develop, we need to expand the number of volunteers within the group. Squirrels and Cubs being the priority.


Please don't worry if you can't be there every week or feel that you don't have the necessary skills. Training and support is available and we are proud to offer a varied programme from craft to adventurous activities. These opportunities help us enable young people and adults to develop Skills for Life. Volunteering is also great for personal development and looks fantastic on a CV.

Our group currently consists of:

Squirrels (4-6), Beavers (6-8), Cubs (8-10.5), Scouts (10.5-14) plus we are hoping to start an Explorers unit (14-18) in 2026.


For more information, please reach out to Lead Group Volunteer Ben Green at [grouplead@aldermastonscouts.org.uk](mailto:grouplead@aldermastonscouts.org.uk) or visit <https://volunteeringopportunities.scouts.org.uk/#/> and search 'Padworth'.






## ALDERMASTON HISTORY GROUP

*proud to have created and maintain  
Aldermaston History Online  
<https://aldermastonhistory.uk>*






### The Butt Inn

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

AHG's 1<sup>st</sup> showing of the Imperial War Museum's silent film of Great Western Railways Emergency HQ relocation to Aldermaston Wharf in 1945 (length 20 mins)

**6:30pm**

*1<sup>st</sup> of several showings in the area*




Free, Everybody welcome

### NEXT AHG MEETING

**Weds 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025, 7:30pm**

Officer's Mess, The Hinds Head

*History Group updates & a 3 local talks from members*



**ATS at  
Aldermaston Manor**



**Forsters Farm**



**Aldermaston  
at the Movies!**

Free to members, non members £5

For more information on Aldermaston History Group Membership visit: <http://www.aldermastonhistory.uk>



## **Competition Schedules**

**available at:**

**Aldermaston Stores, The Butt Inn, The Hinds Head  
& Mad Hatter Florists**

**and online at [AWSHOW.ORG.UK](http://AWSHOW.ORG.UK)**





## **Aldermaston Parish Council - 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

The Open Forum was dominated by discussion of the incident in which a 2-year-old child was hit by a car outside Aldermaston C.E. Primary School in Wasing Lane. Fortunately, the child was not seriously injured. The school passed a site safety inspection by West Berks, who promptly arrived at the scene, although they recommended that the crossing should be moved to stop children having access to the busy road. Meantime the parents have been asked to complete a questionnaire expressing their views. You can rest assured that the Parish Council will take this incident into consideration as we strive to reduce speeding traffic in the area.

On the Planning front, unusually we were faced with no new applications, though we are expecting one from Young's Industrial Estate, Paices Hill.

Since our last meeting, WBC has made three planning decisions affecting us. They have approved the application for the detailed design of the new industrial estate at Blacks Lake, Paices Hill, and also the conditions associated with the establishment of eight permanent pitches in lieu of eight transit pitches at the Travellers' Site on Paices Hill, but not the Emergency Plan. They have decided that a planning application for the agricultural barn at Padworth Park is not required. The Parish Council had objected to the application for the conversion of the Travellers' Site on the grounds of lack of space for permanent pitches and to the Blacks Lake application, as it bore little resemblance to the original application.

We congratulated the Clerk on her good internal audit report and agreed to her request for the provision of new software to complete the accounts.

We reviewed the RoSPA report on the state of the play equipment at the Recreation Ground and we will ensure its users remain safe.

Work continues on the provision of a new defibrillator at the Parish Hall, and we reached agreement on the wording of a draft contract specifying the respective responsibilities of the Parish Council and the Management Committee of the Parish Hall.

We have taken out new insurance with Clear Councils, who are well established. We were previously with Zurich, but they were late responding to our request to renew our policy.

Under AOB, the subjects raised included Wray's Farm and Church Farm and the impact on local roads of a Traveller's funeral on 11<sup>th</sup> June at the Village Church.

We continue to monitor HGVs using Church Road, and as a result three lorry drivers have been prosecuted.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 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](http://www.aldermaston.co.uk) Dave Shirt tel. 0118 971 2549



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## **ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

We have enjoyed having some visitors into school; Owls class had a virtual workshop with poet James Carter. He helped the class to write their own kennings – these are poems like riddles which describe something without ever saying what it is. In a few weeks, the whole school will meet James when he comes to hold a whole school assembly.

Visitors came from the outreach programme from the Museum of English Rural Life to run some class workshops about the rich history and community experiences of our Gypsy, Romany and Traveller communities. They brought with them a treasure trove of artefacts from the museum's collection for the children to explore. The children were fascinated by these sources of historical

evidence and the care taken to preserve them for future generations.

XTRAC is a local company supplying gearboxes for motorsports around the world. We were fortunate to book them to run small group workshops with all our KS2 children. Every child in Owls, Kingfishers and Starlings enjoyed finding out more about the fundamental concepts involved in making and using gears. They discussed real life examples and took part in a collaborative activity working to assemble individual gearboxes guided by STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) ambassadors. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to develop those important STEM skills whilst also understanding how their learning can be applied in the world of work.



Finally, a reminder about our PTA Summer Fete – see the separate poster and please come and join in the fun!

*Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor*

## BBQ FOR THE BENEFICE OF ALDERMASTON AND WOOLHAMPTON

Francis and Beth Long kindly hosted a BBQ for the Benefice of Aldermaston and Woolhampton on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> June in their rose filled garden at Hall Court Farm. Thanks to a dire weather warning, the date was changed by a day and we were blessed with beautiful sunshine.

Everyone enjoyed delicious burgers and sausages supplied by Wasing Leisure Company and the day was rounded off with the arrival of Rossi's Ice Cream van and a queue quickly formed with chattering children anxious to savour the delights of their favourite Mr. Whippy with a 99 (of course).

It was a good opportunity for us to come together as a community and enjoy each other's company in lovely surroundings.





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A gentle circular walk through the countryside and settings that inspired one of  
Britain's greatest war artists

**Trail Overview**

Distance: 2.5 miles / 4 km Duration: Approx. 1 hour 30 mins Difficulty: Easy (shorter route available)

Terrain: Footpaths, paved roads, grassy fields, and a footbridge with steps. Some muddy sections in wet weather. Dog Friendly: Dogs on short leads welcome on the walk, gardens, and orchard. Only assistance dogs inside the chapel and exhibition. Accessibility: Uneven paths and slopes make the full walk challenging for some, but a shorter paved alternative is available.

**Walk Directions:**

**1. Begin at the Chapel**

Admire Spencer's murals inside the chapel before starting the trail. **Open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday from 11am – 3pm. Further details: [Sandham Memorial Chapel Details](#)**

**2. Cross the Railway Bridge**

Turn left outside the chapel. Cross the brick-bordered bridge over the old railway. Take the first left down Pound Lane. Spot Sandham House (second on the right).

**3. Ox Drove Track**

Continue to the end of Pound Lane, curving onto the Ox Drove. Walk straight for 100 yards until a kissing gate appears on your right.

**4. Footpath to Church**

Go through the gate and follow the tree-lined path across fields to the Church of the Ascension.

**5. Route Options**

- Shorter Route: Exit churchyard via the main gate onto Harts Lane. Turn left to return to the chapel.
- Full Trail: Exit near the war memorial. Follow the path behind the church, through fields and gates, down Jacob's Ladder, and over the footbridge. Arrive at Spring Lane.

**6. Old Station House**

Return up Spring Lane. See Old Station House on your left.

**7. Return to Chapel**

Turn left at the top, cross the bridge, and finish your walk back at the chapel.

## Church Services in the Villages

### Douai Abbey

Contact number 0118 971 5300

#### **Weekdays**

6.20 am	Matins & Lauds
7.45 am	Mass
12.50 pm	Midday Office
6.00 pm	Vespers
8.00 pm	Compline

#### **Sundays**

As above, plus

10:30 am Mass

But no Compline

### Brimpton Baptist Church

Contact number 07944 956242

Sunday: 11.00 am

Wednesday Bible Study 7.00 pm

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For details of services provided, requests and offers to help ring:

0118 9713334 (Mrs Cardy)  
between 9.30 and 11.30 am,

## Church of England Services Contact number: 0118 971 2891 (awb.org.uk)

### St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston and St Nicholas, Wasing

6 <sup>th</sup> July, Wasing	10:45	Holy Communion
13 <sup>th</sup> July	10:45	Holy Communion
20 <sup>th</sup> July	10:45	Morning Praise

### St Marys, Beenham

6 <sup>th</sup> July	09:15	Holy Communion
13 <sup>th</sup> July	09:15	Holy Communion
20 <sup>th</sup> July	09:15	Morning Prayer

### St Peters, Brimpton

6 <sup>th</sup> July	10:45	Holy Communion
13 <sup>th</sup> July	09:15	Holy Communion
20 <sup>th</sup> July	09.15	Morning Praise

### St Matthews, Midgham

6 <sup>th</sup> July	09:15	BCP Communion
20 <sup>th</sup> July	09:15	Holy Communion
27 <sup>th</sup> July	5:pm	Evensong

### St Peters, Woolhampton

13 <sup>th</sup> July	10:45	Holy Communion
20 <sup>th</sup> July	10:45	Holy Communion
27 <sup>th</sup> July	10:45	Holy Communion



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