

# Villages' News



# Useful Contacts

## Non-emergency numbers:

NHS 111

Police 101

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

Problems with roads (eg potholes), footpaths etc:

[www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem)

## Doctors 'surgeries:

Chapel Row Surgery: 0118 971 3252

Holmwood Surgery: 0118 981 4166

Mobile library: 01635 519827

## District Councillors:

Woolhampton/Midgham: Chris Read: 07768 793 155

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

## Parish Councils: Clerks' details:

Aldermaston: Des Farndell: [parishclerk@aldermaston.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@aldermaston.co.uk)

Beenham: Lauren West : 07919 916 125

Brimpton: Christine McGarvie: 0118 970 1576

Midgham: Alice Owens: 07896 321 058

Woolhampton: Alice Owens: 07896 321 058

## Village Halls:

Aldermaston: [aldermastonparishhall@gmail.com](mailto:aldermastonparishhall@gmail.com)

Beenham: 07793 116 937

Brimpton: 0118 971 3731

Midgham: 07941 093 853

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

## Churches:

Aldermaston & Woolhampton Benefice: [www.awb.org.uk](http://www.awb.org.uk)

For local contacts please see church notice boards

Brimpton Baptist Church: 0118 971 2059

Douai Abbey: 0118 971 5300

## Magazine advertising:

Brenda Scott: 0118 971 3113    [mrsbscott@btinternet.com](mailto:mrsbscott@btinternet.com)

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Thattham RG19 4QB . Tel: 01635 876498

## **Committee Comments**

Welcome to the 12<sup>th</sup> issue of Villages' News. With a joint issue covering December and January (so 11 editions a year), it means we are now into our second year of bringing local village news, events and information to you. With over 2000 copies being delivered each month across our part of West Berkshire we know that many of you welcome the magazine and look forward to it every month.

We are grateful to everyone who contributes articles and features. Please remember to send us details of your local events so we can tell more people about it. We thank our team of volunteers who deliver the magazine to you each time and to the shops, pubs and other locations which display copies too. Finally, to our advertisers, many are right on our doorstep, and we are grateful for their financial support, which means we can keep producing a free magazine for our local area.

### **ARTICLES FOR THE MAGAZINE**

Please send articles for the magazine to:

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

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

For the villages of Midgham and Woolhampton

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

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

Please send articles relevant to the all the villages to:

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

Please note the deadline for receipt of articles is noon on the 17<sup>th</sup> of each month

## Beenham News

### Greyfield Wood Update

There has been a lot of activity in Greyfield Wood in the past month. The main felling of Ash dieback trees in Upper Withy Copse is now complete for this year. Our attention has now moved to the area towards Eight Acre Gulley, where The Penley Bridge crosses the Bourne. Chris Penley was the driving force behind the Greyfield Wood initiative over twenty-five years ago. The bridge and a marked tree serve as a memorial to him and his work in the wood. The photo was taken at the time of the tree planting some years ago.



This area is now being cleared of brambles and a fallen Wild Cherry logged. With this work you can expect to see a proliferation of bluebells in the next month or so.....Please have a walk down to the bridge and sit a while on the bench nearby and enjoy the tranquility.

The other key task at present is coppicing the hazel. This is where the hazel branches are cut near to the ground to generate new growth. The coppiced trees are then protected with parts of the cut hazel, against deer trying to eat any new shoots. The rest of the cut branches are sorted and sold for: firewood, pea sticks, bean poles. Hazel is also good for walking sticks!

In the last month we have also held two Volunteer "on-boarding" sessions and six new volunteers are now appraised of the work that is being done and the health and safety requirements. More sessions are being planned. Contact John on 07818 400440 for more information.

Finally, a date for your diary: **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2.00pm-5.00pm.** Our Annual Open Day. Please join us for guided tours through the wood, tea and cake and hopefully a dry and enjoyable afternoon at Greyfield Wood ..... and bluebells!

**TADLEY BATHROOMS**

Tadley Bathrooms are committed to serving the local community.  
We offer a FREE Estimation and Design Service.  
If it's a new bathroom, en suite, cloakroom or Easy Access installation you require, we can help!  
Visit our updated showroom or call us to make an appointment.



Tadley Bathrooms Ltd, 18b Mulford's Hill, Tadley, Hampshire RG26 3JE  
0118 981 3777 | [tadleybathrooms@aol.com](mailto:tadleybathrooms@aol.com)  
[www.tadleybathrooms.co.uk](http://www.tadleybathrooms.co.uk)



## Valuing Ourselves. Valuing Everybody

### Beenham Primary School

We are nearly at the end of another term, and over half-way through the academic year. It is with pride that we can reflect on the core values that make Beenham Primary School unique. At the heart of our mission is our simple principle of "Valuing ourselves. Valuing everybody." This ethos underlines the basis of our school's culture of inclusivity where everyone is important. It extends beyond self-appreciation to an appreciation for the diversity that enriches our school community. We strive to create an environment where differences are celebrated and individual strengths are recognized. Through open dialogue, shared experiences, and collaborative projects, our students learn the invaluable lesson of empathy – understanding and appreciating the perspectives of others.

The children have been learning lots both in and outside the classroom. We have begun work on our Junior Duke awards (similar to the older Duke of Edinburgh awards but for Primary School) and have already started various projects in our groups. Our youngest children are currently preparing for their trip to Ella's kitchen and to visit the farm. We had a brilliant World Book Day with lots of book themed activities across the school; children in book themed costumes and a fantastic visit from a local author – Debi Evans – who shared her stories and inspired the children to write. Some of our middle children have been putting lots of time and energy into their rehearsals for the Junior Music Festival and they are incredibly excited to be performing on stage at the Hexagon on Monday 18 March! We have focused on one of our school values this half term – care. It has been wonderful to see how caring the children are with each other, their families and the community.

I couldn't end this bulletin without a mention of the truly amazing person who came into school recently from the village. He wishes to be anonymous and is not affiliated with the school but he left us with a generous monetary donation to help with our budget. Thank you, thank you.

Easter seems very early this year but we would like to wish you a really happy Easter and hope that it brings sunshine and maybe some chocolate too!

### MOBILE LIBRARY

*Aldermaston*

**Wednesday April 10th**

Foresters 9.30-9.50

*Beenham:*

**Wednesday April 10th**

Stoneyfields 3.15-4.00

*Midgham:*

**Thursday April 11th**

Goddard's Drive 10.10--10.20

*Woolhampton:*

**Thursday April 11th**

Watermill Ct 10.25-11.10

## **NOTES FROM THE BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING- 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024**

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

A parishioner reported there was a trip hazard on the kerb just outside the school gates in the dark. He suggested that a light should be provided.

The Victory Hall is finalising the work required to the roof of the building. The PC was asked to support their application for funds, the PC said they would support and contribute to the cost.

A parishioner reported that there is a full list of defibrillators (some inside homes) on the web at <https://www.defibfinder.uk/>. A refresher course in the use of defibrillators was suggested.

**PLANNING** - *There were no planning applications in February.*

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

David Hancock attended a webcast on community-led housing to build small numbers of social housing in villages. There is a government fund to assist in these schemes.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

An application has been submitted to British Heart Foundation for a defibrillator near the footbridge on Mallard Way.

WBC have agreed to carry out remedial work on the track between the Rec and Clay Lane.

Some volunteers have offered to carry out drainage work on the problem area on the footpath from Wickens Corner to the Church (caused by the current high water table). The PC is liaising with WBC to expedite this work.

### **FINANCE**

It is likely that there will be a surplus at the end of the financial year.

A grant of £1,000 to WBC libraries was agreed..

A grant of £2,000 was agreed to Beenham PTFA for IT Equipment in the school, on the understanding that this would be match-funding from other sources.

A grant of £2,000 was provisionally agreed to The Victory Hall for roof repairs known. The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Community Room on Monday 8th April, starting at 7.00pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

**The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Monday 11th March at 7pm.**

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

### **PADWORTH NEWSLETTER**

Aldermaston Wharf reminds me of Berlin during the Cold War, with three different sectors controlled by the Great Powers. One publication unites the Wharf with the rest of Padworth is the Padworth Newsletter.

The Newsletter is distributed within Padworth, but is available online at <https://www.padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/newsletter> or to join an email list [sheia\\_pusinelli@hotmail.com](mailto:sheia_pusinelli@hotmail.com) .

## Beenham Scarecrow Festival 2024

This year we are going to let you choose whatever you would like to make for our Scarecrow Festival. It can be on any theme, realistic or abstract, fantasy or factual, and we hope to have a really exciting variety of scarecrows to enjoy this summer. Maybe you'll be inspired by the Paris Olympics, or perhaps you'll create a favourite character from a nursery rhyme, a fairy tale or a TV show – it's up to you!



If you would like to take part in the Scarecrow Festival, all you need to do is to make your scarecrow, and ensure it is able to survive life outside for at least a week or so. Then display it by the 12th May in time for the judging which will take place over the following few days. The winners will be announced at the Band on the Rec on 21<sup>st</sup> June.

If you plan to make a scarecrow and would like it to be included in the judging for the John Thurley Cup, please email me your name and address, with "scarecrow" in the subject box, by 11<sup>th</sup> May. It would be helpful if you could also email a photo of your scarecrow once it is in position. And please **don't** send your entry via Facebook!! Thank you!

Lesley McEwen [lesleymcewen@btinternet.com](mailto:lesleymcewen@btinternet.com)



## WEST BERKS FOODBANK

**WHEN PEOPLE ARE GOING WITHOUT....**

***IT IS TIME TO GUARANTEE THEIR ESSENTIALS***

West Berks Foodbank relies on your goodwill and support.

The shopping list below shows the food items that are needed right now.

### **URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS**

Shampoo, dog food wet, UHT milk, ladies razors, lunchbox drinks for children, long life fruit juice, cat food – dry or wet, rice pudding, custard pots for rough sleepers, shower gel, egg noodle nests.

**LOW ON STOCK:** Sugar (500g or 1kg), tinner meat meals, stew, chicken, hotpot, deodorant, tinned ham or corned beef.

**NO Baked Beans Required - Thank You NO Pasta Required - Thank You**

Drop off locations:

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

**Beenham:** Under community noticeboard.

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

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

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

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

## BEENHAM PRE-SCHOOL

As we write this, we are getting ready for our Easter celebrations which are always a really fun time in any Early Year setting. We can't wait to see the children in their Easter Bonnet Parade and hear the excitement as they hunt for eggs and share stories of Easter Bunnies! As the weather improves we can enjoy free flow into our gardens without having to don our wellies and worry about hats and gloves and waterproofs ... Hurrah!

Huge thanks again to everyone who has been keeping us supplied with cardboard tubes, craft materials and "loose parts"! We like to present the children with a wide range of different explorations and provocations but in these tricky times our finances are not unlimited so any donations are VERY gratefully received! We can turn almost anything into a learning opportunity (as long as it is safe and age appropriate). Thank you



We have been meeting some new families over the last few weeks - some of whom are already booked in to start after Easter and others who are signing up to join us in September and beyond. It is always lovely to meet new faces and we are particularly thrilled that so many new families come to us saying "we have heard so much about you we had to come and see for ourselves". If you would like to book a tour, or simply to find out more about what we can offer you, please do get in touch with our Manager as we would love the opportunity to show you what Beenham Pre-School can offer your family.

Paula Read (Beenham Pre-School Manager)

Telephone: 07793 116937

Email: [info@beenhampreschool.org](mailto:info@beenhampreschool.org)

### **PLAY SPORT IN BEENHAM**



Beenham School Hall is available outside school hours for individual or group bookings (managed by Beenham Parish Council). It has a full size badminton court, and is suitable for other sports (no ball games except bowls), fitness, dance etc..



There is a badminton club on Tuesday evenings that welcomes new members. It is great for children's parties of all sizes (or the smaller Community Room is also available).

Beenham School Hall and Community Room hire rates are amongst the lowest in the area. For more details contact Paula on [info@beenhampreschool.org](mailto:info@beenhampreschool.org)



## DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM –April 2024

Date	Event	Where	Contact
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>	BANK HOLIDAY – EASTER MONDAY		
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	Church Working Party		
	All help is most welcome	St Mary's	Janette:07917818283
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting 7pm	Community Rm	
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	WI – 7.30pm The Pearl Lady	Community Rm	Sally:07776251228
	£4 non-members		
Thur 11 <sup>th</sup>	Beenham walkers: Cars to Aldermaston wharf, park in cafe car park to walk to Padworth. Circular walk approx 5.5miles		
	Meet at Victory Hall - 9.30am		Pauline Stares 01189713481
Thur 11 <sup>th</sup>	Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6		
	£3/person	Six Bells	9713368 to book
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	Village Market and repair shop 2-3.30pm		
		Victory Hall	01183430548
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	Friendship Club coach trip to Clark's Village in Frome.		
	Members £20/Non-members £23. Various pick-up points		
			Marion:9713094
Thur 18 <sup>th</sup>	Film Night "One Life", a film based on a true story starring Anthony Hopkins. £5 a ticket. 7.00pm film starts at 7.30pm		
		Victory Hall	Claire:9713574
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Morning 10.30am	Six Bells	Janette:07917818283
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Calleva Stick Dressers 9am–2pm	Victory Hall	David:07864 180 648
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Greyfield Woods Volunteer Morning		
	8.30 – 12pm Meet at wood entrance		John:9712924
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Live Music and Acoustic Night 7.30pm	Beenham Club	9713991
Thur 25 <sup>th</sup>	Beenham Walkers: Walk to Woolhampton ton, then towards Brimpton meet at Victory Hall- 9.30am		Pauline Stares 01189713481
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>	Live Music "The Soul Tones" 7 piece modern soul band		
	7.30pm music 9pm Free entry; under 16s must be supervised		
		Beenham Club	
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup>	Beenham Tearoom 2pm-3.30pm	Victory Hall	Dru:07815 055 040
			Pat:07947 478 840

### Useful contact numbers:

Victory Hall Bookings: 01189714822 [nolesandfrank@hotmail.com](mailto:nolesandfrank@hotmail.com)

Community Hall Bookings: Paula Reade: 07793116937

[info@beenhampreschool.org](mailto:info@beenhampreschool.org)

Church Warden: Janette Hammond: 07917818283

If you would like to add anything to the village diary, please contact

[patowen0@hotmail.com](mailto:patowen0@hotmail.com) or 07947478840



# **Brimpton Church of England Primary School**

*Amazing things happen here....*

## **OUR BRIMPTON ADVENTURES**

### ***World Book Day***

*This world book day we wore our cosy pyjamas and dressing gowns or onesies and brought in our favourite book. In the afternoon we did world book day activities and parents came into school to read some books to us. Books with pictures and words, books with no writing and books with no pictures at all. We really enjoyed the different voices and varieties of stories.*



### ***Hexagon***

**The Brimpton choir are going to The Hexagon on  
Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

*In March Brimpton choir are going to the Hexagon to attend the Junior Music Festival when the choir will be singing a range of Jungle related songs as this years (JMF) is called ...*

***RAINFOREST RUMBLE***

***BY Nathaniel and Henry***



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

**[office@brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:office@brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk)**

**[www.brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk](http://www.brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk)**



## **Brimpton Church 100 Club**

***Thank you to everyone who supports Brimpton Church through the 100 Club. The last draw for this year will take place in April, and we will start again with a new round in May.***

*As usual, each number costs £12 for the year, and a number is drawn every month. The winner gets a cash prize of £30.*

***How to join*** Please contact Patricia Brims (0118 9714085)

[pcbrims@hotmail.com](mailto:pcbrims@hotmail.com)

***before the end of April to join the 100 Club.***

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

**BACS Transfer: Brimpton PCC 100 Club, Sort Code 30-96-96,  
A/c no. 04419615. Please give your name as the BACS reference**

**Or Cash or cheque for £12 per number, payable to**

**Brimpton PCC 100 Club**

**Please give to**

**Patricia Brims, Brimpton Lodge, Wasing Road, RG7 4TG**

*The 100 Club raises over £1,400 for the church each year,  
which makes a fantastic difference*

**THANK YOU!**

## **NATURE NOTES**

Did you all notice, in the Newbury Weekly News, the pictures of 'Toads Crossing' signs? The write up said that toads become lively at this time of year and start wandering. But of course they are not just wandering.

Unlike frogs, who lay their eggs in the first convenient pool they find, toads make their way back to where they were tadpoles. I'm sure you are all familiar with the 'help a toad across the road' slogan – it really is necessary with so many cars on the roads these days.

As you all know, April is the time when our summer visiting birds arrive. Now that we're all becoming aware of the damage mankind has done – is still doing – to nature and are trying to rectify some of it, maybe we shall see more of our old favorites returning. Let's hope so.



*Stella Nesbit*

# PLANT SALE

Saturday 18 May  
10 am – 12.00  
St Peter's Church  
Brimpton

Donations of labelled plants welcome  
in advance or on the day.

REFRESHMENTS & RAFFLE



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

**DROP IN ANY TIME BETWEEN**  
**10:00 am-11:30 am**  
**WEDNESDAY, 10 APRIL**  
**WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY**  
**WEDNESDAY, 12 JUNE**  
**Everyone (including dogs)**  
**welcome**

## Dates for Your Diary

**Tuesday 2nd April:** Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

**Wednesday 10th April:** Coffee morning in St Peter's Church;  
drop in anytime between 10am and 11.30am. Dogs welcome.

**Tuesday 7th May:** Parish Council Annual Meeting, during which the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2024/25 will be elected.

**Wednesday 14th May:** Coffee morning in St Peter's Church;  
drop in anytime between 10am and 11.30am. Dogs welcome.

**Saturday 18th May:** Plant Sale in St Peter's Church 10am – midday.

**Thursday 23th May:** Annual Parish Assembly. Come and meet other residents.  
Starts at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

**Thursday 6th June:** Lighting the Brimpton Beacon and Fish & Chip Supper,  
Village Hall, from 7pm.

**Saturday 8th June:** Family picnic with 1940s music from Three Rivers Community  
Choir and a jazz band. Free event on Jubilee Green behind the Village Hall  
1pm-4pm.

**Saturday 8th June:** BBQ at the Village Hall, live music, doors open at 7pm.

**Tuesday 18th June:** Open evening at Hyde End Vineyard with talk on wine  
production, tour of the vineyard and sampling English wines, starts at 6.30pm.

### **Brimpton Parish Council**

The Parish Council met on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March**. The items we discussed included: West Berkshire Council has sought clarification of some aspects of the planning application for a change of use of the Three Horse Shoes. We agreed to support the amended application and to ask that a decision is made quickly as the building is deteriorating and the site is an eye sore in the centre of the village.

We had no objections to a proposal to build an oak framed garden room at West Lodge, Crookham Common Road.

We understand that given the number of objections from residents, as well as those from the Parish Council and AWE, the planning application for change of use on one plot in Blacknest Field is likely to be referred to the East Area Planning Committee for a decision.

After the Land Agent for the Wasing Estate intervened with the management company, work is underway to plant new screening around the solar farm.

We agreed to an application from the Parochial Church Council requesting £2000 towards the grass cutting in the church yards in the coming year.

At the rear of the Village Hall, a pedestrian gate has been installed to enable access to Jubilee Green from the public footpath. This crosses land owned by the Wasing Estate by whose permission access has been allowed. It is not an extension to the public footpath.

Brimpton Road between Willow Wands and the Baptist Church is flooded again after heavy rain. As we have been told WBC Highways Department is inundated at the moment (like the rest of us), there is likely to be a delay to the promised remedial work.

The organisers of the Brimpton commemoration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day will be holding three social events. There will be a beacon lighting on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June which will include a Fish and Chip Supper. A Family Picnic with musical entertainment will be held on Saturday afternoon 8<sup>th</sup> June from 1 to 4pm. There will also be a BBQ with live music on Saturday evening. Further details in due course.

We agreed the 2024 Annual Parish Assembly will take place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. This is not a Parish Council meeting, although by custom the Chairman of the Parish Council also chairs the Assembly. Groups and organisations who are based in Brimpton or play a part in the life of the community will be invited to talk about their activities and their plans for the coming year. The Assembly will begin at 7.30pm in the Village Hall and will be followed by refreshments and an opportunity to meet other residents.

The Parish Council will meet again on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**. All residents are welcome to attend the meeting which starts at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

If you live in the parish of Brimpton and would like to receive the Parish Update, my fortnightly email newsletter, please send your email address to: [jhicks@brimptonparish.org.uk](mailto:jhicks@brimptonparish.org.uk). *John Hicks*

## Midgham News

### Proposed Midgham Village Litter Pick

I guess many of you like me are disappointed to see the amount of litter that seems to get chucked out of vehicles and into our roadside verges. It amazes me how much of this rubbish is empty cans of lager or other alcoholic drinks. What are people doing in their cars?



Rather than moan about this sad state of affairs, I am considering organising a regular litter pick in

the village to clear up the mess. Initially we would cover Birds Lane, Church Lane, School Hill and the circuit around Midgham Green and Windmill Lane. We could then extend from The Green down towards Woolhampton – a road that is particularly bad for litter.

The plan would be to meet for an hour and a half (or whatever time people feel they can give), once a month – probably on a Saturday morning.

Would you be interested in helping to keep are village clean and tidy? If so could you e-mail me ( [bill57nicholson@gmail.com](mailto:bill57nicholson@gmail.com) ) so that I can gauge the numbers and arrange equipment (Hi-Viz vests, litter pickers etc).

I will then be in touch to arrange our first session.

Bill Nicholson

Date for your diary

### ORGAN RECITAL

At St Matthews Midgham

Saturday June 1st at 6pm

By Gill Blythman

Approximately 45 minutes

followed by refreshments



### **Midgham Village Hall**

Coffee mornings are held on alternate Wednesdays from 10 until 12 in the Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and join us for tea and cake and a friendly chat. In April the coffee mornings will be on the 10th and the 24th.

### **Midgham Village Hall Bank holiday Plant Sale in the Hall Saturday 4th May 10am-3pm**

Come and browse an amazing array of plants to refresh your garden for the Summer.

[Proceeds in aid of the Village Hall.] Free admission.

There will also be stalls selling:

Crystals, stones and beautiful handmade jewellery.

Household furnishings: cushions, peg bags, lavender bags, aprons...

A charity stall to support the Donkey Sanctuary

A bric-a-brac stall in aid of the Village Hall

An excellent opportunity to buy your birthday and Christmas presents early.

Tea and cake will be on sale to refresh you whilst you rest to admire the plants and stalls



### **Midgham Café Church**

**First Thursday of the month**

**Join us for tea and cake and fellowship 2.00pm**

**Thursday April 4th in the church**

**May 2nd at 1 Church Lane, Brimpton RG7 4TJ  
(local elections in church)**

**Contact Sarah Henderson for more information  
[henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com](mailto:henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com)**

# Woolhampton News

## **Village Market**

The next Market will be on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> from 10a.m. to 12 noon in the Woolhampton Village Hall. If you've not been before, do come along to browse and enjoy the ambience and you never know, you may find something you never knew you wanted/needed. There is no entry charge and refreshments (including delicious hot bacon rolls) available.

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

**Advance notice:** Please note the market in June will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> not the 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Date for your Diary - Woolhampton Annual Show 2024**

Woolhampton Show will be on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August in the Village Hall. There will be classes for each of cookery, flowers, vegetables, photography, handicraft, art and special classes for children to enter. The Show schedule will be available towards the late June early July but for the competitions that need advance preparation, please see the following:

### **Photographic Competition**

The photographic classes decided for 2024 are:

A tree (any species in any season)                      Sunset or sunrise

Any flower bloom    Fireworks

Blue is the colour (any subject provided that the colour is predominately blue)

Please remember that photos should be no bigger than 7"x5" and not mounted.

**Hobbycraft**    Make a tote bag

**Art**    Create a picture of:    An animal                      A bridge

Draw or paint using any medium but maximum size to be A4.

### **Tallest Sunflower Competition**

Now is the time to sow your sunflower seeds. Participants may select seeds of their choice. (Please note that plants are not intended to be brought to Village Hall. Details of how they will be judged will be given nearer the Show date.)

### **Potato-growing Competition**

We should be clear of frosts by now, so it probably the right time to plant and cultivate your tubers. (I think tubers have been provided to everyone who entered but if not, please contact me as soon as possible as I should still have yours available.) Good luck and don't forget that you must be able to bring your intact container (tops trimmed) to the allotments on Show Day for weighing.



## News from Woolhampton Primary School

The first half of the Spring Term has flown by at Woolhampton, it was a very short term but signs of Spring are all around us now and the children have been participating in some very exciting events and experiences.



The new term started with a Family Morning, where parents, carers and families were warmly welcomed into school to find out about the new PSHE scheme being used called 'No Outsiders'. It is an inclusive series of lessons that enhances our school ethos by 'promoting community cohesions to prepare young people and adults for life as global citizens'. Parents and carers were invited into our classrooms to see their children participating in a range of different learning opportunities with the starting point of a story. It was a lovely morning.

We were very fortunate to have Don Rae from the Don Rae Academy of Movement and Arts join the school leading a series of workshops where the children learnt about the culture of China and the spring festival of Lunar New Year through traditional dance and folktales.



After the workshop, the children continued their learning in class where they were given the opportunity to sample some traditional Chinese food such as rice and noodles. At the end of the day, the children and staff came together for a special assembly to celebrate and share their learning. Thank you to Mrs Smith for arranging this.



Our sporting exploits within the wider community have also been a high point of this term, with our Netball Club

participating in a Netball Festival led by Year 8 pupils at Elstree School. Our team had a fantastic time, playing matches against children from five other schools - great fun!

Twenty of our children from across Key Stage 2 were invited to participate in a Cross Country running event at Bradfield College. There were four different races with Juniors running 1.2km and Seniors running 2km! All of the children gave it their best - well done! Thank you to Mrs Javes for organising our participation in these events.



Our Friends of Woolhampton School (FoWS) organised another successful posy making morning ahead of Mothering Sunday where, for a small donation, all children could create a posy to take home for someone special. Thank you to everyone who donated jars, ribbons and flowers and their time to enable this event to go ahead.

**Sarah Fenwick-Stubbs**     **Foundation Governor, PCC**

### **Brook House & 'Old' Forge**

During the 1820s John Appleton (a London merchant) left the city for rural Woolhampton and resided at the present 'Brooklawn', with its necessary stables and chaise house, alongside the busy Great Bath Road and the stage coaches that conveyed the wealthy to the health resort of Bath. In 1829 John built a new property, the present 'Brook House', with a shop adjacent to his residence. (Charles Frankum at the now 'Old Bakery', the builder in 1820 of Woolhampton Mill, alleged that it obstructed his light.) Nevertheless Henry Martin was a tailor trading in the new shop in 1830. In the same year the former London merchant built a pair of cottages with a detached shop in Station Road. A Thomas Dopson was working at one of those cottages which became the forge in the 1850s; a successor was Tommy Shuttle from the 1880s until 1922, responsible for the remains of the original sign visible on side of the building representing the 'Worshipful Company of



Farriers'. His successor was Alf Attwood, the last of the village farriers. In addition to shoeing horses, repairing tools, fitting metal rims to farm wagons, making gates for the Abbey he was cricket captain, church warden and member of the Choral Society. 'Brookside Cottage', next door to the Forge, became the home of former soldier, Thomas Hawkins, a veteran of the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny. It was from here on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February 1912 that Thomas finally left his home placed on a gun carriage draped in a Union Flag escorted by members of the Royal Berkshire Regiment to be honoured by a military funeral. The march to St Peter's church, Woolhampton, was led by the Aldermaston Company of Territorials with the Newbury Brass Band very much in evidence. There were said to be over a 1,000 people present at St Peter's.

*John Trigg*

#### **Woolhampton Village Hall is looking for a Caretaker**

We are looking for a Caretaker who is able to contribute to the smooth running of the village hall. The Caretaker needs to be self-motivated, dependable, flexible and trustworthy.

Responsibilities include preparing the hall for bookings, looking after the security of the building, minor maintenance and repairs and ensuring the cleanliness of the premises.

The Caretaker will need to be available to attend the hall as and when bookings require.

We are looking for someone to start as soon as possible.

If you would like further information or have any questions about the role, please contact Kate Leighton, Bookings Administrator at Woolhampton Village Hall via email: [bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com](mailto:bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com)

### **Know a Noise that Gets on your Nerves?**

Clankety-clank, clickety-click, der-dum, der-dum goes the seemingly never-ending noise from the 'loose' manhole cover in the middle of the A4/Station road junction as traffic goes over it. I reported it to WBC back in December but in following it up, it was discovered that WBC had closed the issue because it was a 'third-party responsibility', namely 'telecoms', by which it is presumed BT/Openreach, and it could take up to 6 months to repair! We await the problem to be solved

### **Dog Fouling**

Just to reiterate, PLEASE clean up after your dog from wherever they foul, even from the defined paths in fields. This is a plea to all dog owners to clear up after their pets as it is really awful for a child, or indeed anybody else, to step into a mess! There are many waste bins around the village so there is no excuse for not picking up.



Spring is doing its best to brighten our gardens and the new Gardening Club season will soon be underway.

Our first speaker this year is **Chris Beardshaw** which should make for an exciting evening.

7 for 7.30pm at Bradfield Village Hall. Put the date, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April, in your diary.

For a speaker of this calibre we need to charge members £10 and non-members £20

We have other interesting speakers planned and a coach trip and afternoon garden visits so look out for our newsletter. Existing members should have got a copy by post, but others can pick up a copy from the Bradfield village shop and other locations such as Englefield Garden centre and Hilliers.

Full details will be on the club website

<https://bradfieldgardeningclub.org>

**You don't have to be a gardener or even have a garden to enjoy our meetings so do come along**

## **WOOLHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL – URGENT 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 desperately needed to become Village Hall Trustees and protect the longevity of this unique resource for the village.

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

## **WOOLHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL CALENDAR APRIL 2024**

03/04/24 Woolhampton Lunch Club 12 noon – 14:30

Contact [bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com](mailto:bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com) for further information

08/04/24 Dance Class (Ballroom/Line Dance) 14:00 – 16:00

Norman - [storminnorman8norman@aol.com](mailto:storminnorman8norman@aol.com)

09/04/24 Womens Institute 19:30 – 21:30 Details on: [Berkshire.thewi.org.uk](http://Berkshire.thewi.org.uk)

15/04/24 Dance Class (Ballroom/Line Dance) 14:00 – 16:00

Norman - [storminnorman8norman@aol.com](mailto:storminnorman8norman@aol.com)

16/04/24 Parish Council 19:30 – 21:30

Contact [bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com](mailto:bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com) for further information

18/04/24 FLeXercise 10 – 12 noon

Contact [bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com](mailto:bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com) for further information

Art Class 13:30 – 15:30 Jeanette Cole [art-course@hotmail.com](mailto:art-course@hotmail.com)

Releve Dance 16:00 – 18:30 Katherine Moore [katherine@relevedance.co.uk](mailto:katherine@relevedance.co.uk)

Art Class 19:00 – 21:00 Jeanette Cole [art-course@hotmail.com](mailto:art-course@hotmail.com)

22/04/24 Dance Class (Ballroom/Line Dance) 14:00 – 16:00

Norman - [storminnorman8norman@aol.com](mailto:storminnorman8norman@aol.com)

24/04/24 Woolhampton Lunch Club 12 noon – 14:00

Contact [bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com](mailto:bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com) for further information

25/04/24 FLeXercise 10 – 12 noon

Contact [bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com](mailto:bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com) for further information

25/04/24 Art Class 13:30 – 15:30 Jeanette Cole [art-course@hotmail.com](mailto:art-course@hotmail.com)

Releve Dance 16:00 – 18:30 Katherine Moore [katherine@relevedance.co.uk](mailto:katherine@relevedance.co.uk)

Art Class 19:00 – 21:00 Jeanette Cole [art-course@hotmail.com](mailto:art-course@hotmail.com)

29/04/24 Dance Class (Ballroom/Line Dance) 14:00 – 16:00

Norman - [storminnorman8norman@aol.com](mailto:storminnorman8norman@aol.com)

For full details of all facilities available and how to book the venue please visit:

[www.woolhamptonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.woolhamptonvillagehall.co.uk)

## Thatcham Tornadoes FC

Douai Park is home to Thatcham Tornadoes FC – a 3 star FA Accredited football club, championing grassroots football in Thatcham and the surrounding area since 1971. As a club we have over 700 players across 46 teams. With teams playing in the local leagues, we also host two tournaments and an Infant Schools Football Festival each year and club volunteers run our ever popular charity speedshot.

Last summer, Thatcham Tornadoes Girls was selected as one of several clubs across England to celebrate the start of the Lionesses World Cup campaign. Some of you may have seen us on BBC South Today as their film crew and other journalists from the area joined us at Douai Park for the afternoon. Around 100 girls took part in a Friday afternoon training session which culminated in a live broadcast on TV.

With the season drawing to a close, we're involved in several events at Douai Park aside from the regular league matches (weather permitting!).

**\*\*On 28<sup>th</sup> April, Douai Park will host the Reading & West Berkshire League Finals Day – teams are currently battling it out to see who will reach**

**the finals. On the day, Thatcham Tornadoes will be running their Charity Speedshot to raise money for Newbury Cancer Care in memory of former RWBL Secretary, Roger Moon. In return for a £1 donation to charity, you get three shots on goal to see how fast you can kick a football. All in a good cause with the fastest in each age group making it onto our all-time leader board. Feel free to pop by, watch some great football and have a go on the speedshot!\*\***



Thatcham Tornadoes will also be hosting our annual Girls Tournament at Douai Park on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Teams from all over the south of England will join us to compete for silverware in what must be one of the more picturesque settings for a football tournament. Our charity speedshot will once again be in action throughout the day.

The Thatcham Tornadoes Charity Speedshot was launched in May 2013 - it was an idea the committee had to try and raise some money for Fanconi Hope in memory of former Tornadoes coach, Stephen Waters, who died in January 2013.

We had dared to dream that we could raise £200 over the tournament weekend from people kicking footballs as fast as they could. The Speedshot was embraced by all the players and their families attending and by Sunday evening, we were all blown away that £627 had been raised for Fanconi Hope. Ten years on, our Charity Speedshot remains incredibly popular with players coming back each year to try and beat their personal best. To date, over £17,500 has been raised for charities and school PTAs.

For more information on Thatcham Tornadoes, please go to [www.thatchamtornadoes.com](http://www.thatchamtornadoes.com) or email [info@thatchamtornadoes.com](mailto:info@thatchamtornadoes.com)

## Aldermaston News

### ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term our value focus for collective worships is trust. Children have already been thinking about who they trust and how we know if someone is trustworthy. This is a great opportunity at home to discuss trusted adults in your children's lives and people they can talk with. Our chosen bible stories look at the disciples' trust in Jesus and how people have achieved great things when supported by their faith in God.

Our learning hero is the Reflector Owl who champions democracy in our school. Staff at school will be celebrating the key learning skills of reflecting, checking, responding and improving and they will be helping children to recognise when they've demonstrated these skills.

What an amazing time our Robins Class (Years 1 & 2) had when they visited Bucklebury Farm Park recently. This trip had been carefully planned to link in with their geography curriculum and the children learnt lots about the different animals at the farm and how they are looked after by their keepers. They also made great use of the play equipment available. They were buzzing with information when they returned and keen to tell everybody about what they had seen and experienced on the trip. It seems the deer were a particular favourite!

We're so proud of how much our children enjoy being active. Over one third of our KS2 children are currently training twice a week in school to take part in the West Berkshire and North Hants Cross Country Championships. Our Year 3 children are continuing to make great progress in their swimming lessons and this term Year 3, 4 and Year 5 children are receiving weekly tag rugby coaching sessions from Tadley Tigers Rugby Club. In addition, Years 1, 2 and 6 are receiving external coaching in bat and ball skills this term. It's fair to say that the KS2 football club is also quite popular.

*Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor*







## Aldermaston Parish Hall

### Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday 30th April**  
**7:30pm**

Join in and find out more about  
your local village hall and what goes on there.

**All welcome**

## Summer Music @ St Marys



Come along and listen to some glorious music  
in a fabulous setting

to raise funds for St Mary's Aldermaston

2 concerts on consecutive nights

**Friday May 17th ,7pm**

**Saturday May 18th , 7pm**

More information:

<https://concerts.project-stmarys.uk>



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

## MINI SPRING FAYRE

Saturday 27th April, 10am-12pm (Free entry)

Aldermaston Parish Hall

"FREE GLASS OF BUCKS FIZZ ON ARRIVAL"




BAKE SALE | ADULT & KIDS CRAFT

RASBLY | HOOK A DUCK

FACE PAINTING | BOUNCY CASTLE

Free Gigaclear Wi-Fi and internet advice for those who need it.  
(All proceeds go to the Aldermaston Parish Hall Charity)

 Aldermaston  
Parish Hall

## Aldermaston Parish Council– 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

In Open Forum we received a presentation from Karen Dignan and Cynthia Newman, who are leading the plans for the D-Day celebrations (Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June). Unlike previous commemorations, there are no plans for a massive bonfire by the Church. Instead, home made lanterns will play a key role, and both the school and village pub have already been signed up! They stressed that it was a community event, involving the Wharf as well as the Village, and agreed to our suggestion to make a similar presentation to Padworth PC. We agreed it was a worthy cause, and happily agreed to:

- Let our name be used in official correspondence
- Ensure our insurance would cover events
- Provide up to £100 funding for materials etc.

Also in Open Forum we were asked about the status of the new Planning Application by Easy Concrete for the Woodyard on Paice's Hill. We were advised by our Chairman that it had been received by WBC, but they were still verifying it and had not released it for general comment. She was concerned that the land to the immediate south on their site could be used for storage, and was disappointed with the apparent support for this proposal by WBC Planning Enforcement, who seemed not take into account the historic use of the field

We agreed the appointment of a new Clerk to replace Des Farndell, though he cannot be identified till he has accepted the proposed terms of work. Hopefully this will have become clearer by the time you read this Report!

On the Planning front, we had two new Applications. A revised Application for a major development at Burnt Pine, Reading Road and an out-of-area one for Tadley Horizon School, Tadley Common. With regard the former our Clerk read out a letter he had received from the Applicant. We agreed the design was more appropriate than the last Application (which had been Approved) and on the basis that there had been no adverse reaction from neighbours, we agreed to repeat our position of **No Objection**. On the latter, we chose **not to comment**.

Since our last meeting, there have been no Planning decisions by WBC.

We agreed that Triangle should be awarded our grass-cutting contract. Theirs was not the cheapest quote, but had the benefit of being a Contractor we had used before.

We watched, with interest, the WBC Area Planning decision to approve the revised accommodation arrangements at the WBC-owned Four Houses Corner Traveler's Site in Ufton Nervet, as failure to do so would have increased the pressure on our own site. We will comment accordingly on the WBC Local Plan

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. This will also be our Annual Parish Meeting. As usual, your presence is welcomed!

For full information on Parish Council matters, please visit our website at [www.aldermaston.co.uk](http://www.aldermaston.co.uk) Dave Shirt tel. 0118 971 2549





Support the 80th Anniversary of D-Day as part of the Aldermaston community participation in the national and worldwide commemoration of D-Day

**Saturday 1st June** Lights and Lanterns workshops in Aldermaston Parish Hall

Participate in fun workshops to create a lantern for

D-Day, at 10am and 2pm

Designs for all age groups or create your own design.

Materials provided including led lights or tea lights although you can bring additional materials to help your design.

Includes refreshments

Free event although donations welcome to D-Day charities

Supported by Aldermaston Parish Council, Aldermaston Parish Hall, Aldermaston Craft Group and Aldermaston History Group.

### 6th June: D-Day Commemoration

Everyone can participate by putting a lamp for peace in your window.

Look out for the D-Day **exhibition** in the Officers Mess at the Hinds Head, including how Aldermaston was involved in D-Day, between 1pm and 3pm and 6 - 9.30pm.

Join National **Fish and Chip Day** at local venues or at home.

From 9pm, listen to the Bagpiper Bill Copeland, be part of the National tribute and raise your lanterns as part of the Lamp Lights of Peace

For further details, contact Karen Dignan on 07595 551137, Cathy Jones on 07853 065387 or Cynthia Newman on 07887 776596



### **AN UPDATE FROM WASING ESTATE**

**SOLSTICE ON THE MOUNT | THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024**

We are excited to welcome the return of Solstice On The Mount for 2024, continuing our journey into providing immersive musical experiences in the heart of nature. We invite you to join us for an incredibly special evening where we will celebrate music from different parts of the world in a unique, natural setting; connected, present and in the moment.

Taking place on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June, the Solstice connects everyone in a truly global moment. Joining us will be the exceptionally talented Rodrigo y Gabriela and Nick Mulvey who will be on stage at the pivotal solstice moment at 9.50pm. The Fireside Sessions spark our Solstice celebration's shift from day into night & offer a magical and powerful experience. Awarè, co-creators of a soul stirring musical experience, and Ajeet, a world music artist weaving inspiration from traditional folk to mystical and meditative soundscapes, will perform mesmerising sets around the fire & under the stars in Wasing's Sacred Glade.

Upon arrival, you are greeted with our magical woodland trail, a unique entrance allowing you to switch off and unwind in the heart of nature. Our beautiful Food Glade will be hosting a wide range of world cuisines including tasty seasonal dishes. We also have a choice of bars within the amphitheatre serving a lip-smackingly good array of non-alcoholic drinks to enjoy in stunning surroundings.

More information can be found at [www.wasing.co.uk/solstice](http://www.wasing.co.uk/solstice) and to book tickets please visit <https://wasing.digitickets.co.uk>

We are proudly supporting Médecins Sans Frontières, an international humanitarian organisation providing medical care in more than 70 countries, who treat patients on medical needs alone & provide life-saving care in crisis zones. For each Solstice ticket sold, £2 will be paid to MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES|DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS (UK) (Charity Number: 1026588)

If you have any questions, please contact us via [events@wasing.co.uk](mailto:events@wasing.co.uk)

We look forward to welcoming you this Summer.

# SOLSTICE

THU 20 JUNE 2024

NICK MULVEY  
RODRIGO Y GABRIELA  
THE YAWANAWA



THE  
FIRESIDE SESSIONS  
PRESENTED BY MEDICINE  
FESTIVAL

AWARE AJEET

ON THE MOUNT  
AT  
WASING

WASING



WASING.CO.UK/SOLSTICE  
Wasing Estate, No Road, RG7 4LY





### **LONDON UNLOCK WALK 41 Saturday 27 April 2024**

Pat Owen (Beenham) Jean Chapman (Aldermaston) and myself are taking part in the Unlock Walk around Kensington, Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham on 27 April. We have taken part in this walk, which is a sponsored event for the past several years. Unlock works by running local projects in UK cities where a trained Unlock Development Worker, accompanied by a local team is employed to encourage and enable local people and their leaders to grow in faith and confidence.

The aims of the Unlock Walk London are:

- To raise money for Unlock's work in deprived urban areas across the UK
- To raise awareness of the issues of exclusion that Unlock exists to address
- To showcase the ministry of churches in urban areas
- To encourage churches in the more affluent parts of the country to support the work of their fellow Christians in the inner city.

The walk is 7.5 miles long and, on our way round, we will visit seven churches of different denominations and take part in a quiz with 21 questions on local sites and places we pass. What I have found interesting over the years, is the diverse and innovative ways churches have been utilised for different purposes. For example half of one church was used for a Foodbank, another a primary school, another yoga classes, coffee clubs, libraries this goes on. For more information on the work of Unlock please visit <https://www.unlock-urban.org.uk/>

If you would like to sponsor us please talk to one of us or go to

[donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/supporting-41st-unlock-walk-2024](https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/supporting-41st-unlock-walk-2024)

Thank you. Brenda Scott [mrsbscott@btinternet.com](mailto:mrsbscott@btinternet.com)



### **Can you spare time on Tuesdays to help at our local Stroke Care Group?**

Stroke touches the life of millions. Local charity, Stroke Care for Newbury & West Berkshire provides support to stroke survivors and their families in West Berkshire. Part of our service is a re-enablement group which meets Tuesdays 10.30am to 2.30pm in Woolhampton Village Hall. We provide physiotherapy, exercises and mental activities in an enjoyable social setting with refreshments and a hot lunch.

We have a wonderful team of staff and volunteers but we always need extra help. If you can offer a few hours on Tuesday on a volunteer basis to chat with members, help with activities and exercises or help in the kitchen, please contact Jo Teece on 07970131074 or [johanteece@gmail.com](mailto:johanteece@gmail.com): or [strokecarenewbury.org.uk](https://strokecarenewbury.org.uk)

## “Killer Crayfish” Established in the Kennet

I came to live in Berkshire from my home in Bayeux in France over 12 years ago, immediately fell in love with the Kennet and have recently established the Office of the Berkshire Action Campaign for the Kennet. So it is with dismay that I must report that “killer crayfish” have now been reported to be present in the Kennet. This follows reports from several other water courses such as the Test and as far north as the Whitham.

This is a result of misguided unofficial attempts to reintroduce the European crayfish (*Astacus astacus*) into waters infested by the American signal crayfish (*Pasificastacus leniusculus*), an invasive escapee from crayfish farms in the 1960s that has overtaken most waters in the UK, except for some areas in Scotland. Interbreeding has led to a cross that has the size and aggression of the signal crayfish, combined with the co-operative hunting of the European crayfish. Sadly, the reintroduced European crayfish do not survive as they are rapidly exterminated by the American crayfish or fall foul to a mould carried by it from which it is immune. Thus, the cross-progeny only come from female American crayfish that mate with, and then devour, the male European crayfish in much the same way as happens with spiders.

Reports from horrified eyewitnesses at other waters describe “piranha-like” frenzied attacks on ducklings and waterfowl as large as adult moorhens and coots, as shoals of these killer crayfish work in unison to hunt down their hapless prey. Moreover, there have been two incidences (Wye and Test) of dogs suffering serious lacerations when playing in those rivers. Furthermore, large fish such as chub and pike found dead with extensive amounts of flesh missing have been ascribed to such attacks, as the wounds do not correspond to those inflicted by otter or mink. It is not impossible that small dogs, such as chihuahuas, could suffer fatally from these monsters as they are known to follow their prey onto the river bank. It appears that these group attacks are a response to vibrations in the water and it would seem prudent not to allow small children to paddle in the Kennet this summer, no matter how shallow the water or hot the weather.

As a result of a mutation in the AM-WiFi-FM gene affecting the blood copper haemocyanin (Cu<sub>2</sub>Hc), killer crayfish turn blue on boiling instead of red, the reverse of lobsters. Identification in the wild, for fisherman who may accidentally catch one, can be based on the presence of a skull-like mark on the thorax akin to that of the death’s head hawkmoth (*Acherontia atropos*). I thank Mr William E. Lyre for this information.

I would be grateful for any observations of such aggressive activity in the Kennet to be reported to the office of the Berkshire Action Campaign for the Kennet at [a.bouffon@back-off.com.ic](mailto:a.bouffon@back-off.com.ic). In the meantime, please continue to enjoy the Kennet, but stay safe and respect the water and the lurking menace that lies within. Remember, the American killer crayfish are oversized, over sexed and over here.

**Avril Bouffon !**

## Church Services across 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 a to the left  
Plus 10:30 am Mass  
But no Compline

**Brimpton Baptist Church** – Contact number 0118  
971 2059

Sunday: 11.00 am and 6.00 pm

Wednesday: 7.00 pm

## Church of England Service for April

### **Sunday 7th April**

St Nicholas Wasing	Benefice Holy Communion	10:45
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### **Sunday 14th April**

St Mary's Aldermaston	Holy Communion	10:45
St Mary's Beenham	Morning Prayer	9:15
St Peter's Brimpton	Morning Prayer	9:15
St Peter's Woolhampton	Holy Communion	10:45

### **Sunday 21st April**

St Mary's Aldermaston	Holy Communion	10:45
St Peter's Brimpton	Holy Communion	9:15
St Matthew's Midgham	Holy Communion	9:15
St Peter's Woolhampton	Holy Communion	10:45

### **Sunday 28th April**

St Mary's Beenham	Holy Communion	9:15
St Peter's Brimpton	Holy Communion	10:45
St Matthew's Midgham	Evensong	5pm
St Peter's Woolhampton	Informal Holy Communion	10:45

## WORSHIP ON WEEKDAYS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

17th April, 8th May, 5th June 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. St. Peter's Woolhampton, RG7 5TB

Join us as we come together for WOW!

This relaxed, informal and friendly session starts with tea, toast and toys and a chance for parents, grandparents and carers to get together for a chat.

A short, informal worship starts at 9.30 am and we finish it all off with cake! What better way to spend a Wednesday morning? FUN, FRIENDLY, FREE





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[www.milesfunerals.com](http://www.milesfunerals.com)

## CHAPEL ROW COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP

*Beenham-Midgham-Woolhampton*

For details of services provided, requests and offers to help ring: 0118 9713334 (Mrs Cardy) between 9.30 and 11.30 am, Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Woolhampton Surgery Run

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