

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: 01189 714 822

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

In January and the early part of this year we were wondering whether we would have a nice summer as it was incessant rain – well I write this before the month of August [in early July actually] and we have been sweltering in in our second heatwave of the summer with a third forecast – well that is for you dear reader as I am sitting on the lido deck of a cruise ship writing this with the sun shining, a cool sea breeze keeping the temperature manageable and a cool drink in front of me on my table – c'est la vie!!

Returning to more 'at home matters', at the time of my leaving I noted that the sewage tankers were still trundling through Woolhampton although not as frequently as in the past. The weather has also been good for butterflies [I trust you all took part in the count] and all the village activities are flourishing, although I, like I am sure most of you, cannot get round to them all. But do look up what is happening in your village in this magazine and go along and support as many events as you can.

That all said I do hope you enjoy the magazine and will keep supporting us.
Best Regards from the Magazine Committee.

ARTICLES FOR THE MAGAZINE

Please send articles for the magazine to:

For the villages of Aldermaston and Wasing: cathy.jones@ukmessage.com

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

For the village of Beenham: patowen0@hotmail.com

For the villages of Midgham and Woolhampton:
henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com

Please send articles relevant to the all the villages to:

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

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

Articles are included and edited/amended at the editors' discretion.

Advertising enquiries can be sent to mrsbsscott@btinternet.com

We hope you enjoy reading your magazine.



WEST BERKS FOODBANK

HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

West Berks Foodbank relies on your goodwill and support.

DID YOU KNOW - The Foodbank accepts fresh fruit and vegetables directly to their warehouse weekday mornings 9am-12pm

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:

<https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

The shopping list below shows the food items that are needed right now and items low in stock. Please see the table below for food drop off points in the local areas.

Items urgently needed

Cup-A-Soup, Custard/Rice Pudding, Tinned Fish, Mugshots, Tinned Meat Meals, Tinned Tomatoes, Biscuits

Items low on stock

Tinned Vegetables, Washing Up Liquid, Tinned Fruit

Drop off locations:

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

Beenhaim: 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

COFFEE MORNING

(SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH)

BRIMPTON CHURCH

DROP IN ANY TIME BETWEEN

10:00 am-11:30 am

WEDNESDAY, 13 AUGUST 2025

WEDNESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2025

WEDNESDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2025

WEDNESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2025

BRING AND BUY SALE

Everyone (including dogs) welcome

IN





Brimpton Church of England Primary School

Amazing things happen here.....

SIAMS - We had our Church School Inspection on Tuesday 1st July. We melted our way through it! The inspection went well and the inspector was complimentary about our school and everyone that is a part of our Brimpton family. Thank you to the parents that spoke to the inspector and shared their thoughts and feelings. Mr Shore our inspector spoke to most children in the school over the course of the day. When he arrived he said he was looking for the 'stardust' and one of the moments that he said was a stardust moment for him was when he was outside at break time. He was amazed at how the children were self-led all playing different games (including an un-refereed game of football!) and all playing with children across the school. As I always say, he saw our children as the natural superstars they are. He is in the process of writing a report and I will share this with you and the result when it is formalised.



Summer Term - Wow! The end of another academic year! Time has just disappeared! Our summer term was packed and as busy as ever, with lots of activities, adventures, heat waves and goodbyes. July is always a busy time and an anxious time for our Year 6 children as they start thinking about and preparing themselves for Secondary School. We said our goodbyes with an evening Prom, Leavers Church Service and an archway of clapping and cheering sending them onto their next journey.

Thank You - It just leaves me to say thank you for the communities support during this academic year, it is always so wonderful to see members of the Brimpton Community in church with us, stopping by to buy an ice cream on Fridays and helping us with fundraising. It never goes unnoticed and we as a school thank you. Have an amazing summer and we shall see you all again in September.

We hope you enjoy seeing what our amazing school takes part in over the school year.

**If you require any other information regarding Brimpton School
Please contact Mrs Sarah Vockins on 0118-9712311**

Brimpton Parish Council

The agenda included for our July meeting included:

Environment

Thames Water has replied to our questions regarding the future use of the sewage pumping station and the measures they were intending to take to prevent further winter flooding. It was a long reply but in essence they said:

- a) the chamber was inspected last winter but they are going to carry out additional inspections of the “wet well” during the next winter to identify any specific points where groundwater may be getting into the chamber and causing it to flood.
- b) they will explore the possibility of a full catchment survey to allow for a more comprehensive investigation of the local network.
- c) there will not be a target date for any remedial work until they have a clearer picture of what needs to be done to solve problem (if they can confirm one exists).
- d) they will restore the verges and repair the damage caused by tankers outside of the pumping station and will take up dangerous parking with their logistics team who monitor the tanker drivers.
- e) the cost of the “tankering” (their word) operation between January 2024 and February 2025 was £220,730.

We will monitor whether these actions are delivered and have asked Thames Water for a timeline for repairs to the verges in Brimpton Road.

Highways

Repairs have been underway for the past two weeks at the bridge between the Baptist Church and King's Bridge in Brimpton Road. The parapet was damaged last year in an accident and the brickwork has now been replaced.

Planning

There were no new planning applications to consider.

Regarding the development at Hillcourt Lodge, plus construction of a mobile home on site, Cllr Dominic Boeck reported on his discussion of residents' complaints with the WBC head of planning and explained the reasons why these buildings have been allowed to proceed without planning applications. We recognised the legal position but felt it was regrettable that the new owners had not explained their proposals to neighbouring residents.

The Parish Council will meet again on **Tuesday 5th August**, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend and residents may raise issues in the Open Forum that are not otherwise listed 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

Brimpton WI

It's been a busy but enjoyable few weeks at Brimpton WI.

On 10 July 40 members and partners met at Manor Farm for what has now turned into an Annual BBQ. The weather was very hot, and we were all pleased when the sun went behind the trees and it felt cooler. The salads and dessert were provided by committee members, and two husbands kindly did the cooking of burgers and sausages. The main topic of conversation during the evening was that at last year's BBQ it was so cold, everyone was wrapped up in puffer jackets and blankets!!!

At our Summer Outing on 15 July, 16 members gathered at Blue Beetle Pottery in Thatcham. As usual with any WI event that was a lot of chatter over coffee to start with. Lorna soon got us under control and guided us through the process of painting a bowl with a 'peacock feather' effect. There were lots of examples for us to get ideas from which we all found very helpful.

Using a medium called flux, the first step was to paint a series of 'U's' around the top edge. Inside the bowl followed by another row beneath. Using three different coloured paints blobs were painted inside each of the 'U' shapes and another row of blobs underneath. We then had a sponge to colour around the rim and the top of the outside the bowl. If wished more blobs could be added to this painted area. Once all the paint was dry, the whole bowl was coated with a glaze containing tiny pieces of crystal.

At this stage the bowl looked a lumpy grey mess, so we really look forward to seeing the results of our efforts in a week or two after they have been fired in the kiln. It was a fun experience, and I am sure many of us will revisit to have another go.



Ready for the kiln



Painted bowl

Our next meeting is at 19:30 on 16 September when Andrew Webber will give a talk on Generative AI. As this is an open meeting everyone is welcome to attend.

If you would like to come along and join us, or know more about us please contact:

President: Shelley Bassil (0118 971 0563) or
Secretary: Annette Dolphin (0118 971 0090) or
Email: brimptonwi@berkshirewi.co.uk

Brimpton 100 Club

The 100 Club winner in July was no. 54 Marcia Hughes

Brimpton 2nd Garloff 2025 competition.

Last weekend we had the final judging and prize giving of the 2025 Brimpton Parish Garloff. It is an elephant garlic growing competition which is fun and not taken too seriously (unless your competitive side rears its head, as it often does!). I started growing the garlic 2 years ago and had the idea that it could be bring our parish a little closer together whilst having fun and raising some money for a good cause too.

Last year I had grown enough garlic to be able to include around twelve people and the winner was John Hicks - booo! I hear you shout! He was awarded the engraved Garloff cup which has been proudly displayed at his home (I've no doubt he has mentioned, a lot, it if you have visited him). This year we had grown enough garlic between us to have around twenty five people enter. I ask that you surrender your garlic and we sell it back to you to be able to raise funds for a good cause.

The three judges (John Hicks, Phil Bassil and myself) decided that we would donate the funds raised to the repair work on the church steeple. The church is a land mark and beautiful asset to our community that is seen from every angle as you approach Brimpton. On Saturday morning we visited the growers to dig up the garlic. We were adorned in our Garloff uniforms and measured each bulb to ascertain who had grown the largest. It's always fun and we see all shapes and sizes and hear all the excuses under the sun!

On Saturday evening we met in our garden at The Old Post Office (such a lovely evening!) to present the much coveted Garloff cup. The winner was John Hicks (again I hear you shout booo!) closely followed in second place by Kate Turner and Sue Matthews in third place. We finished the evening with some snacks and drinks (it seems that a few people were drinking away their sorrows). We will be planning the third Garloff a little later this year. If you think you've got what it takes, why not enter? We will keep you informed nearer the date for planting but in the meantime well done all that entered this year!

Nick Matthews



80th VJ Day
Remembrance/Celebrations 15th August 2025 1900-2300



Come along and remember and celebrate those that gave so much for us all. The VH are putting on this event and all proceeds are going to be donated to SSAFA. Cost will be £10/head for a BBQ must be bought in advance via link below. <https://brimpton-village-hall.sumupstore.com/>

If you do not use internet please contact John Dolphin on 07737160925 to arrange payment.

Tickets will be available to purchase till 10th August 2025.

There will also be a cash/card bar.

Hope to see you at Brimpton Village Hall on Friday 15th August.

If you do not want BBQ you are welcome to attend and have a drink from the bar.



Brimpton Harvest Lunch

Saturday 27th September

12.30pm in Brimpton Village Hall

Adults: £12.50 Children under 10: £5

Includes a soft drink. Bring your own beer or wine

Tickets from:

Brenda Scott mrsbscott@btinternet.com

Mel Bowring mebowring@outlook.com

Sue Moore susanmoore50@hotmail.com

Patricia Brims pcbrims@hotmail.com

Cash, cheque or BACS: Account name: PCC of Brimpton

Sort Code: 30-96-96

Account number: 00481863

Please mark your payment **Harvest**

Proceeds to St Peter's Church

Collection box for contributions to West Berks Foodbank

Harvest Festival Service
10.45am on Sunday 28th September

Donations of non-perishable food etc will be gratefully received

Midgham News

Midgham Café Church

First Thursday of the month at St Matthews

August 7th September 4th

Join us for tea and cake and fellowship 2.00pm

Contact Sarah Henderson for more information

Tel; 0118 9713956

henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com



Midgham Village Hall

Popular coffee mornings are held on alternate Wednesdays in the Hall.

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

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy tea, cake and a friendly chat

RIDE + STRIDES for Churches

Saturday September 13th

Midgham's annual Sponsored Ride & Stride event!

Come and join us cycling a well-known route round the beautiful countryside with a stop for lunch at Stanford Dingley!



It is a fun day with a great group of people – if you wish to join us contact Julia for more information.

The sponsorships help keeping St Matthew's and other local churches open for the community.

julia@emftechnology.co.uk Mobile: 0787 635 2988



Quiz Night

A Quiz night was held in the Midgham Village Hall on Saturday 12th July, which, included a Fish and Chip Supper. It was a very enjoyable evening where four teams tested the little grey cells against each other on various subjects and there were some very impressive high scores! Chris Read the local Lib Dem Councillor kindly came and supported the event with his family, which, was much appreciated. The two Quiz Masters, Ray and Karen, set us some very good questions, where there was something for everyone to contribute with an answer, including a music round. The Fish and Chips were delicious, hot, fresh and tasty and were provided by Mustafa and his team at Crown Mead in Thatcham, who did us proud with their efficient delivery.

I would like to thank all those who supported the evening and made it an enjoyable success.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Gill Blythman will be giving a concert at St Matthews Church, Midgham on Friday September 19th at 6pm



**HARVEST
FESTIVAL
LUNCH & RAFFLE**
SUNDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2025
in aid of St Matthew's Church

Tickets: £12.50
(to include drinks)
Children under 5 free

Please contact Francine Gibbs 01189 712944
or email: francine@mpfarm.plus.com
Midgham Park Farm 12 noon

Woolhampton News

Woolhampton Show



To be held in the Woolhampton Village Hall, please see timetable in article below.

The show schedule and entry forms in paper form are currently available from the Corner Shop and Cathy (Old Millstones, Station Road), and will also be available at the August Village Market (2nd). They can be downloaded from the website woolhamptonannualshow.uk. We hope that you will be inspired to enter at least one class at this very successful and very friendly amateur event which is now in its 24th year. Growing conditions this year have not been favourable to say the least for vegetable and flower entries but we are all suffering so don't be put off entering, and there is always the unweather-related cookery class to enter. Have you ever tried Swiss Morning Bread ? No, then here's your chance to join others that are making it for the first time to the recipe provided! We would like to see more entries from children than in past years, so please encourage your child to enter. If you will be away at the time of the Show, then why not leave entries with a friend. By popular request, the Limerick competition continues (for you budding poets) and the 'Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar' (for children only).

For further information, or if you have difficulty in obtaining schedules or entry forms, please contact Cathy on 0118 9713637. Completed forms can be handed in to the Corner Shop, Cathy at Old Millstones Station Road or the Village Market. PLEASE NOTE that all entries are free if handed in before the 9th August; entries will be accepted on the day but at 20p per class entered. Finally, the timetable for the day is

9.30-11.45 Exhibits set up (Potato-growing competition from 9.00 – please cut off foliage and put a name tag on your entry and leave in car park, near the allotments)

12.00-2.00 Judging (public excluded)

2.00-4.00 Viewing and presentations

Open to the public from 2 to 4pm and refreshments and also a grand raffle with lots of really good prizes.

Outside the Village Hall on Show Day, the Woolhampton School will have fund-raising stalls and your support for them will be much appreciated.

Even if you are not inclined to 'have a go' at anything, please come along and support this local event.

Look forward to seeing you there!!!!

If you require more information or detail, please contact Cathy or Terry on 0118 9713637

Sunflower Competition

For those of you who have been growing sunflowers again under really trying conditions mainly the wind and have an exhibit that measures, from ground to top of plant, in excess of 6 feet (2 metres) on the 5th August, we are asking you to contact Cathy (email cathy.vallis@outlook.com), leave message on 01189713637 or refer to fb with details so that members of the committee can arrange to visit to verify measurements and announce the winner at the Village Show.



WOOLHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL – APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEER TRUSTEES

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

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

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

What's on in Woolhampton Village Hall

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

Mondays

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

Dance Fit with Lorraine – 5.45pm

Pilates with Lorraine 6.35pm

Tuesdays

Stroke Care – 9am until 3pm

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

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

Womens Institute – 7.30pm until 9.30pm, every second Tuesday of each month

Wednesdays

Lunch Club - 1st and 4th Wednesday of each month at 12 noon

Thursdays

Flexercise – 10am until 12pm

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

Fridays

Bowls – 2.30pm until 5pm.

For any further information please visit: www.woolhamptonvillagehall.co.uk

Bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com

Woolhampton School News July 2025

On Monday 14th July the Year 6's hosted the inaugural 'Woolhampton's got Talent'.



The Year 6's instead of performing a play, wanted the whole school to be involved and came up with the idea of hosting 'Woolhampton's got Talent'. Auditions started just after half term, any pupil could enter and 60% of the children volunteered to take part either performing individually or in a group.

It was advertised as a 'fantastic evening of music and entertainment', and it certainly was. The buzz of excitement waiting for the doors to open was similar I am sure to the atmosphere outside the Oasis concerts this summer!

Pupils ranged in age from Reception to year 6. There was a wide variety of different acts. There were 3 gymnastics acts during the evening, firstly, Lora, Nora, Corrie (Yr 3), then Willow, Tilly and Ayla (Yr1) and then the Gymnastics Squad (Yr 4) they all delighted the audience with their flexibility and coordination. There were 6 singing acts, some with backing tracks and some unaccompanied. Stanley, Archie and Matthew from Reception were a crowd hit as they were so cute! The Yr 3 Bluebirds singing 'Reach for the stars' received lots of applause as did Elise (Yr 2) singing 'I have a Dream'. Phillipa and Arwyn combined singing with impressive Rubik cube skills. There was some great dancing, Jules (Yr 2), had the biggest infectious smile as he danced away to 'Go Go Mango', Sophie (Yr 6) got lots of cheers with her funny dance. Albert and George (Yr 2) played the electric guitar. Teddy and Teddy (Yr 2) demonstrated some impressive football skills. The jokes told by the two comedy acts got lots of laughter, the Jokeboxes from Yr 4 included 'What did the cheese say when it looked in the mirror – Halloumi!' and James and Eden, 'Why did the lion cross the road – to get to the other pride!'. There was one hoop act from Lily and Freya (Yr 2), impressive maths questions from Jack and Oscar and Poppy was an excellent Ventriloquist with a very cheeky puppet! Ophelia (Yr 3) gave a beautiful and elegant ballet routine.

The evening finished with a finale of class songs. Yr R&1 sang the Crocodile Song with every child using a new instrument recently donated by FOW (Friends of Woolhampton). Yr 2&3 sang the Fiesta Song. Yr 4&5 sang Count on Me.

The judges had a very difficult time deciding on special mentions and a winner. In the end special mentions were given to Jules, the Gymnastics Girls and Elise and the winner was Ophelia with her beautiful ballet.

Yr 6 hosted it fantastically, they made lovely comments after each act. There was a wonderful atmosphere in the packed out, rather warm hall at Elstree. The children and audience listened and supported each act so well and there was much clapping and cheering after each act. It was a very happy evening and there was a wonderful sense of community. Well done Mrs Smith for organising it – when is the next one please!

Woolhampton & Midgham WI June and July 2025

It has been a busy few months for us beginning with the Reading Wind Turbine Visit which was very interesting. It was a lovely evening, and we enjoyed hearing all about the Turbine whilst watching the rabbits grazing nearby.

June was our garden visit to two of our members gardens. It was pleasant either wandering around their gardens or just sitting admiring them. One was a large mainly wild garden full of plants and flowers, and the other was more constructed with some lovely flowers. Afterwards we all met at the village hall for sandwiches and cake.

Our evening at the Mercure Newbury West Grange Hotel to see the Jersey Boys tribute was enjoyed by all. The meal and music were good, enticing some of us to get up and dance.

In July we were entertained by Arty Michelle with songs from well-known shows.

Our August meeting is lunch at the Bladebone.

We are now looking forward to our visit in September to the Watermill Theatre, Newbury to see Jesus Christ Superstar.

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.

District Councillor 'Surgery'

Our local District Councillor, Mr Chris Read, will be holding another 'surgery' in Woolhampton Village Hall on the last Saturday of the month (July 26th, August 30th, etc.) from 9 to 11am. He welcomes residents' attendance and will do his best to help address/resolve issues raised.

Village Market

The next Village Market will be in the Village Hall on Saturday August 2nd between 10am and midday.

There is always a good variety of stalls and refreshments available, and it is a great chance to meet other residents and have a chat.

You can also pick up/hand in your Annual Show entries, which takes place the following Saturday (August 9th), see elsewhere.

Hugh Attwood – Baskets, Boer War and D-Day



Hugh Attwood was born in 1844 in the Wiltshire village of Biddestone sited between Chippenham and Bath. His father had reason to re-marry and the resulting domestic strain caused two brothers to emigrate to Australia and Hugh to set off on the 50 mile walk to Woolhampton to the home of Uncle Will Attwood, basket maker, grocer and landlord of the 'Rose & Crown' (sign still visible on wall of 'Crown House', Station Road). In later years, now a family man, Hugh and wife Sarah-Marie, occupied one of the 'Swing Bridge Cottages' opposite the 'Row Barge' inn. Described as "five tenements under one roof with gardens home to five families" – alongside the canal as in photograph. In 1881 Hugh and 8 children occupied two of the cottages. By 1891 there were three additional children (three older children no longer at home). Hugh purchased the two cottages in estate sale of 1902. In later years it was noted that the cottage beams were of poplar or willow and the floors lined with osier peelings as insulation.

Hugh was described in 1899 as basket maker and dairy farmer with cattle pens in the garden and a milk round (Sarah-Marie, amazingly, found the energy to go 'stone picking' in the fields). Baskets were widely used in vegetable gardens, orchards, by bakers, in laundries, post offices, pigeon fanciers, households, providing measures – a 'pottle' gave ½ a gallon of strawberries. Hugh's baskets were used in the water cress beds at Stanford Dingley. On market day members of the family walked to Newbury with baskets for sale some balanced on heads. Hugh was a staunch member of the Congregational Chapel and in 1895 became a member of the inaugural Woolhampton Parish Council. Second son Albert served in the Boer War. Youngest sons Frank and Alfred served the village. Frank was a basket maker who inherited his father's milk round (delivered by bicycle with churn on handlebars!) and Alfred as blacksmith in present 'Old Forge', Station Road, and village cricket captain. In 1936 Frank erected a modern house 'Kennet Side' close to the old family cottages, becoming in more recent years the home of his son Ray who died in 2015 aged 95 years – recently replaced by Poplar Lodge. He too served his country and in 1944 was part of the D-Day landing, serving in proximity to Sir William Mount of Wasing.

Hugh died in 1924, a floral tribute from eldest daughter read "Louisa and family – Vancouver".

John Trigg

Aldermaston News



Sponsor Ducks in the Duck Derby!

The Final—1st : £250 2nd: £150 3rd : £75



Heat Winners: £40

10 ducks from each heat to final

Tickets £2 online at: DUCKDERBY.AWSHOW.ORG.UK

MORE INFORMATION ONLINE

[HTTPS://AWSHOW.ORG.UK](https://awshow.org.uk)



Competition classes for all ages

Competition Schedules are available at :

Aldermaston Stores, The Butt Inn , The

Hinds Head, Mad Hatter Florists and

online

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Craft Stalls, Arena Events, Dog

Championship, Coconut Shy, Crockery

Smash, Classic Cars, Archery, Egg

Throwing, Brass Band, Food stalls, Gun

dogs, Community Groups, Tea & Cakes,

Bar & much more

TEA DANCE

Aldermaston Parish Hall



Charity number: 330110

Saturday 30 August 2025, 3pm - 6pm

Tickets -£20 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

Aldermaston Parish Council - 8th July 2025

To start with the good news, Easy Concrete's appeal has been dismissed, so we will not have the prospect of several vehicles exiting from the site on Paices Hill onto the A340. The Parish Council will endeavour to reduce the impact of the site. This discussion dominated the Open Forum.

On the planning front there were seven applications for review, three of which had already been determined by West Berks, and three affecting Young's Industrial Estate. We were unable to make a decision on these applications, due to apparent lack of emergency plan, so we decided to object. The remaining application was from Sascron, in which they resubmitted their plans for a retrospective new building, which was refused last time by West Berks. We are sympathetic to their cause and wish to help them. We didn't comment on the application.

As well as the three listed above, largely dealing with tree works, West Berks has made five decisions. They have approved the construction of industrial units at Young's. At Burnt Pine, Reading Road, they have approved details for the construction of a replacement dwelling. They have approved the details of new units at Blacks Lake. They have also approved a new scaffolding yard at Young's Industrial Estate, which we will legally challenge, but as previously mentioned they dismissed the appeal of Easy Concrete.

There was discussion on traffic calming measures outside the school, following an injury to a child reported last month. There have also been horses on the cycle path, and we rely on the general public to report further instances to us. There has been a MITIE litter pick, courtesy of AWE, and their findings included evidence of anti-social behaviour. We also discussed an extension to the footpath in Church Road from the east of the Manor House grounds. The pavement there has become badly damaged by vegetation.

We agreed an extension to the Parish Clerk's hours, because of an increase in her amount of work.

Lastly, we agreed allocation of work on the Recreation Ground, following the RoSPA report.

Under AOB, the subjects raised included Alison Faulkner's departure for pastures new, which means that August will be her last meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th August 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

ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

As the school year draws to a close, we have been enjoying so many different and varied activities and trips. These include the KS1 visit to Bournemouth, to the beach and Oceanarium, Owls class pilgrimage to St Nicholas Church, Wasing, Sports day and family picnic, the end of year Church service, the Leavers' service and a small group going to Ufton Court. These experiences help to embed the curriculum and link with a particular unit of work and are also great fun. The KS2 Summer production 'Grub' was a great success, and the children all did so well, whether with speaking roles, singing or dancing. The Music assembly featured children taking music lessons in school as well as Year 4 clarinet, percussion and rhythm from Wrens and a recorder concert from Robins class.

Our wonderful PTA Committee arranged a wonderful Summer Fete which has raised £4000 towards the refurbishment of the playground. Many thanks to everyone who came and supported this event and to all the volunteers on the day.

We were delighted to hear that the road safety survey that we sent out on behalf of the Parish Council received 72 responses, following the incident on Wasing Lane. Lines outside of the school have already been repainted and a scheme involving pedestrian guard rails and a safer crossing point has been approved and added to the council's programme of construction. They are hoping to complete the required work during the school holidays to minimise disruption.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable and restful summer break and sending all good wishes to our Year 6 leavers as they embark on their next steps at secondary school.

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor

A poster for the Aldermaston Coffee Club. The title 'Aldermaston' is written in a large, black, cursive script, with a thick black swoosh underline. To the right, 'Coffee Club' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the title, the text reads: '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 bottom of the poster features a horizontal band of numerous brown coffee beans.

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

Aldermaston Players

DON'T GET YOUR VICARS IN A TWIST

By Ann Gowerthorpe and Lesley Bown

Thu 25th, Fri 26th,
Sat 27th SEPT

Aldermaston Parish Hall

at 7.45 p.m.

Bar, Tea, Coffee & Cakes

TICKETS: £12
boxoffice.aldermastonplayers.co.uk
0118 971 2530

Book in August for £1 discount

This is an amateur production of "Don't Get Your Vicars in a Twist" by arrangement with Ziggyscripts Ltd

Beenham News

Beenham WI

Beenham WI had a fascinating meeting in July with a speaker on the changes in fashion during the war years.

We don't have an August evening meeting, but will be on an excursion to the tea rooms at Riseley as a treat. We return to the Community Room for our regular meeting on September 10th at 7.30pm, when we'll be hearing from the author Jennipher Marshall-Jenkinson with her talk on 'Fancy a cuppa?'.

We are always delighted to welcome visitors to our meetings: we take up a small amount of time at the start of each meeting with WI business but this is normally no more than ten minutes; then we hear from our speaker, then we have a hot drink and biscuit and a lovely chat.

Meetings are usually finished by about 9.15. If you would like to know more, please call our President, Sally Pellow, on 0777 625 1228 or email her on mrssallypellow@gmail.com.

The website for our village www.beenhamonline.org

E-mail Newsletter

Beenham Online is keen to encourage greater use of the web site, including news of local events, and has established an e-mail address list so that when there is some local news it does not just go on the website, but you are told about it by e-mail.

If you would like to register and give your consent, go to the website and on the right hand side you'll see click here, follow the link to register.

Rest assured that your details will be confidential. You will not receive any junk mail, your e-mail address will not be passed to anyone else, and you can always ask for your name to be removed.

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM – AUGUST 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
Sat 2 nd	Monthly Church Working Party All help is most welcome	St Mary's Church 10am	Brinelle: 07873548852
Mon 4 th	Parish Council meeting 7pm	Community Rm	
Thu 7 th	Beenham Walkers: Circular walk to Woolhampton with coffee stop	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Sat 9 th	NO MARKET THIS MONTH		
Wed 13 th	WI: social event	Community Rm 7.30pm	Sally: 07776 251 228
Thu 14 th	NO QUIZ NIGHT THIS MONTH		
Sat 16 th	Greyfield Woods Volunteer Morning. 8.30 – 12pm	Meet at wood entrance	John: 9712924
Sat 16 th	Calleva Stick Dressers 9am–2pm	Victory Hall	David: 07864 180 648
Sat 16 th	Live Music and Acoustic Night 7.30pm	Beenham Club	9713991
Wed 20 th	Beenham Friendship Club for over 55s. Charity Afternoon Tea £5/person in aid of Woolhampton Stroke Club.	Victory Hall 2pm	Marion: 9713094 Tina: 01635826154
Thu 21 st	Beenham Walkers: Snelsmore Common and Donnington castle	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am for car share	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Tue 26 th	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 or 07947478840

Victory Hall Bookings contact Nola – nolesandfrank@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01189 714 822

CLEANING ST MARY'S CHURCH

A small group of us keep our beautiful church of St Mary's as clean and tidy as we can. The number of people who volunteer on the cleaning rota is very small, although every volunteer is much appreciated.

Cleaning the church – How it works:

We work in pairs on a two week rotation. At present this means a commitment to clean the church twice every three months and it takes about an hour each time.

Cleaning means to give the church a general dust and Hoover the carpets.

We have dusters, polish and a Hoover in the church.

There is a working party at St Mary's on the first Saturday of every month and any extra cleaning jobs are tackled then.

So, if you would like to join our friendly cleaning team or know of anyone willing to join, please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you.

Please call Pat Owen on 07947478840

Notes from Beenham Parish Council meeting- Monday 7th July

Public Forum

There is no update from WBC regarding the school bus parking dangerously on the corner of Stoneyfield.

Councillors areas of responsibility

As a vacancy on the PC may soon be filled, this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Councillors

Update on the new library scheme and payment for a stock of books was postponed to the next meeting as our District Councillor did not attend.

Update on the Affordable Housing initiative. The PC is awaiting a response from WBC to identify all possible preferred sites. Dominic Boeck, District Councillor, to be asked to assist with this.

The proposal for West Berkshire Council to merge with South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse councils to create a new unitary authority under announced Government plans was explained.

Community Room/School Hall security is to be monitored as some hirers are not locking up properly. This may improve when the new doors and locks are in place in September.

ROSPA report on the play area on the Rec. The rope swing put up without permission to be removed on safety grounds (it has now been removed).

Maps of the footpaths and walks around Beenham have been produced. Permission to be sought to pin these onto the village Facebook pages.

A parishioner has requested permission to put a bench on the grassed area of Stoneyfield. As the PC does not own that land, permission will be sought from WBC.

Planning Matters

25/00933/FUL Norbek, Bath Road: 4 new terraced houses following demolition of existing bungalow. The PC will object to this application on the grounds of over development of the site and subsequent increase in traffic.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday August 4th at 7.00pm** in the Community Room.

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

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

CR Bookings: Paula Read Tel: 07793116937 Email: info@beenhampreschool.org

Parish Council website: www.beenham-pc.gov.uk

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

SAVE THE DATE

Everyone in our lovely village and beyond is invited to come along to a splendid seasonal community event.

Harvest Lunch is on Sunday 5th October

In The Victory Hall, Beenham

12 noon for 12.30pm start

More details to follow next month
organised by St Mary's Church

BEENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

What a fantastic year we've had at Beenham Primary School! As one year closes behind us and a new one beckons, we've been reflecting on all the lovely moments, achievements and celebrations that have made this year so special.

Our focus throughout has been on what makes our school such a unique and welcoming place to learn and grow: being kind, being safe, and being proud. These are our school rules and have been at the heart of everything we do, and it's been wonderful to see them shining through in our pupils every day — whether in the classroom, on the playground or in the wider community.

The summer term has been filled with memorable moments. We marked the anniversary of VE Day with a beautifully themed tea party, complete with bunting, music and our second Great Beenham Bake-Off. It was a lovely opportunity for pupils to learn about our history in a meaningful way while enjoying a real sense of community. Our talent show gave children the chance to share their amazing skills — from singing and dancing to magic tricks and animal noises! We were blown away by the confidence and creativity on display.

Sports Day was another highlight — full of energy, teamwork and determination. The whole school came together to cheer each other on, and the sun even managed to make an appearance! In true celebratory spirit, we held a vibrant colour run, which was a joyful, rainbow-filled afternoon of fun and fundraising. It was wonderful to see families join in and share in all the fun and colour.

We also held our first annual Pride of Beenham Awards, recognising those who have gone above and beyond to show kindness, resilience, leadership and community spirit throughout the year. These awards are a new tradition we're proud to begin, and they really captured the heart of what our school, and the Beenham community, is all about.

Looking ahead, we're already hard at work getting ready for September. Over the summer, we are giving the school a refresh and putting the final touches to our exciting new curriculum — designed to inspire curiosity, challenge thinking and make learning irresistible.

Thank you to all our families, staff, governors and community members for your continued support. We can't wait to welcome everyone back in September for another brilliant year at Beenham Primary!

Miss Sophie McBean

Headteacher

Beenham Primary School

Village Market

Beenham Village Market takes its annual break in August and will reopen on September 13th. The market has a wide variety of stalls and is also popular for its refreshments, with a variety of cakes and drinks. If you are interested in holding a stall in September, please contact Sally on mrssallypellow@gmail.com. The first stall is always completely free of charge: it gives you a chance to see if it's something you would enjoy doing in the longer term. After that, there is a charge of 10% of your takings: so, if you don't sell much, it doesn't cost you much! Lots of other markets charge a flat fee for each stall.

Greyfield Wood

Hello to you from Greyfield Wood!

We are now well into that time of year where the vegetation in the wood is thriving. It is particularly important that we keep this at bay to ensure that young trees are not swamped and that they are able to get good sunlight and that pathways are kept clear. Our volunteers are busy with this task, which sometimes can feel like "Groundhog day"!

The woodland is scarred from the recent felling and we are already planning the initial planting of saplings at the end of the year. These are other areas where we need to keep the vegetation at bay!

The Spruce that was stacked in the loading area has now been transported to be processed and hopefully by the time you read this, the Ash will also have been transported. Some as far as Luton and Essex!

Finally, it has been good to welcome some new volunteers to our group and we look forward to their company in the wood, when they are able, on either a Tuesday morning, or our monthly Saturday morning sessions.

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 and try to keep cool!

John Hammond



BEENHAM CALENDAR 2026

Yes, it's time to start planning the Beenham Calendar for 2026!



Please send your photos, drawings and paintings of Beenham scenes and landmarks, wildlife, events and village life for the 2026 calendar.

If you'd be willing to let us know in which **MONTH** they were taken that would be very helpful. Entries are open to anyone living or working in Beenham or those attending Beenham School or Pre-School.

Paintings and drawings should be scanned, and all entries sent to patowen0@hotmail.com - **MAXIMUM OF 3 ENTRIES PER PERSON. WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR ENTRIES BY FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH**

Library Service in Beenham

As the mobile library has now ceased, we are running a 3-month trial collection and return library service.

This will be at the Beenham Tearoom in the Victory Hall, Picklepythe Lane, Beenham 2pm - 3.30pm on the last Tuesday each month.

If you would like to utilise our visit you can:

Reserve books on-line at www.westberks.gov.uk/libraries using your membership card and PIN number

When ordering for collection please reserve your items to **WB At Home Use Only**

Contact us directly with your request on **01635 519827**

Speak to us at the tea party

We look forward to seeing you

West Berkshire Library Service

BVE 1st Beenham Giant Vegetable and Flower Show

11am on 14th September 2025 in the Victory Hall

This promises to be a fun focused day, very much aimed at adults and children alike. We want to see your **longest runner bean, longest carrot, heaviest tomato, heaviest pumpkin and tallest sunflower** - to name just a few classes.

How are your potatoes getting on?

I think mine are going to have to be transported to the weigh in at the Hall in a wheelbarrow!

It's been a challenge with watering the hanging baskets. **The Six Bells' Trophy** will be awarded to the best 14 inch (36cm) hanging basket brought in on the day by a Beenham resident.

The vegetables are beginning to get going now. **The Edwin Roe cup** will be awarded to the most unusually shaped vegetable grown by a child in Beenham.

For full details of all the classes and an entry form please email

Jonathan: jondrury@hotmail.com

NATURE NOTES

If you are a watcher of 'Spring Watch' did you think, as I did, that the nests and fledglings were particularly unfortunate this year? I was therefore specially delighted when a large family of blue tits began to visit my garden. Here there and everywhere among the greenery I couldn't count them.

The hot weather does seem to have benefitted the butterflies – I haven't seen so many for years. Wasps, as every year, are always at the birdbath. I was watching them one day when a lovely comma butterfly also decided it was thirsty. If a wasp went near it it fluttered its wings in protest. One wasp took exception to this and seemed to be deliberately trying to drive the butterfly away by 'buzzing' it. The butterfly flashed its wings more vigorously and the wasps finally gave up the idea. I had never seen such interaction before.

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 service: 11.00 am

Wednesday night Bible study : 7.00 pm



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0118 9713334 (Mrs Cardy)

Church of England Services

Contact number: 0118 971 2891 (awb.org.uk)

St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston and St Nicholas, Wasing

3 August 10:45 Holy Communion **Wasing**

10 August 10:45 Holy Communion

17 August 10:45 Holy Communion

St Marys, Beenham

3 August 9:15 Holy Communion

17 August 9:15 Holy Communion

St Peters, Brimpton

3 August 9:15 Morning Praise

31 August 10:00 Benefice Holy Communion

St Matthews, Midgham

3 August 9:15 BCP Communion

24 August 17:00 Evensong

St Peters, Woolhampton

10 August 10:45 Holy Communion

24 August 10:45 Holy Communion

Details correct at time of going to print.



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