

Villages' News



Useful Contacts

Non-emergency numbers:

NHS 111

Police 101

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

Problems with roads (eg potholes), footpaths etc:

www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem

Doctors' surgeries:

Chapel Row Surgery – 0118 971 3252

Holmwood Surgery – 0118 981 4166

Mobile library: 01635 519827

District Councillors:

Woolhampton/Midgham: Graham Pask: 01635 864 023

Aldermaston/Beenham/Brimpton: Dominic Boeck: 07956 546506

Parish Councils: Clerks' details:

Aldermaston: Des Farndell: parishclerk@aldermaston.co.uk

Beenham: clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk

Brimpton: Christine McGarvie: 01189 701576

Midgham: Alice Owens: 07896 321058

Woolhampton: Alice Owens : 07896 321058

Village Halls: Aldermaston: aldermastonparishhall@gmail.com

Beenham: 07793116937

Brimpton: 0118 971 3731

Midgham: 0794 109 3853

Woolhampton: bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com

Churches:

Aldermaston & Woolhampton Benefice:

Revd Jane Manley: 0118 9712891

Brimpton Baptist Church: 0118 971 2059

St Mary's Woolhampton: 0118 971 5350 (9am- 2pm Tue-Fri)

Douai Abbey: 0118 971 5399

Magazine advertising: Brenda Scott: 0118 971 3113

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Villages' News

Here we are on the second issue of the Villages' News – how time flies.

We knew people wanted a hard copy magazine but when we set about launching it we had absolutely no idea how well it would be received. The compliments have flooded in. Here are just a few: *'It is spot on and just what is required'.... 'Well done Brenda and your team – no mean feat! I enjoyed reading it – thank you'..... 'thank you for all the hard work that has gone into producing the first issue of the Villages' News.'..... 'It's a great publication and a wonderful way for everyone to be informed'..... 'Huge thanks and well done'.* I don't think I need to say more other than a sincere thank you to everyone who took the time to send your comments.

What a to do City Boy caused! His article is like Marmite - you either love it or hate it. Unfortunately, a minority of people did not realise he was mocking wealth not flaunting it. We hope you enjoy reading his second missive and the letters sent to the editor in response to his article in Issue 1. Please read them in the vein they are all written – with humour in mind and for your enjoyment.

Many people have said they would like to make a contribution towards the running costs of the magazine. Your contributions will enable us to increase the number of pages and include more of the titbits we are collecting. Contributions can be made by BACS as follows:

Bank: Lloyds Bank

Account name: Villages' News

Sort code 30 99 50

Account No: 55728360

Many thanks in advance.

Remember this is **your** magazine and we would welcome articles of interest to include in future issues.

Brenda Scott,

Chair, Magazine Committee

ARTICLES FOR THE MAGAZINE

Please send articles for the magazine to:

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

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

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

For the village of Beenham patowen0@hotmail.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.

Advertising enquiries can be sent to mrsbscott@btinternet.com

Articles will be included and/or edited at the Editor's discretion.



WEST BERKS FOODBANK

WHEN PEOPLE ARE GOING WITHOUT....

IT IS TIME TO GUARANTEE THEIR ESSENTIALS

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

ITEMS URGENTLY REQUIRED

Long Life fruit juice, razors or shaving gel, large sized nappies 5,6,7,
Toilet rolls, UHT long life milk (Blue or Green)

ITEMS LOW IN STOCK

Tinned tomatoes, cereal bars, sanitary towels (not panty liners), baby food (all
ages), kitchen rolls

WELL STOCKED

Please no more baked beans or pasta

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.

Beenham News



BEENHAM'S "BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC"

ON THE REC

MONDAY 8TH MAY – 12PM- 4PM

**Everyone is invited to come along and celebrate the Coronation.
Bring your own picnics, rugs, tables and chairs and we will provide:**

Music by Who's Driving

Tea and cakes by St Mary's church

Bar by Six Bells

BBQ type refreshments by the PTFA

SEE YOU THERE!

BEENHAM PRE-SCHOOL

Easter was a fun time at Beenham Pre-School! Our annual Easter Bonnet Parade was a colourful and joyous occasion followed by a very enthusiastic Easter Egg Hunt and lots of games and crafts. It certainly helped us to appreciate our gardens and the lovely Spring weather which we hope will last into the new term. We also welcomed some new families before Easter and have more starting for the Summer Term so lots of friendships to make and experiences to share. We decorated our gate for Easter (although due to changes on site the decorations disappeared more quickly than we expected!) and we are planning our Crowns to help decorate the village for the Coronation along with our own royal celebrations. We are always thrilled to join in with these village community events.

The summer term is inevitably busy for us and (we hope!) the weather means we can make our garden our classroom even more than we already do. We will be supporting our older children in their transition into local primary schools and making memories with them, as well as helping our youngest children to settle into Pre-School Life.

We pride ourselves on having warm and productive relationships with our families, supported by our online journals.

If you would like to join our waiting list for spaces starting in September 2023, or would like to join the growing number of families booked in for 2024-5 then please do contact us to arrange a tour and we can tell you so much more about what we can offer you and your child. Paula Read (Beenham Pre-School Manager)



BEENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Another term has flown by. Our children have continued to experience lots of exciting things, for many of the children these were first time experiences. Our choir performed to a live audience at the Anvil in Basingstoke. They took part in the Junior Music Festival organised by Berkshire Maestros, and sang with a orchestra of peripatetic teachers who teach music lessons in school.

Years 5/6 had a residential trip to Rushall Farm. The trip linked to their Farm, Sow and Grow topic. Despite the dismal weather, they were able to complete a river study, build dens, investigate owl pellets, and make butter. They slept overnight in the barn and enjoyed a second day full of activities - we think the rain stopped for about an hour on the whole trip!

Children in Years 3 and 4 have been learning the trumpet with a Berkshire Maestros teacher.

Years 1 and 2 visited Thatcham Discovery Centre. They participated in a "Seasonal Changes" workshop which linked with their Science for the term.

Our youngest children have been busy with their topic 'Ready, Steady Grow', they've grown bean plants, looked at seeds, explored different types of food including sampling some fruit and vegetables.

Over the Easter holidays, you may have noticed some works being carried out at the school, we are having new fences put around different sections of the perimeter of the site along with new gates at the school entrance.

Just after the children return, we are fortunate to have secured some funding to have a Daily Mile track put in on our school field, which will enable our children to participate in this daily activity in all weathers and in all seasons – the children are excited about this prospect!

We have limited spaces in some of our year groups for September, if you wish to have a school tour or discuss a school place, please contact the school office or visit our website: www.beenhamprimary.co.uk

CORONATION MEMORIAL

Beenham Parish Council is considering a memorial to mark the coronation of King Charles: something that will still be here for the next coronation. The options that have been suggested are:

A large clock above the entrance to the Victory Hall. This would need sponsorship from local businesses and individuals.

A bench for adults on the Rec (there are plenty of seats for younger people).

A tree (but where?).

Do nothing.

What do you think? Please send your comments to

p.mcewen@beenham-pc.gov.uk .

BEENHAM SCARECROW FESTIVAL 2023

This year we would like you to create a scarecrow on the theme of Kings and Queens. It can be historical, realistic or abstract, fantasy or factual, so we hope to have a really exciting variety of scarecrows to enjoy following the Coronation. Maybe you'll go back to early royalty, British or otherwise, or look at royalty in nursery rhymes, fairy tales, music or films. There are a lot to choose from!

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 28th May in time for the judging which will take place over the following few days. Prize winners will be announced at the Beenham Band event on the Rec on 23rd 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 24th May so we can produce a map for people to find them all. 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

BEENHAM ALLOTMENTS



Most of Beenham allotment holders have got their plots ready for the forthcoming planting season. Thank goodness for a fairly dry February and March when the ground was in perfect condition for digging. As a fellow allotment holder said to me "It's a pity all weeds aren't edible because they grow so well in all weather conditions!"

In 2022 the committee ran a couple of competitions costing a pound to enter. One was for growing five issued sunflower seeds and the allotment holder with the biggest sunflower head was awarded the John Upham Cup. The second was the potato growing competition. The committee used a half plot for all those competing to plant two chitted seed potatoes. These were then dug up and both roots were weighed at the end of August to the great amusement to all competitors present.

Due to the great success of these competitions, we are repeating them again, but it will be the tallest sunflower this time. We are also asking all our allotment holders to put a picture on our Facebook page of any vegetables that they produce that look funny or amusing!

We look forward to a good growing season this year. The weather always has a very big impact on how we all get on, last season was very wet to start and then exceptionally dry during the Summer. But as gardeners we are always looking for excuses, hopefully this year we won't need any.

Helen Apsey

BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

PUBLIC FORUM

A parishioner said that a motorbike (driver and small child) had been seen on the foot-path from White's Lane to Southend Bradfield. This will be reported to Bradfield PC.

Shooting Incident. Dominic Boeck reported that he had discussed the incident with the police. They said that the likely offender had been arrested for another offence, but there was insufficient evidence to place him in Beenham. Some parishioners felt that more effort could have been made to interview possible witnesses.

Commemoration of Coronation. It was suggested that some form of memorial could be placed in Beenham to mark the coronation: a bench or a clock on the Victory Hall were suggested. *If you have any ideas please let us know.*

PTFA asked if PC could assist with a grant for a coronation keepsake for the school children. PC said this should be possible, but a formal application would need to be submitted to the next meeting.

A parishioner wished to assure the meeting that no intimidation had taken place regarding the Awberry Farm application.

Potholes on road near A4. Mr Boeck confirmed that the potholes will be filled in April, with surface dressing in June. This has subsequently been delayed until July, as the road is on a diversion route for works elsewhere until end of May.

The Chair of the School Governors reported that work to improve the boundary fence has started. Design work for replacement of the fire doors is ongoing (by WBC).

PLANNING

23/00346/FUL Field North of Bath Road, Woolhampton. Agricultural Barn.

No objection.

23/00664/HOUSE 22 Stoneyfield. Carport. No objection, but sides should not be permitted.

23/00376/FULMAJ. Awberry Farm. Change of use to a flexible events venue.

The council agreed a response that objected to this application. The full text is on the WBC Planning website. A summary of the response is:

"The Council has carefully weighed up both sides of the argument and decided to object to this application on the basis that unacceptable noise to residents and loss of tranquility, unacceptable number of vehicles and traffic noise, and unacceptable environmental impact within an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) vastly outweigh any possible benefits."

HIGHWAYS

A request has been received for the speed indicator device (SID) to face up Beenham Hill rather down the hill (as cars go down at high speed). The PC will request approval from WBC for this location (possibly using the same pole).

The state of the road surface in Grange Lane was discussed. The road is designated as a bridleway, and WBC do not accept any responsibility for maintenance. The PC said that this has been a problem for many years, as nobody seems to own the road. In the past the various land owners have agreed amongst themselves how the road will be maintained.

The next meeting is on Monday 15th May

BEENHAM VILLAGE EVENTS CROWNS FOR THE CORONATION

There is still time to colour or decorate a crown for the Coronation.
The crowns are going to decorate a lamp-post, fence or door near you
Contact Pat Owen (07947 478840) or John Clark (07881 816301) for further information.



DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM – MAY 2023

Tuesdays Art Group 10am-12pm Victory Hall Sunny: 9712255

Tuesdays Badminton Club 8pm – 9.30pm School Hall Ernie: 07954 127 771

4th Thur Beenham Walking Group:

Inkpen Beacon and Buttermere – 5 miles Meet at VH at 9.30am

johnnewitt27@gmail.com

5th Fri Darts v Racks 7.30pm Club 9713991

6th Sat CORONATION DAY

Ma Bessy 7.30pm Club 9713991

8th Mon BANK HOLIDAY

BVE Picnic in the Park 12pm – 4pm Rec Pat:07947478840

10th Wed WI – 7.30pm £3 non-members Community Hall Sally:07776251228

11th Thur Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6 £3/person Six Bells
9713368 to book

13th Sat Village market and repair shop 2-3.30 Victory Hall Claire:9713574

14th Sun

15th Mon Parish Council meeting 7pm Community Room

17th Wed Beenham Friendship Club for over 55s - coach trip to Bournemouth
Pick up points Marion:9713094
Tina:01635826154

18th Thur Beenham Walking Group:

Silchester round walk 4-5 miles Meet at VH at 9.30am johnnewitt27@gmail.com

18th Thur Film Night – Fisherman's Friends

£5 adults, under 18s £3 Victory Hall Claire:9713574

19th Fri Coffee Morning 10.30am Six Bells Janette:07917818283

20th Sat Greyfield Woods Volunteer Morning 8.30 – 12pm
Meet at wood entrance John:9712924

20th Sat Calleva Stick Dressers 9am – 2pm Victory Hall David:07864180648

20TH Sat Live Music and Acoustic Night Club 9713991

27th Sat Dawn Grigg Memorial Darts 12pm Club

30th Tues Beenham Tearoom 2pm – 3.30pm Victory Hall Dru:07815055040
Pat:07947478840

June 3rd The Soultones 7.30 club 9713991

Brimpton News

Brimpton WI

Our March meeting was the first of the year with our Speaker John Oblein, currently a Volunteer for the Thames Valley Police Museum, who for many years worked both on the beat and later as a Scene of Crime Officer (SOCO).

John joined the police in 1973 based at Heathrow. With childhood interests in Chemistry and later Photography, he applied for training in Scenes of Crime, was chosen and spent the next 15 years of his service in this specialist role. A few years as a Crime Prevention Officer followed, before he returned to SOCO until his retirement. Over the years his role incurred the need for constant training as increasingly sophisticated scientific techniques formed part of the procedures. For example he explained that Finger prints have been used by the UK police since the early 1900's where the unique "Loops and whirls" each of us carries can identify an individual. Nowadays Computers are used to match the prints taken at a crime scene to those in a vast Database; when he first trained it was done using an eye glass and a local index card system (not country wide). The former method took hours, currently it takes minutes. The latest SOCO teams have a mobile Laboratory which both carries all the evidence bags, protective clothing, tools etc. but can be taken to a crime scene, enabling them to do tests on site. When he first started it was a briefcase. The development of areas of science such as DNA identification techniques, are now an important specialist area and has been used to convict murderers many years after the crime was committed. John told us so much more about the different types of evidence that is found on crime scenes. His conclusion was that however state of the art the techniques might be the principle of the SOSO role is still that of accurate collecting evidence of when/where/how it happened, and who was there. It was a fascinating talk.

Our Next Meeting will be on May 16 when, as well as debating the Resolution which will be voted upon at the National AGM in June, Julie Ponds will be explaining the health benefits of "Seated Yoga".

Contacts : President Shelley Bassil (0118 9710563) or our Secretary Annette Dolphin (0118 9710090) or use our dedicated e-mail link brimptonwi@berkshirewi.co.uk

BRIMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met at the Village Hall on **Tuesday 4th April**

Roads and Transport

We discussed the condition of local roads and the large number of potholes that have appeared. We will continue to press West Berkshire Council for action and encourage residents to report potholes to WBC when they see them.

Inconsiderate parking by Thames Water tankers removing sewage from the Brimpton Road pumping station continues to be an issue. We will raise this with Thames Water again and ask them what plans they have to resolve the issue in the long term so

tankers are not needed. We will again ask when they plan to reinstate the verges. The campaign to reduce the speed limit on the B3051 in Brimpton Common moved forward this week. West Berkshire Highways have supported a reduction but it was blocked by Hampshire County Council. Now Kit Malthouse MP has replied to a resident from the Hampshire side of the border saying he has raised concerns about the safety of the road with Hampshire County Council. He has asked HCC to implement a reduction in the speed limit and other mitigations to improve safety both on the road itself and for drivers at the junction with Blacknest Lane.

Planning

No objections to an application for minor works at Brimpton House, Church Lane. We considered an application for changes to the layout of plot 4 in the Washoe Lodge development.. No objections but in view of the previous concerns raised regarding over development of the site, we would request WBC to impose a condition that there is no further development of the site in the future.

Environment

Phil Bassil has discussed ideas for a memorial to the late Queen with a local stonemason. It would take the form of a granite stone memorial set into the path which runs up to the War Memorial. We agreed to the proposal in principle.

Events

Plans are going well for the beacon lighting event on Friday 5th May. It is hoped there will be approximately 100 attendees.

So far 72 people have reserved seats at the Community Lunch on Sunday 7th May. Most of the Coronation commemorative mugs have been distributed. Further mugs can be ordered if there is demand for them.

The competition for the Best Decorated House is for houses that can be seen from the road, including in Brimpton Common and Hyde End. Brenda Scott has undertaken to put together a hamper to be presented to the winning householder. Judging will take place on Friday 5th May and the winner announced at the Beacon Lighting.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 16th May** at 7pm in the School Hall followed by the Annual Parish Assembly at 7.30pm.

At the close of nominations there were six candidates for the six seats on Brimpton Parish Council that will be in office from 2023 to 2027. The nominations were:

Phil Bassil, Charles Brims, John Dolphin, John Hicks, Nick Matthews, Wendy Matthews. Six nominations for six seats means there is no need for a poll and the six candidates are deemed to have been elected.

John Hicks



CRAFT

Ladies who meet to craft and chat, once a month in Brimpton village hall. We had a special visit from Inion Arts based in Andover to teach us to make bluebells using wire and resin.

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



DROP IN ANY TIME BETWEEN

10:00 am-11:30 am

WEDNESDAY, 10 MAY 2023 WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE 2023

WEDNESDAY, 12 JULY 2023 WEDNESDAY, 9 AUGUST 2023

Everyone (including dogs) welcome



COFFEE and PLANTS & RAFFLE

All proceeds to St Peter's Church, Brimpton

Wednesday 10th May

10.00 am – 12.00at St Peter's Church

**Any plants that are left over will be available after
the sale from Mel and Paddy Bowring at Quaking
Bridge House, Brimpton, RG7 4SN, 0118 9710539**

Donations of labelled plants welcome.



**The Watermill Theatre is coming to
Brimpton! Saturday 24 June at 7.30pm**



Audience members are encouraged to bring fold up chairs and a picnic, and enjoy the beautiful view across the hills to Brimpton Common. Doors open 5.30pm. Performance starts at 7.30pm. Bar Service open from 5.30pm (Cash/card accepted)

All tickets (unreserved seats) £15. Click on the link:
<https://brimpton-village-hall.sumupstore.com/>

Kennet Opera Following our recent success with Mozart's 'Il Seraglio' Kennet Opera are pleased to present a concert of opera and choral choruses, solos, duets and trios from the pen of composers such as Donizetti, Offenbach, Mozart, Puccini, Verdi and Gounod. Venue **St Peter's Church, Brimpton** Date **Sunday 2nd July 2023 at 3pm** Tickets £15 to include refreshments available from <https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/kennetoperaatstpetersbrimpton> Do come and join us for an afternoon of pleasure. We would love to see you. Enquiries only to susanmoore50@hotmail.com

A Reflective History of Midgham

Historical facts, stories and notes

A wide-ranging 450 page illustrated A4 history book about Midgham and the surrounding area, starting from the stone age and ending in the modern era of the early 21st century. The book has taken over 60 years to put together and has 20 chapters including its early history; manors in the village, notable residents from the past, Coram's Foundlings, crime law and order, transport, and village Inns,

If you would like a copy, call Derek Collier on 01635 860294, or collect one at the Village Hall Coffee mornings which are held every other Wednesday between 10 and 12 am in Church Hill Midgham.. Books are priced at £70 each.

Midgham News

Midgham Village Hall **Invitation to our Coronation Picnic**

On Sunday 7th May the Village Hall Committee cordially invites you to a Coronation Picnic to be held in **the Play Area on Birds Lane** from

12 noon to 4p.m. Tables will be provided .

Bring your own food, drink and a chair.

Free celebratory glass of Pimm's. Come and join your friends and neighbours to celebrate the Coronation of our new King. Everyone from Midgham and the surrounding villages welcome.

There will be a raffle and **Lily will be holding a plant sale** to raise funds for her charity work trip to Borneo. This will be an opportunity for you to meet Lily and arrange to have your car washed or for Lily to do small household tasks to help boost her funds.

We shall retire to the Village Hall if the weather is against us.

Unfortunately: **No Barbeques. Fireworks or dogs** permitted.

Midgham Village Hall **Coffee mornings**

Coffee mornings are held in the Hall from 10am until noon on alternate Wednesdays. These mornings are great opportunities to meet with your friends and neighbours whilst enjoying a cuppa and slice of cake.

In **May** the coffee mornings are on **10th and 24th** .



SAVE THE DATE - Saturday September 9th.

WHY?... It's the annual Sponsored Ride & Stride event!

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



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

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

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



Wasing News

AN UPDATE FROM WASING ESTATE

Farm

Wasing Farm has burst back into life again after its annual Winter hibernation, though the wet weather has meant that we are struggling to get onto the fields to plant our spring crops. The cows and their recently born calves are grazing outside and new lambs are being born every day.

Gardens

Mowing of the lawns is well underway now that the temperature has risen and those lawns that received renovation work earlier in the year are beginning to green up well. Rhododendrons across the Estate are now beautifully flowering, as are the vast numbers of Alliums with beautiful spherical flowerheads balanced upon tall, slender stems.

Weddings

The Spring/Summer season is well underway at Wasing Park with our lovely couples being welcomed through the doors once again. During Winter months, the Castle Barn kitchen was expanded so our guests can continue to receive the highest quality of fine dining.

Wellbeing

We are so happy to have not one, but two beautiful retreats happening this month down in our magical woodland venue, which has burst into bloom recently with stunning blankets of bluebells. Over at our secluded swimming lake, our Wild Swim members have been enjoying some warmer weather and longer, lighter days; whilst at the Pavilion our popular Yoga and Pilates courses are in full swing.

Litter Pick

In order to protect this wonderful environment that surrounds us all, Wasing held its annual litter pick at the start of Spring. Around 30 Wasing colleagues, along with friends from our local community, headed out in teams from the Estate towards Aldermaston, Brimpton and Woolhampton to collect rubbish and fly-tipped items from the roadsides and riverbanks. Among some of the unusual items collected were a bath, a bike frame, wheel trims, car mirrors, golf tees, tyres, plant pots, plates & many drink cans & bottles.

The Mount

We are thrilled to announce that our new iconic music venue, The Mount, opens this Summer. A fresh and pioneering space for people and the planet to connect, our stunning woodland amphitheatre will play host to 'Solstice At The Mount' on 21st June, a spectacular opening ceremony and immersive musical experience in the heart of nature. Thereafter The Mount's inaugural Summer concert series 'On The Mount' will feature an exceptional line-up of contemporary artists. Stay tuned @Wasing1759 or visit www.wasing.co.uk/themount



SOLSTICE AT
THE MOUNT

**BERKSHIRE'S
NEWEST
MUSIC VENUE**

21 | JUNE | 2023
OPENING CEREMONY



GET YOUR TICKETS
www.wasing.co.uk/themount
Wasing Estate, Aldermaston, Berkshire, RG7 4LY
@Wasing1759

WASING
1759
THE MOUNT

Woolhampton News

VILLAGE MARKET

No Market in May in order that you can relax and enjoy the Coronation of King Charles III.

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

WOOLHAMPTON ANNUAL SHOW 2023

No doubt you have already highlighted the date in your diary but in case you haven't, it's Saturday 12th August. There will be a full schedule with classes for each of cookery, flowers, vegetables, photography, handicraft and including special classes for children to enter. Details are being finalized and schedules should be available by early-July. Don't forget to monitor growth on Show potatoes and water and feed as necessary.

TALLEST SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

If you haven't already, now is the time to sow your sunflower seeds. If you were hoping to collect a free seed at the May Market, please leave a message on 01189713637 and we will try to arrange for you to have free seed; there may even be a limited number of sunflower seedlings available at the June Market. (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.)



PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Reminder that the categories for 2023 are:

A pair of photos - depicting winter/summer sun with common theme

Architecture - building or monument

Macro - close up of any subject

Landscape - featuring flowers

Happiness

Please remember that photos should be no bigger than 7" x 5" and not mounted.

WOOLHAMPTON- LITTER-PICKING INITIATIVE

Once again, in conjunction with the national Great British Spring Clean and Keep Britain Tidy campaign, the Woolhampton Litter Pickers cleared our local roads of about 20 bags of rubbish, generally discarded by uncaring motorists. Larger items, identified both by our group and by individuals, were reported to WBC and have since been cleared. If you see fly-tipping, dead animals and/or bulky objects dumped, please report it to WBC for their attention (Customer Services - phone 01635 551111 or email customerservices@westberks.gov.uk .)

A TRIBUTE TO JOYCE AND BERNARD WALTER

Recently a tree was planted in the village hall grounds in tribute to the late Joyce and Bernard Walter.

Joyce, who passed away November 2022, and Bernard spent many years dedicating their time to our village activities and helping those in need of assistance. They are greatly missed, especially by our older residents.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library calls at Watermill Court on selected Thursdays between 10.30a.m. and 11.15a.m. The next dates are 11th May, 1st June and 22nd June. Anyone belonging to Newbury or Thatcham library is welcome to visit the mobile library when it is at Watermill Court.

1931 – THE YEAR THE VILLAGE CHANGED

Daniel Defoe noted in his travels during the 1720s “road by Woolhampton so narrow and inconvenient that no room for two coaches to pass”. In 1930 Berkshire County Council planned extensive road improvements between Reading and Newbury . This was a response to a sharp increase in the number of motor cars, lorries and charabancs using unsuitable roads, at a time when there were no driving tests, lack of windscreen wipers (half an onion might suffice!), poor lighting and braking systems and when there were frequent dense fogs and there was little protection for pedestrians (first traffic lights operated by rubber pad 1932) resulting in an unacceptable number of traffic casualties. The Woolhampton section was begun on 21st January 1931 and widening of the Bath Road at Woolhampton was a priority. To this end, in May of that year, an agreement was made between Berks CC and Aldermaston Brewery for the demolition of the old staging inn and subsequent re-siting and building of a new ‘Angel Inn’. Other village properties would also disappear. These included the Post Office, the ‘Willows’ (the former village brewery which contained the village shop) and two cottages that jutted into the middle of the Bath Road to the east of the present ‘Rose Cottage’. Postmistress Emma Hobbs transferred her office to the opposite side of the Bath Road which is now named ‘The Old Post House’. A new village shop was built on the site of the ‘Willows’. The old ‘Angel’ had held a butcher’s shop and a replacement was housed in the new ‘Angel’ (in recent years it served as the Post Office)

The dangerous bend and gradient at ‘Sun Hill’ was also modified, hence the lay-by.

Photographs of the pre-1931 village are displayed in the walls of the Village Hall and in books of village history displayed for sale at the monthly Village Market.

John Trigg

APRIL UPDATE FOR WOOLHAMPTON AND MIDGHAM WI

The village market on the 1st was a lively gathering and our well stocked Cake Stall was kept very busy! It is an occasion each month when friends meet up for a chat over a cup of coffee before stocking up on cakes and savouries from our stall, and the many and varied items on the other stalls.

Our lunch club was very well attended. We were 20 altogether and everyone enjoyed a very tasty Chicken Casserole, followed by apple and berry crumble with custard or spring rhubarb and white chocolate tart with cream. It was heartwarming to see so many of our elderly friends enjoying the company and the food! The lunch club meets every month - on the first Wednesday.

We welcomed a very interesting speaker to our meeting on the 11th. Carol Page was the first full time female police officer with Thames Valley Police joining the force in 1975. Her journey started in the time of ‘The Troubles’ – IRA Bombings – and Dixon of Dock Green! Carol spoke of sexism and racism – not just in the police force but across all the services. A skirt was part of her uniform – so impractical if she needed to don a pair of dungarees or a forensic suit. Carol was moved to Traffic in 1987. She recalled the horrors of attending RTA’s, the London Bombings and similar horrific events. She was already a sergeant and her next move was to Inspector. She spoke of the Hillsborough disaster and the eventual recognition of police failure to control the crowd; The Stephen Lawrence Murder recognizing that the police force was institutionally racist. In 2000 Carol was promoted to Chief Inspector and in 2010 to Commander.

Outings planned for the coming month include a Bluebell Walk at Hampstead Norreys with lunch in the café to follow, a gourmet lunch at Baskingstoke College of Technology, and a couple of members are attending the Spring Council Meeting at Leighton Park School – followed by lunch, no doubt!

If you might be interested in joining our friendly group why not come along as a visitor one evening to meet us and see what we are all about. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

WOOLHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Due to an uncontested election for Woolhampton Parish Council, the Council members with contact details are:

Sean Garden	sgarden.ca@gmail.com	07899906193
Laurence Harwood	l.m.harwood@reading.ac.uk	07768667350
Malcolm Large	malcolmlarge@btinternet.com	01189712901
Jack Lovell	jack.lovell@monksmead.co.uk	01189714311
Tony Renouf	tony@renouf.me.uk	07732612028
Cathy Vallis	cathy.vallispc@outlook.com	07771867276
		01189713637

The Parish Clerk is Alice Owens hoskinsamp@gmail.com 07896321058
Parish Council meetings are held in Woolhampton Village Hall on 3rd Tuesday of the month starting at 7.30 p.m. All residents are invited to attend. .



WOOLHAMPTON SCHOOL

Winter certainly outstayed it's welcome this year and the arrival of Spring is always very welcome.

It was a busy time at Woolhampton School in the run up to Easter. Some of children took part in the Berkshire Maestros Junior Music Festival at the Anvil in Basingstoke. After an exhausting afternoon of rehearsals, the children's performance in the evening was outstanding. Their behaviour both at the theatre and whilst eating out was exemplary and a credit to the school.

A big thank you to the staff who gave up their own time to accompany the children and ensuring they had a wonderful, enriching, life affirming experience.

The close association with the school and St Peters Church meant that once again the children were able to take part in the Easter Service this year on Thursday 30th March in St Peter's Church. This was followed by an exciting Easter Egg hunt that was arranged by FOWs (Friends of Woolhampton School).

Despite the rain and waiting around, the Woolhampton netball squad excelled and won all of their matches at the Small Schools Netball Tournament to become the Small Schools Federation Champions. A fantastic achievement.

In March, the Year 6 children enjoyed a trip to the Natural History Museum in London. They had a fantastic day out that they will always remember.

We continue to be incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful school at the heart of our community.

Martin Harding (Parent Governor)

NATURE NOTES

May, when 'spring us bustin' out all over'. And what a difference in attitude has developed over the last few years! Verges that were mown to within an inch of plant life are now allowed to burgeon and don't they look beautiful? But it is still very sad that there are still thoughtless people who festoon them with litter! Somehow the message doesn't get through that we should be caring for our beautiful world. It is, after all, the only one of its kind that astronomers can find.

In the meanwhile our summer visiting birds will be back. It's sad to hear that swifts are in decline because they can no longer find the nooks and crannies that they rely on for nesting. The two supplied by our Midgham friends are not enough, so we must all do what we can to encourage them and others that are missing from our childhood memories.

Stella Nesbit



Aldermaston News

The Coronation of King Charles III Aldermaston's Big Picnic

*Everyone is invited to come and
celebrate,*

Come and be part of this special day.

Venue: the field at Meadow Brook, Frouds Lane

Sunday, 7th May 2023

12 noon – 5.00pm

*Dress like royalty, bring your picnic, rug, table,
chairs and gazebo*

*Pay Bar and Dave's Ices, craft a crown to wear
Celebration cake for all to share*

Commemorative Aldermaston coins £5 each

Games and activities

Community singing for the King



Aldermaston Coffee Club

In the

conservatory of Hilliers 'cafe

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

**Everyone is welcome just
turn up**

**1st and 3rd Tuesdays of
each month**





Join our team!

We have a vacancy for a Volunteer Trustee

The hall is a registered charity and is run by a team of volunteer trustees and a dedicated caretaker. It is in regular use by local groups, the local community and is hired for a variety of functions including children's parties, wedding receptions, family gatherings and meetings.

We now have a vacancy for a trustee to fulfil one of two roles to join our team:

Booking Administrator

To manage the booking process, including showing prospective hirers around the hall.

Grants / Fundraising Co-ordinator

To find and apply for grants where appropriate and co-ordinate our fund-raising activities.

The Trustees invite applications from anyone interested in fulfilling either role, to help us maintain this vital community asset for our present and future generations.

For more information, please contact our Chairman, Ange Boott, by emailing aldermastonparishhall@gmail.com

CORONATION PLATES

Limited edition hand-made tin-glazed plates celebrating the Coronation of Charles III



Edition of 30; 16 cm diameter

£32 + postage

Ursula Waechter

Tel 07748082087



Edition of 100; 18.5 cm diameter

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Andrew Hazelden

Tel 07763810695



ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

This has been another busy year in the life of our school. We have continued to focus on curriculum development with a number of exciting trips and visitors to the school providing excellent enrichment. We have also had a real focus on wellbeing and mental health in our school community as we continue to recover from the disruption caused by the pandemic.

The trips the children have enjoyed over the last year included a visit to Bournemouth Aquarium and the seaside, learning more about life in Roman Britain at Ufton Court and messing about on a local river courtesy of the ARK group. Our Year 6 children enjoyed their residential trip to Wales which was action packed and an important part of getting ready for the expectations of secondary school. We were also able to provide whole school visits to Go Ape and the Oxford Story Museum.

The children have welcomed some amazing visitors including the gold medal winning Paralympian Aaron Phipps, Kakatsitsi (a group of master drummers from Ghana) and Adrian from Rapspeare who helped every child in the school perform Shakespeare's works. However, by far the children's favourite visitors are their own families who are invited to join them in lessons during our Family Learning Mornings. The focus of our most recent family learning mornings have been PSHE and wellbeing, internet safety and writing. Each has been designed to help our visitors understand how the children learn in their classes and to let them experience specific areas of the curriculum. The curriculum areas chosen are either linked to our school development priorities or are those specifically requested by parents and carers.

We have continued to develop how we support children with their health and wellbeing. We have trained three members of staff as ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants). These staff are qualified to help children with their social and emotional development, communication and skills. We are also very fortunate to have access to a newly formed Mental Health Support Team who can work with children in schools and support families outside of school too. This team has recently visited school to deliver 'Managing Worries' workshops with our KS2 children. Our annual Healthy Living week let children try different activities like street dance, mini fencing and judo alongside a daily walk a mile. They also learnt more about creating healthy snacks and meals and ensuring they looked after their bodies, e.g. getting enough sleep.

We are regular visitors to St Mary's Church for school services which include a Harvest festival, an Advent Service and our Easter Service. We are very proud of the way children lead worship and also of our musicians and choir. Reverend Jane kindly led our Wrens (our EYFS class) in a tour around the church early in their school year so they could learn about the special features of this historical building.

Many thanks to all who support our school and our children. We're lucky to have such wonderful governors, volunteers (including the PTA) and friends in the Aldermaston community.

Aldermaston Parish Council– 11th April 2023

We began our Open Forum with a short presentation from Paul Cogger who kindly shared his experience of Community Speedwatch. Paul has recently moved to Tadley, but before that was actively involved in speed control measures in Buckinghamshire. He is an advocate of the Sentinel speed camera, which records vehicle information and has been accepted nationally (enforcement rather than education). Speeding is a known problem at several sites within the Parish, and we will consider the provision of such a device at a future meeting.

Also in Open Forum we were told of activities at Strawberry Farm, Reading Road. This has already been flagged to WBC Planning Enforcement as potentially a problem site and is subject to enhanced surveillance. Unfortunately, in this instance we felt unable to prevent what was happening as we believe no illegal activity was taking place.

On the Planning front we agreed No Objection to:

(i) a proposed food preparation and laundry area at the football ground at Barlows Park, Silchester Road (effectively a repeat submission but this time including an Emergency Plan)

(ii) demolition of existing extensions and their replacements at the Lodge Houses at the top of The Street (interestingly the application came from Praxis). The sooner these Lodges are occupied, the happier we will be, though our stance will be influenced by the views of the WBC Conservation Officer.

There have been no relevant Planning Decisions by WBC this month.

We have received the requested legal advice on the Planning Application by Easy Concrete at Paices Hill. This supports our view that there are restrictions on the use of the site, and we agreed to forward its findings to the WBC Planning Officer. At the request of WBC, the Applicant has submitted revised drawings and information, but we agreed not to comment on these till the views of WBC are known.

Planned discussions on the proposed new skateboard ramp at the Rec did not take place due illness. The plans are currently with WBC for a decision on whether it qualifies as a Permitted Development, though we feel the associated path is not required

You are reminded that the Local Elections are scheduled for 4th May, and you will be required to present Photo ID to be able to vote. (The Parish Council has been re-elected unopposed)

This is our last meeting clerked by Christine McGarvie, who is in the process of handing over her duties to our new Clerk, Des Farnell. Christine has performed her tasks admirably whilst she has been in post. She will be sadly missed, and we wish her luck with her expanded position at the Hurst School, Baughurst

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. This is a week later than usual to allow for the Local Elections. As usual, your presence is welcomed!

For full information on Parish Council matters, please visit our website at www.aldermaston.co.uk Dave Shirt tel. 0118 971 2549

How times have changed!!!!...

..... and for the better

We travelled to the West Midlands recently to have a short break and to meet up with relatives. Whilst there we visited several places of interest including the Kiln and Needle Museum in Redditch. Well worth a visit to see the quilts exhibited and how needles are made. Fascinating process.

The following notice was on display;

SOME OF THE QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED BY AN APPLICANT TO THE POST OF AN ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTORS.

A young man about 25 to 30. With some military experience (we find it broadens a man's outlook, makes him more tolerant, and rubs off the sharp edges of his nature).

Fit and unimpeded by any physical defect such as stammering, lameness, or susceptibility to some particular complaint such as malaria or T.B.

Of good appearance, with a pleasant manner, cultured in his speech (this does not mean that we want a B.B.C. accent. Good Scottish is just as good).

Of high moral character. Not necessarily religious but brought up to respect the church. (As we are either C. of E. or non-conformists here, we would NOT employ a Roman Catholic).

Initiative and most of all good judgement. (A man with a false set of values is hopeless).

A liking for working with working-class people and one who will command their respect.

When do you think this was written? 1879, 1919, 1949

Answer on page 24

Brenda Scott.

"Beenham Nuggets" from George Dunford Law and Order.

In the last decade of the 1800s there were four Justices of the Peace, more commonly known as Magistrates, living in Beenham, a very high proportion in relation to the population. Incidentally, Magistrates have to swear an Oath that they "will do right to all manner of people after the laws and usages of this Realm without fear or favour, affection or ill-will" What do you think?

In the early 1900s, the Village Bobby lived in one of the Cottages at Stocks Corner and there has always been a question as to whether or not there was a set of stocks in that area; if not, how did that part of the Village come to be named?.

In the 18th and early 19th Centuries, the Stocks area was quite distinctive from the main part of the Village around the Recreation Ground. Indeed, children from that area were called "Stockites". The development of Back Lane and Stoneyfield came much later, so it would have stood out.

The only benefit, if you could call it that, of having stocks there, is that the miscreant in the stocks would be seen by everyone coming and going to the Village via Beenham Hill!

City Boy

Dear all!!! I am back again due to popular demand and so excited, as we enter the beautiful month of May and Mother Nature reveals herself after months of slumber; with herds of lambs appearing as if by magic in the fields. The local farmers will certainly have a good sheep crop (or is it harvest?) this year and I can taste them already!

Why am I excited? Let me tell you why! The local denizens have been busily constructing a maypole in the centre of the village over the last week. Their frenzied labour is now starting to take shape - although it doesn't look much like the maypoles I saw in story books as a young boy. This is a rather crude and roughly hewn angular structure standing on a dais with just one rope dangling from it with a loop at the end to hold onto. I can assure you however, it IS a maypole as one of the residents remarked to me that "The whole village is looking forward to seeing you dance on the end of that." How wonderful! They have constructed it just for me! I can't wait for my big moment. I just know that it will feel even better than when I closed that deal with a Congolese blood-diamond exporter.

I already feel so at home, as I am being clasped into the (frequently quite ample, I observe) bosom of the members of the local community. Their simple and naïve way of expressing their welcome in such a short time is quite humbling. I certainly seem to have rallied the community and brought them together.

Sorry! One of my mobiles is going - it's "Binky" Jenkinson calling to arrange a bit of a thrash at our London club. Much as I adore the rural delights of hereabouts, I sometimes feel the need for a dose of civilization in the same way a frog needs to rise to the surface of the pond to take a gulp of air. Binky normally gets totally slaughtered and then we debag him and throw him out onto the street. Such good clean fun compares rather starkly with the atmosphere in the local hostelry where the clientele seems to spend much of their time staring moodily into their pint pots - although I remark that things seem to kick off rather after I leave. I guess they are just showing due deference to me when I am in their presence.

Anyway, it has been wonderful to share my exciting news with you, and I mean that so sincerely, but I have made plans with Binky now. Ciaou!

Dear City Boy

I have just got out of my tin bath (sadly no fire going at present) and have counted my fingers (I have 8 and 2 thumbs). I am somewhat surprised that you have deigned to move to such a humble abode having lived in a penthouse in Canary Wharf. Maybe you could get a George Clooney coffee machine to make your lattes (obviously us yokels are not quite sure what exactly a latte is). Re Dom Perignon I'm sure this is available to order online. You may even be able to have this delivered as we do have internet in this lowly part of the country.

Oh well, I must go and check my stocks and shares before starting up my old Golf and then going to Sainsburys. Incidentally we do have a Waitrose in Thatcham and an M & S in Newbury. Sadly no Harrods or Fortnum and Mason. Au revoir

Country Girl

Dear Sirs

Well, what a surprise to see Hooray spouting forth in the first edition of Villages' News.

Ever since he bought the Manor. we have had to tolerate his self-obsessed ramblings in the Village Shop and now he is spreading his opinions further afield. Said he was something big in the City and spent time in Lehman Brothers and Credit Suisse. Googled them, did not look too pretty but he evidently got out before things hit the fan.

Well, we shouldn't complain. When he arrived, he was so upset that his Chelsea Tractor got dirty every time he took it out, my young Jack is on call after school to give it a daily wash down. A nice little earner for him; Edith and I no longer need to give the lad pocket money, a great first lesson in capitalism.

Good to see Hooray is looking to replace his motor, or perhaps add yet another which might mean that Jack's mate Timmy could be in line for a position as No. 2 Car Washer - second lesson for Jack will be to sort out a cut of Timmy's wage if he puts a good word in with Hooray to get him the job.

With luck Ray down at Northway Porsche will get some extra work and more money into the local economy. Lynda at L Interiors has been on a run at the moment, what with the new curtains, wallpaper and fabrics for upholstery. I shouldn't grumble either. Loads of work for us painters and decorators. Even had to stick silk fabrics on the bedroom walls - what a waste of money but, if it comes to me, who cares. Gary



After the highly successful visit of Bob Flowerdew in April we have Carolyn Foster coming on 18th May to talk on 'Successional Planting'. 7.30pm at Bradfield Village Hall. On Tuesday 6th June we have our coach outing to two gardens in the Cotswolds,

Bourton House and Cerney House Gardens.

For this trip you do not have to be a member of the club, (we would like a full coach!) The cost is £45 and full details are on our website. If you want to join us then get in touch with Tony Powell on 07942 797545.

Full details are on the club website <https://bradfieldgardeningclub.org>

We have also a Bradfield Gardening Club Facebook page, for those with Facebook accounts

The easiest way to sign up for membership is to pick up a newsletter and membership form from the Bradfield Village Shop.

With lighter evenings and warmer days hopefully the garden beckons so come along to a BGC event to get inspiration from our speakers or advice and tips from other members. Happy gardening!

Answer to How times have changed is 1949.

Church Services across the Villages

Douai Abbey Contact number – 0118 971 5399

Weekdays

6-20am Matins & Lauds
7-45am Mass
12-50pm Midday Office
6-00pm Vespers
8-00pm Compline

Sundays

as to the left but
11-00am Mass
no public Compline

DOUAI ABBEY REFLECTION DAYS All Welcome!

Sat 20 May World on Fire: Strengths for Climate Crisis
Fri 2 - 4 June Retreat: How can we pray?
Sat 10 June Workshop: Transition into Dying
Sat 17 June Way to the Kingdom with Bach cantatas
Fri 23 – 25 June Retreat: God & Generosity
pastoral@douaiabbey.org.uk / 0118 9715333

St Mary's RC Church Woolhampton

Contact number – 0118 971 5350 – 9am- 2pm Tue-Fri **Sunday** service – 8-30am

Brimpton Baptist Church Contact number – 0118 971 2059

Sunday 11-00am and 6-00pm

Wednesday 7-00pm

Church of England May Services See Benefice website, awb.org.uk, for details

Sunday May 7th Fifth Sunday of Easter

St Peter's Woolhampton Holy Communion	9am
Coronation Service at Douai Pavilion	10am

Sunday May 14th Rogation Sunday

St Mary the Virgin Aldermaston Rogation Service	10.45 am
St Mary's Beenham Rogation Service	9.15am
St Peter's Brimpton Rogation Service at Bowdens Farm	10.45am
St Mathews Midgham Pet Service	3pm
St Peter's Woolhampton Rogation service with Holy Communion	10.45am

Sunday May 21st Seventh Sunday of Easter

St Mary the Virgin Aldermaston Holy Communion	10.45am
St Mary's Beenham Informal Holy Communion	9.15am
St Peter's Brimpton Holy Communion with Baptism	10.45am
St Mathews Midgham Holy Communion	9.15am

Sunday May 28th Pentecost

St Mary the Virgin Aldermaston Informal Holy communion	10.45am
St Mary's Beenham Holy Communion with Baptism	9.15am
St Mathews Midgham Sung Evensong	5pm
St Peter's Woolhampton Holy Communion	10.45am

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Wednesday

Foresters

May 10th

9.30-9.50

Beenham:

Wednesday

Stoneyfields

May 10th

3.15-4.00

Midgham:

Thursday

Goddard's Drive

May 11th

10.10--10.20

Woolhampton:

Thursday

Watermill Ct

May 11th

10.25-11.10

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