
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

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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Committee Comments

There has been such a noticeable change from the dry, hot days of the Summer when you didn't even think of taking a coat or a jumper with you whenever you went out, to the wet and windy and at times chilly days of September when you dare not leave your umbrella at home! We are certainly experiencing the extremes of weather at present.

The fruit harvest has been outstanding this year for most crops. The branches of trees and bushes have been ladened to near breaking point with apples, figs, pears and plums, and the outdoor tomatoes have been stunning. My experience has been that the greenhouse was just too hot for them this year. I've noticed that lots of recipes for chutneys and pickles are being shared to try and make good use of the gluts.

Our great little magazine is packed full of local news, and we are always grateful to receive information about forthcoming local events or articles to share with the local communities. Do however bear in mind that the deadline for articles is the 17th of the month before it comes out, and so please leave enough time to let people know. Adverts for Christmas events are beginning to creep in so diaries are going to fill up quickly with all those wonderful village events.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

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 at the editor's discretion.

Advertising enquiries can be sent to mrsbscott@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.

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

Male razors, shaving foam, tinned tomatoes, Cup-A-Soup, Custard/Rice Pudding, tinned fish, Mugshots, tinned meat meals, biscuits.

Items low on stock

Tinned Fruit

Drop off locations:

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

Beenham: Under community noticeboard.

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

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

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

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

Woolhampton News

VILLAGE MARKET

The next Market will be on Saturday 4th October from 10a.m. to 12noon in the Village Hall. Please don't groan but it's surely not too early to start searching for that special, possibly unusual, Christmas present – you might just find it on one of our stalls with their variety of merchandise. As well as stunning glassware and jewellery, beautifully decorated containers, delicious

home-made cakes and savouries, crafted homeware items, and interesting books about our local history, we will have a guest stall with essential skincare products (some stallholders will even take commissions if you want something extra special). All visitors, and particularly new residents within the village, are welcome to this monthly community event — no



entrance fee, refreshments are available. Come along and see what else is going on in your village. We look forward to seeing you there.

WOOLHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S 'SURGERY'

The District Councillor representing Woolhampton parish, Mr Chris Read, will be holding his monthly 'surgery' at Woolhampton Village hall on Saturday 26th October from 9 to 11a.m. If you have an issue with an area within the parish or with West Berks District services, please come along to discuss it with him.

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

WOOLHAMPTON 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
Women's 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

POWS AT LARGE!



Syd Anglis (not a POW!) working at the rod beds

In October 1944 during the closing years of the Second World War, a drama unfolded in the Woolhampton rod beds involving Victor Brown and his foreman Syd Anglis. They were surveying the rod beds close to Wickham Knight's Bridge when they observed two men coming from the direction of Newbury. The men were 6ft tall and wearing prison uniform with the patches removed.

A conversation took place:

Victor Brown: "You have no right down there. You had better come back" The men turned.

Victor Brown: "You are prisoners are you not?"

After reassurances from Victor, the men who were able to speak English, confessed to being German and admitted that they were natives of Cologne and said that they had been wandering around for about a month living on apples and blackberries. After some persuasion they agreed "to come with us to the police station". Before doing so, Syd gave them bread and butter, cake and a cup of tea. Syd prepared his car where one prisoner was placed in the front and one in the back with Victor "so I could keep an eye on him". They arrived safely at Thatcham police station and the prisoners were later moved to cells at Newbury. The next morning, with an armed escort, they were marched up Northbrook Street to be returned by train to the detention camp. There was at this time a German POW camp 1001, on Crookham Common. This incident showed the trait of the English character.

Earlier that same year the local press reported the death of two local RAF officers in the course of a mass escape from Stalag III.

During the latter years of the First World War the people of Britain were suffering from an acute shortage of food. In 1917 it was decided to employ German POWs as agricultural workers, some in the vicinity of Thatcham. In the summer of 1918 schoolboy Leslie Pike, in a meadow adjacent to Northfield Road, came across two men near a haystack "peculiar in dress and conversation". He reported this to the police who confirmed that they were German POWs who were "straying or attempting to escape".

John Triag

WOOLHAMPTON PARISH ALLOTMENTS

This year was very challenging for the allotment holders, so hot that a lot of time was taken up keeping produce watered (thank goodness we were spared the water ban!). In September we were extremely fortunate in acquiring 2 tonnes of soil improver, delivered by courtesy of Veolia. This was shared out between all allotments and it will hopefully help with next year's crop.

Allotment holders bagging the soil improver to be shared out

The allotment site is adjacent to the Village Hall; and there are fourteen 5 x 9metre plots and two 10 x 9 'double' plots. Currently, there is a very short waiting list so if you want to add your name to the waiting list, please email Ellie Brown (Parish Clerk) at woolhamptonclerk@gmail.com or phone 07877122127. Interested? If so, don't hesitate to get your name on the list and hopefully it won't be too long before you can join the happy band of 'allotmenteers'. Good luck.

NATURE NOTES

I have just (as I write) come back from a long weekend in Cornwall, where once again I had hoped to see different wildlife, but once again it was not very different from here. Apart from a few oyster catchers and a shag, I saw nothing that can't be seen on our local lakes. It is, however, time to enjoy all

the mushrooms and toadstools (the same things really) that a wet autumn produces. Even field mushrooms can be deceptive, so be careful. However, ceps (penny bun mushrooms) are easily recognized and really delicious. Other toadstools, hiding in the fallen leaves, can be quite beautiful if you keep your eyes open.

And my ivy, now in flower, is being visited by a plentiful array of insects. Flies, bees and beetles are in abundance. Not everything that looks like a wasp is a wasp; there are flies that mimic, thus avoiding being eaten.

Stella Nesbit

Aldermaston News

ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The new term is underway, and everyone has settled in well to their new classes, whether into Reception class or to a new year group. The staff were delighted to see how eager the pupils were as they came back in after the summer holidays – keen and enthusiastic to learn. Our new Headteacher, Miss Mosher, is enjoying getting to know the children, parents and members of the wider community as she experiences her first few weeks with us, and along with the whole staff, has lots of exciting plans for the school to ensure that every child thrives – emotionally, socially and academically.

We will have the usual mix of clubs running as well as trips out and visitors into school. In addition, we are pleased to welcome back in a group of volunteer readers from our local community who give up their time to come and hear children read, to support the staff in school with the children's literacy skills.

Our PTA is busy planning some exciting fundraising events and details will be shared when the plans are finalised.

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor

ALDERMASTON COFFEE CLUB



1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month any time from 10.00am – 11.30am

Join us in the café at Hilliers.

Drop by for a chat, a chance to meet old friends and make new ones

Everyone is welcome – just come along
For further details contact Cynthia Newman
cmnewman2021@outlook.com 01189713525



ALDERMASTON PARISH HALL

Charity Number: 300110

Aldermaston Parish Hall Tea Dance - successful fund raising event held in August. The charming Victorian Aldermaston Parish Hall held The Tea Dance event on 30th August to raise funds for the hall and to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE and VJ Day. This type of event is an important part of raising funds to sustain and maintain this beautiful hall, which is run by volunteer trustees.

The event raised more than £1000 and the 48 people who attended had a delicious

full afternoon tea of sandwiches, cake and scones with clotted cream and jam served with tea and optional bar - the Pimm's and fizz were very popular. There was a themed 1940s quiz with picture clues around the hall and other questions on each table. We also had 1940s music playing in the background There were some lovely 1940s outfits, hair and makeup but also others dressed for dancing and fun (including some land girl outfits).

After a short break to draw the raffle, with generous prizes from our sponsors, we then commenced dancing. Dan Bridle led our varied dancers through different dances and we all had fun either watching the dancing or joining in and learning new steps.

The Tea Dance showcased our lovely hall with bunting, poppies, lamp light of peace and flower jars showing the hall at its best.

Thank you to everyone who attended and all of the hard work of those involved which included not only the trustees but others who gave up their time and energy to make the afternoon such a huge success.





Our next fund raising event will be the Winter Fayre Fete on 22 November from 1pm - 3.30pm, which includes crafts, gift stalls, bake sale, face painting and of course Santa will be in attendance.



THE ALDERMASTON CHARITY

A vacancy has occurred for an Almshouse at Aldermaston Wharf

Accommodation:

Two bedroom unfurnished end of terrace house, with gas central heating.

Living room, kitchen/diner, bathroom with shower. Garden. Parking space for one car. Suitable for a single person or a couple.

Criteria:

Our charity statement for the Aldermaston Almshouses is 'For needy persons resident in the Parish of Aldermaston or for such needy people who, in the opinion of the trustees, have strong connections with the Parish of Aldermaston'.

We invite Applications from people on a low income, resident in the parish of Aldermaston or who have a connection with the parish past or present.

For further information contact:

Contact Mrs Ellie Brewer, Clerk to the Trustees for details in confidence and an application form.

Tel: 07877 122 127

Email: elliedawkins@hotmail.co.uk

Address; Juniper House, Fishermans Lane, Aldermaston, RG7 4LJ

Closing date for applications is the 1st November 2025

Beenham News

BEENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are thrilled to have had such a brilliant start to the year at Beenham Primary School! It has been lovely to welcome all of our children back to school, full of energy and enthusiasm for the year ahead. We would especially like to extend a warm welcome to the new children and families who have joined our reception cohort this year, as well as those who have joined in other year groups; we are delighted to have you as part of our school community.

Across the school this term, we are celebrating our core school rule: 'Be Kind'. From supporting one another in the classroom to helping around the school,

our children have been showing kindness in many wonderful ways. As part of our celebrations, we are looking forward to hosting a Kindness Tea Party, inviting members of our local community to come and share in the joy and positivity our children bring. We have also been working hard to improve our school environment, making it a welcoming and inspiring place for learning. Alongside this, our

harvest festival preparations are well underway. We have been collecting food donations to support the West Berks Food Bank, reflecting our commitment to caring for those in need and fostering a sense of social responsibility in our children.

For families looking for school places in 2026, we warmly welcome you to visit Beenham Primary School. Individual tours are available with our headteacher, Sophie McBean, and we will be holding open mornings on :

11th and 12th November from 09:30 - 11:30.

Families with children of all school ages are encouraged to come and see what our small, nurturing school can offer. Please contact our school office to book: 01189 713397, office@beenham.w-berks.sch.uk

We are proud of our community, our children and our dedicated staff, and we look forward to sharing a year full of learning, kindness and growth

BEENHAM PRE-SCHOOL

Autumn is in the air at Beenham Pre-School and we are enjoying watching the change in the seasons and the different weathers ... always something new and exciting to explore outside. We have 17 new children joining our setting this term, some of whom know us already through dropping off their older siblings and some who have been meeting us for the first time. We have been so impressed with the way our returning children have not only accepted all the new faces, but actively helped their friends to settle into Pre-School life. We work hard to show our young pre-school children how important it is to be part of a warm and inclusive community where everyone is welcome ... and we can certainly see from this term that they have fully embraced that message!

We are getting to know the children and we have been following their interests from zoo animals and dinosaurs to vehicles, farms and memories of family holidays and days out. Our "in the moment" approach to planning means that our staff have become experts in listening and adapting so even the grownups often don't know what will happen and what we will be learning ... but this is all underpinned by our Curriculum and the work we do away from the children to ensure that each child is reaching their full potential, feeling secure and knowing they belong.

We have some fun "special days" planned with Pop Up Play Village, Outdoor Explorers and Baby College (just some examples) and we are VERY proud to say that none of the costs for these activities, or for any snacks, consumables or resources, are passed back to our parents. In a time when many early years settings are struggling we are still managing to ensure that there are no charges on top of the grant funding (which we accept for children aged two and older, and for up to 30 hours a week) so that every family can afford to attend and enjoy the full provision without worrying about hidden costs or "voluntary" charges.

We are currently full for 2025-26 but I am running tours for families who wish to join our waiting list or for those wanting to book a place from September 2026 onwards. Do get in touch if you would like a tour or if you would like to chat about what we can offer your child. Spaces do open throughout the year, so it is certainly worth joining the list!

We post lots of our resources and activities on Facebook which can be useful for prospective families to look at, but we also love to show people around in person either within teaching sessions or out of hours depending on need.

You can contact me on 07793116937 or info@beenhampreschool.org and I can tell you more about our "welcoming preschool with carefully planned indoor and outdoor activities ... and a meaningful and engaging curriculum" [OFSTED 2024]. Paula

(Manager, Beenham Pre-School)



Beenham Community Harvest Lunch
Sunday 5th October, in The Victory Hall, Beenham
12 noon for 12.30pm start
£12.50 for an adult
£5 for children 5-10 years
Under fives: free

To include a two course meal and a welcome soft drink (we have just a few tickets left)

Tickets available from:

Janette Hammond: 07917 818 283

<u>janette@janettehammond.co.uk</u>

Pat Owen: 07947 478 840 patowen0@hotmail.com

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

Notes of a Meeting of Beenham Parish Council held on 1st September 2025 Public Forum

Parishioners were urged to attend the Giant Vegetable Show (14 September), and the Harvest Lunch (5 October).

Problem of parking on pavements was discussed. The PC has a notice that can be placed on offending windscreens. It was suggested that another post could be put on Facebook.

The drop off location on the school bus passes is incorrect. This is being taken up with WBC.

New external doors to the Community Room have been installed by WBC, to comply with fire regulations. It was suggested that a fire assessment should now be carried out.

Affordable Housing Initiative

WBC have identified 2 sites they feel would be appropriate for the initiative. The next step is to contact the land owners.

Planning

The PC had no objection to the plan to construct 2 Padel Courts at Douai Park Recreation Ground.

It was noted that the final version of the Local Plan Review has finally been approved by WBC. This sets out the strategy and sites for development within West Berkshire. It is available on the WBC website.

Do you want to be kept up to date with events in Beenham? Sign up to the Email Newsletter and you will get occasion emails with details of PC Meetings and coming events. Go to https://www.beenhamonline.org/ and look on right-hand column of the home page.

BEENHAM WI

Our next meeting is on Wednesday October 8th and we will be hearing from John Kinory, talking about his life as a film extra. As we are so close to Englefield House, and not far from Shinfield Studios and Highclere Castle, this might be something that lots of local people have considered -come and find out how John got onto the big screen! The meeting begins at 7.30pm in the Community Room.



The WI celebrated its 110th birthday in September, and Beenham WI was started only five years later. Open to all women to join, the WI focuses on education and friendship. Come and learn more - we would love to have you.

Greyfield Wood



Hello to you from Greyfield Wood!

The volunteer groups have been busy over the last month clearing the wood debris in preparation for planting new saplings at the end of the year. This work will continue for the next few months as there is a lot of debris still to be cleared.

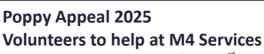
One of the other priorities was to clear the main drain (ditch) going through Upper and Lower Withy Copse which channels the rainwater into the main Bourne stream. This entailed a lot of brush cutting and digging out areas where, in extracting the felled wood, the drain had been damaged.

It has also been amazing to see just how quickly felled areas, now open to sunlight, have begun to be overrun with ferns and brambles! This makes our lives more difficult as they need to be cut back, to enable planting, but with the arrival of Autumn, the ferns will die back and the brambles' growth will stall.

So, we continue to prepare for sapling planting in the winter.

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.

John Hammond john@meadvale-bays.com 07818 400440



The Poppy Appeal will run from 23rd October until 11th

OYAL BRITISH LEGION November with Remembrance Sunday on 9th November.

Poppies will be available from shops, pubs and other commercial outlets during this period.

I have dates to collect at the M4 Services on 27th 28th and 29th Oct plus 8th & 9th Nov. If you could spare an hour or so to accompany me at the Services on any of those days, I'd very much appreciate it.

Weather permitting, I'd also like to conduct a small House to House collection on 25th & 26th October. Again, any help is much appreciated.

If you would like to help, please contact me, Clive Vare, 07565776212. Thank you.

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM - October 2025

Date	Event	where	contact
Tues- days	Art Group 10am-12pm	Victory Hall	Georgia: 07970 646713
Tues- days	Badminton Club 8pm – 9.30pm	School Hall	Ernie: 07954 127 771
Thu 2 nd	Beenham Walkers: circular walk around Yattendon	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Sat 4 th	Monthly Church Working Party All help is most welcome	St Mary's Church 10am	Brinelle: 07873548852
Sun 5 th	Community Harvest Lunch	Victory Hall 12pm for 12.30pm start	Pat:07947478840 Janette:07917818283
Mon 6 th	Parish Council meeting 7pm	Community Rm	
Wed 8 th	WI: Talk — "My Life and Times as a Film Extra" — John Kinory. Non-members £4	Community Rm 7.30pm	Sally: 07776 251 228
Thu 9 th	Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6 £4/person	Six Bells 7.30 for 8pm	9713368 to book
Sat 11 th	Village Market and repair shop2-3.30pm	Victory Hall	Sally: 07776 251 228
Wed 15 th	Beenham Friendship Club for over 55s. Coach trip to Chich- ester Market £25 for non- members	Pick up points	Marion:9713094 Tina:01635826154
Thu 16 th	Beenham Walkers: walk around Leckhampstead	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Sat 18 th	Greyfield Woods Volunteer Morning. 8.30 – 12pm	Meet at wood en- trance	John:9712924
Sat 18 th	Calleva Stick Dressers 9am– 2pm	Victory Hall	David:07864 180 648
Thu 23 rd	Film night: £5 a ticket (cash only) "The Penguin Lessons"	Victory Hall 7.00 for 7.30pm	Claire: 9713574
Tue 28 th	Beenham Tearoom 2- 3.30pm + Pop-Up Library (pre- booked collections only)	Victory Hall	Dru:07815 055 040 Pat:07947 478 840
Thu 30 th	Beenham Walkers: Hun- gerford to Chilton Foliat circular walk	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481

If you would like to add 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

GIANT VEGETABLE AND FLOWER SHOW RESULTS

Well, it was BVE's first try at a Giant Vegetable and Flower Show. The emphasis was on fun and villager participation, and we are delighted to think that the Show succeeded on both counts!

We had no idea how many entries to expect but were amazed when, at 11am, vegetable and flowers began to arrive by wheelbarrow. The heaviest pumpkin just got bigger and bigger!

The Hall was cleared at 11.30am for our judges, Margaret and George, to begin the serious task of weighing, measuring and awarding the first-place rosettes and the stickers for the second and third places.

There were some great paintings and colourings from children, and these were keenly judged by Nola.

At Noon the Show was opened to everyone, so they could see the results and enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of homemade cake. Thank you for your kind donations to maintain our lovely little church.

More importantly, however was the "Potato Weigh In"

The seed potatoes given out by Jonathan in April, had been carefully nurtured over a very hot Summer and it was time to turn out the potato pots and bags to "reveal" the results. My lasting memory will be of the children scrabbling around in a wheelbarrow to find the newly unearthed potatoes – wonderful!

So, from one small seed potato the greatest yield was Nick, Angela and Clementine's whopping great 4.5kg of potatoes. To quote Nick said, "it was all down to good quality compost!"

The other results were:

Adult's competition for the Arthur Sutton Six Bells Trophy

This was for the best 14 inch hanging basket brought in on the day. These were brought in wheelbarrows to the Show!

The results were:

1st Place: Pat Owen – Church View 2nd Place: Janette Hammond – Church View

Children's competition for the Edwin Roe Memorial Cup

This was for the wonkiest vegetable grown by a child in Beenham.

The judging and presentation of the trophy was by Felix and Tony Roe.

The winners were:

1st Place: Eliza – Church Lane 2d Place: Alice – Church Lane

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

Thank you to our great judges and finally, many thanks to Englefield Garden Centre who kindly donated vouchers for our trophy winners.

If you would like to register your interest for a potato next year or for a list of classes, please email Jonathan on jondrury@hotmail.com

Beenham Village Events Team

Brimpton News

Ride and Stride for BHCT and St Peter's, Brimpton

Thank you to everyone who so kindly sponsored me, some of you anonymously.



I had a lovely walk around the churches of Newbury, starting in St Nic's ...

Then on to the Methodist Church in Northbrook Street....





I failed to find a church in West Street (marked on my map), but I saluted the Kennet Christian Centre in Pound Street, and the chapel in the cemetery; and I signed in at St John's Catholic Church.

My map promised me a church at St Bartholomew's Almshouses, but if there is a chapel there, I couldn't find it. A beautiful part of Newbury that I had never visited before.

Then I rode in my car – don't tell them at BHCT – to Woolhampton and Beenham, where I enjoyed a lovely welcome. The highlight of

my Ride and Stride!

At the time of writing, we have raised £400, which is £200 each for St Peter's and Berkshire Historic Churches, plus the Gift Aid reclaim.



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED ME

Patricia

Brimpton Parish Council

There was a short agenda for our September meeting but it included the following items:

Following recent checks, we received details of vehicle speeds on various roads in the parish. 81% of vehicles travelling towards the A4 on Brimpton Road were above the speed limit; 25% of cars passing the Village Hall were also in excess of the speed limit. We agreed to refer the findings to West Berkshire Council and to Thames Valley Police.

There were no new planning applications, although as we are a neighbouring parish, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council sent us a retrospective application for hard standing in a field in Hockford Lane, Brimpton Common. This was an amended version of a previous application, on which we decided not to comment.

There was nothing further to report as regards the breaches of planning regulations in the Blacknest field in Brimpton Common.

The continuing problem of owners allowing their dogs to foul the churchyard was raised. We suspect most of the offenders are visitors to the parish Notices are in place.

The hedge is overgrown on the corner of Brimpton Road and Brimpton Lane. The landowner will be asked to cut it back as it is partially blocking the pavement.

It has been decided by those who regulate the business of parish councils that we must have an approved policy relating to our use of IT. Fortunately, a standard format is available and with an amendment to make it more appropriate to a small council, we agreed to adopt this as our policy. If you are interested it will soon be on our website.

The Parish Council will meet again on **Tuesday 7th October,** 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. Some residents will be aware the Parish Update, which I circulate fortnightly by email, did not reappear after its summer break. Unfortunately, this is because the server (not my computer) on which I keep the circulation list acquired a bug which deleted over 250 addresses. I won't be trying to rebuild the list until I am sure it will be better protected and as a result, the Parish Update will not be published for the time being.

John Hicks



COFFEE MORNINGS

2nd Wednesday of the month 10 am - 11.30 am

8th October in the church

12th November Bring and Buy

at One Church Lane

10th December in the church

Everyone welcome (including dogs)



100 Club winner: No. 123 Jack Turrall.

Midgham News

TONY BILLINGTON

There will be a memorial service for Tony
At 2.30pm on Saturday 1st November
at Bradfield College Chapel,
followed by tea at Bradfield College
All are welcome.



Midgham Village Hall

The Hall holds fortnightly coffee mornings from 10 until 12, where everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a nice warm cuppa and a friendly chat.

In October the coffee mornings are on the **7th and 21st.**







Eleven intrepid riders set off from St Matthews just after 10.00 am on Saturday 13th September, most had the help of electric bikes but two were still bravely riding up all the hills without power. We were exceptionally lucky with the weather, the heavens opening just as we arrived at Stanford Dingley for lunch. This was a delightful break with delicious food organised for us by Di Hibberd and Robert and Carol Stradling.

Thank you to Julia Roberts for her organisation of the event and congratulations to all the riders, and thank you to all those who sponsored us.

The beginning



Lunch



The end

WOOLHAMPTON & MIDGHAM WI AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

The summer months have been flying by, and we now have the welcome rain for our gardens.

We are still busy organising our monthly Cake Stall and Lunch Club in the Village Hall which are proving very successful and enjoyable.

Some of our members did very well at the Village Show which we always enjoy attending. It's always good to be able to join in.

Our August lunch at the Bladebone was well attended and we had a very pleasant meal.

Our first outing in September was to the Watermill Theatre to see Jesus Christ Superstar which was a great show. We all thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

The September meeting was seated gentle yoga and movement which proved very useful in reminding us we must keep moving to keep fit. You don't need to do much to do this.

We are now looking forward to a visit to the Vine and an Autumn walk around it. 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.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION UPPER THAMES BRANCH CHURCHYARD SURVEY

Once again, it is time to report on the butterfly surveys of the six churchyards within the Benefice of Aldermaston and Woolhampton on behalf of the Upper Thames Branch of Butterfly Conservation. The aim is to survey each of the churchyards once a month from May to August. After the last consecutive disastrous years for butterflies, the prolonged hot and dry weather promised hope for a recovery and that – in part – is what resulted.

Five of the Parish Churches continue to designate areas for wildlife that are left uncut to encourage butterflies, invertebrates, and small mammals. Indeed, several church-yards have increased their wild areas and St Mary's Beenham now has signs up saying "Pardon the weeds, we're feeding the bees" to explain the aims of this benevolent neglect. The result of this eco-sensitive approach meant that, yet again, Beenham churchyard was the best performer in numbers and species of butterflies recorded overall. Indeed, Beenham had two "survey firsts", with small skippers and large skippers being spotted in the June survey and only the second ever sighting of a small copper – although Brimpton came close with "survey firsts" of a marbled white in July and a small heath in August. Despite its name and appearance the marbled white is actually a member of the family of brown butterflies and a relative of the gatekeeper, meadow brown and ringlet.

As with last year, the first survey on 27th May was a bad start, with not a single butterfly being recorded from any of the churchyards. This can be put down to the overwintering adults of brimstone, peacock and comma and the emerged orange tips having passed over very quickly due to the warm dry spring. The next survey, in the scorching heat of the 29th June was a game changer, with meadow browns once again stealing the show. This year there were also ringlets; whereas last year none were observed – although this may have been a recording artefact as, at a distance, a male meadow brown looks very much like a ringlet. As with last year, the survey on 18th July was the time for gatekeepers to strut their stuff. At Brimpton we simply gave up trying to count them on the bramble hedge around the graveyard. They really did live up to their old name of "hedge brown". By now, everywhere was looking very parched and, at the final survey on 22nd August the churchyards were tinder dry and large whites, small whites and green-veined whites had taken over as the summer brood emerged. The large and small whites were often noticeably smaller than normal, and this is likely due to the larvae feeding off desiccated food plants. In both July and August, holly blues were spotted and so it seems that they are now in the rebound stage of their cyclic population roller-coaster as numbers of the wasp that parasitises the larvae will have dropped after last year's very low numbers of holly blues.

In total 13 different species were recorded in the four surveys and those in far greater numbers than in the last two years, although peacocks, commas and brimstones were notably absent on the recording days, despite being seen in large numbers during the year. Sadly, small tortoiseshell numbers seem to have fallen even more, a catastrophic decline of this once very common vanessid. You may have spotted some painted ladies flying about; these may well have been the progeny of caterpillars reared by primary school children at Upper Bucklebury, Beenham and Woolhampton. In summary, our butterflies have made some recovery after two abysmal years, showing that Nature is resilient if she is only given a chance. Let's hope for an even better year next year.

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



Ringlet



Marble white



Small Copper

Calling All Crafters!! Christmas Craft Fair Acland Hall

Saturday 22nd November 10 - 3 pm

We are giving the Ashmore Green WI a well earned break after organising the Christmas Craft fair for 9 years. A big thank you to them all. So, we are taking on the job of organising it for this year. If you would like to have a table, please let Sue Harrison know 01635 46432 or 07979883105, or hatchgatepauland-sue@gmail.com

If you would like to get involved, we could do with some willing volunteers to help with tea / coffee and we need someone with a food hygiene certificate to sell cakes. Please let Sue know if you can help out or if you would like a table by Friday 31st October. Let's hope we can make a success of it again this year. Entry and raffle proceeds will go towards the Defibrillator funds for Cold Ash. Many thanks to you all.

Kingsclere Singers' New Term Has Started.

We are the Kingsclere Singers, a friendly easy going group of people that just love to sing together and be social in a safe place.

If you love singing, with what ever ability you have and you just want to find a friendly, inviting place to be yourself and release the stresses, repetitiveness, or lonely weeks. Please come and give us a chance to lift your spirts in song. We are all looking forward to meeting you, you can find us on Facebook (Kingsclere Singers Group) or at our website www.kingsclere-singers.co.uk

Why We Sing

On the <u>19th Oct at 3pm</u>, came to <u>Pamber Heath Village Hall</u> as the Kingsclere Singers are joining forces with the Tadley Singers, to put on a performance call you just can't miss. Come along and listen to the two groups sing on there own and together. The event is free with collection.

It's hard getting old

A senior lady calls 999 on her mobile phone to report that her car has been broken into. In a hysterical state, she describes the situation to the operator. 'They've stolen the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator!' she cries. The operator tells her to keep calm, and that a police officer is on his way. A few minutes later, the officer reports back to the station. 'Disregard,' he says, 'She got in the back seat by mistake.'





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Brimpton Baptist Church

Contact number: 07944 956242 Sunday service: 11.00 am

Wednesday night Bible study: 7.00 pm

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

St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston and St Nicholas, Wasing

5 ¹¹¹ October Wasing	10:45	Holy Communion
12 th October	10:45	Holy Communion
19 th October	10:45	Morning Praise

St Marys, Beenham

5th October !0.45 Harvest Holy Communion 12th October 09:15 Holy Communion

19th October 09:15 Morning Praise

St Peters, Brimpton

5th October 10:45 Holy Communion 12th October 09:15 Holy Communion 19th October 09.15 Morning Praise

St Matthews, Midgham

5th October 09:15 BCP Communion 19th October 09:15 Holy Communion

26thOctober 4:pm Evensong

St Peters, Woolhampton

12th October 10:45 Harvest Holy Communion

19th October 10:45 Holy Communion 26th October 10:45 Holy Communion



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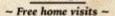
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