
Villages' News



Useful Contacts

Non-emergency numbers:

NHS 111

Police 101

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

Problems with roads (eg potholes), footpaths etc:

www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem

Doctors' surgeries:

Chapel Row Surgery: 0118 971 3252

Holmwood Surgery: 0118 981 4166

District Councillors:

Woolhampton/Midgham: Chris Read: 07714 081565

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

Parish Councils: Clerks' details:

Aldermaston: Abi Lewis : parishclerk@aldermaston.co.uk

Beenham: Lauren West : 07919 916 125

Brimpton: Christine McGarvie: 0118 970 1576

Midgham: Ellie Brewer: 07877 122 127

Woolhampton: Ellie Brewer: 07877 122 127

Village Halls:

Aldermaston: aldermastonparishhall@gmail.com

Beenham: 01189 714 822

Brimpton: 0118 971 3731

Midgham: 07941 093 853

Woolhampton: bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com

Churches:

Aldermaston & Woolhampton Benefice: 0118 971 2891

Brimpton Baptist Church: 07944 956242

Douai Abbey: 0118 971 5300

Magazine advertising:

Brenda Scott: 0118 971 3113 mrsbscott@btinternet.com

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Thatcham RG19 4QB . Tel: 01635 876498

Committee Comments

The days are getting shorter, the weather brings us the autumnal mix of crisp mornings, mist some days and all around us nature is slowing down and preparing for winter. Looking after ourselves and each other is important, so take time to stop for a coffee, chat with a friend or neighbour and settle down to read this month's issue, I am sure you will find lots of interesting articles.



Remember that we value your comments and welcome articles about our local area, community groups and activities. If you are involved with a local group, then tell us as others are likely to be keen to find out about it too.

Thanks go as always to our contributors, advertisers and the team which delivers the magazine around our villages.

ARTICLES FOR THE MAGAZINE

Please send articles for the magazine to:

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

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

For the village of Beenham: patowen0@hotmail.com

For the villages of Midgham and Woolhampton:

henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com

Please send articles relevant to the all the villages to:

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

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

Articles are included at the editor's discretion.

Advertising enquiries can be sent to mrsbscott@btinternet.com

We hope you enjoy reading your magazine



WEST BERKS FOODBANK

HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

West Berks Foodbank relies on your goodwill and support.

Your support of Trussell - whether for their 'Guarantee Our Essentials' campaign, or supporting the food banks, is making a difference to people in the UK.

By supporting our community of food banks, you've enabled them to support their communities and champion policy change both locally and nationally.

This summer, nearly 700 people from across the UK, representing food banks and partner organisations, joined a lobby day at Westminster where they talked about local issues with 240 MPs.

This helped pressure the UK government to make vital changes to the benefits bill. Without these changes, many people with disabilities would have had nowhere to turn but a food bank.

Our research with food banks shows that the roadmap to ending the need for food banks could be, and how the public can work together for that future.

If you prefer a financial donation can be made using the following link:

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

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

Items urgently needed

Fruit juice, Coffee, Soap bars, Confectionary, Washing up liquid, Toilet cleaner.

Items low on stock

Anti bacteria spray, Tinned meat, UHT milk, Sugar.

Drop off locations:

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

Beenhams: Under community noticeboard.

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

Midham: 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

Aldermaston News

ALDERMASTON CoFe PRIMARY SCHOOL

What a great first half term we are having in school. Everyone has settled in well and is enjoying finding out lots of new things every day and the classrooms are full of the buzz of learning. Our youngest pupils had their first experience of walking to St. Mary's Church for our Harvest Service which was led by our Starlings class. The readings, songs and reflections truly captured the spirit of gratitude and giving. Together, we celebrated the season with kindness, community, and joy and collected a large quantity of donations which have been passed onto the West Berks Foodbank to support local people in need.

A successful Family Learning Morning saw over 60 parents come into school to work on the topic of reading. We are passionate about reading and actively encourage the pupils to develop a love of reading from an early age. The children absolutely loved sharing their learning with their parents and have told the teachers how much they enjoy these special sessions.

Finally, we will be holding an Open Morning on Thursday 6 November for parents of September 2026 starters. Please contact the school office to book your place.

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor

ALDERMASTON COFFEE CLUB



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

Join us in the café at Hilliers.

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

Everyone is welcome – just come along

For further details contact Cynthia Newman

cmnewman2021@outlook.com 01189713525



SATURDAY 22ND NOVEMBER

1PM - 3.30PM

Aldermaston Parish Hall

***FREE GLASS OF MULLED WINE
OR HOT CIDER ON ENTRY***



**BAKE SALE | SWEET STALL | FACE PAINTING |
SANTA'S GROTTO | ADULT & CHILDREN'S CRAFTS |
WREATH MAKING | GIFT STALLS | RAFFLE**



**Aldermaston
Parish Hall**



**THIS IS A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR ALDERMASTON PARISH HALL (#300110)
CARD & CASH PAYMENTS ACCEPTED**

A Bridge Afternoon with Delicious Tea
Tuesday 25th November

At the WASING ESTATE, Wasing Lane, Aldermaston, RG7 4NG.

By kind permission of Joshua and Di Dugdale

2pm to 5 pm

In Aid of St Mary's Church in Aldermaston

Please Park in "Car Park"

Please bring a Bridge cloth, Playing Cards, and pencils.
(No tables required. (Score cards supplied.)



RSVP: to Aldermaston & Wasing PCC

rosie.braithwaite@outlook.com

Please make your BACS Payment to

Sort Code: 20-05-00 A/c No: 60048437

with all Names and Mobile Tel. Nos for your table.

Ref: Bridge and Surname COST: £20.00per person.

You are invited to

A Concert

Given by The Basingstoke Hospital Male Voice Choir

To be held at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Church Road, Aldermaston

RG7 4HR

On Sunday 16 November 2-5pm

Easy Parking. Tea and Cake to be served at 4.30pm

Tickets £10 each. RSVP Rosie Braithwaite Tel. 07554 515568 to reserve
your seat.

Please make a bank transfer payment to Aldermaston & Wasing PCC

Sortcode:200500 Account No: 60048437 with the reference

'Concert' plus your surname

The 69th year of
The York Nativity Play



will be performed in the Parish Church of
St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston

Thursday 4th December at 8:00pm

Friday 5th December at 8:00pm

Saturday 6th December at 7:00pm

Sunday 7th December at 7:00pm

For free tickets:

Online at: <https://aldermastonnativity.co.uk>

Or by Email: tickets@aldermastonnativity.co.uk

**Or send S.A.E. to York Nativity Play Church Lodge,
Aldermaston, Berkshire RG7 4LT**



Beenham News

Notes from Beenham Parish Council meeting-Monday October 6th

Public Forum - No comments or questions.

Councillors

Community Room Toilet signage - It was agreed to remove the gender neutral signs.

Library Service update - The location of the proposed pop up library was discussed. Two locations were proposed: The Victory Hall or the Community Bookshelf. Neither are ideal. WBC to offer more explanation.

Affordable Housing initiative update -The PC is now ready to approach the landowners of the sites suggested by WBC Planning.

Planning Matters

25/01916/LBC: 12 Abbey Gardens, Woolhampton. Additional secondary glazing- No objection.

25/02119/HOUSE: 27 Mallard Way, Aldermaston. Single storey extension- No objection.

25/01434/CERTE: Storage, Pips Way, Beenham. Granted.

25/01890/FUL: Land North of Bath Road Woolhampton and West of Cods Hill, Reading - Change of use of land. Although this application is just outside Beenham Parish boundary, Cllr Chris Read, District Councillor for WBC Bucklebury Ward attended to bring this matter to our attention. He advised that the application is strongly opposed by neighbouring Parishes on the basis of safety, traffic and its location within an AONB. After lengthy discussion Beenham PC agreed to send its own views.

Councillor reports

Update on the 20mph speed limit in the vicinity of the School - Cllr Chris Read advised that a WBC policy on such limits should be available soon, and that WBC was compiling a list of applications from PCs for consideration and it is hoped that Beenham will be listed.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday November 3rd** at 7.00pm in the Community Room.

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

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

Parish Clerk: Lauren West Tel: 07919 916125

Email: clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk

CR Bookings: Paula Read Tel: 07793116937

Email: info@beenhampreschool.org

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

Beenham Village Market

Come to the Village Market in the Victory Hall at 2pm on Saturday 8th November - we're always on the second Saturday of the month. Enjoy browsing the stalls, where you'll find lovely items for presents for Christmas or birthdays, or simply for your own use at home. Stop for a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake or a cookie!

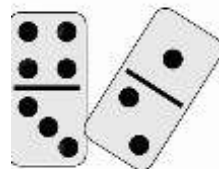
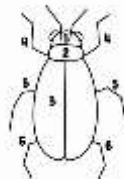


If you think you'd like to try selling at the market, then contact Sally on mrssallypellow@gmail.com or on 0777 625 1228. Stalls are free for the first market you come to, and then it's 10% of your takings at any subsequent market - so if you don't sell anything, you don't pay anything either. What's to lose?!

Beenham WI

Our October speaker had to cancel and so we spent the evening playing parlour games like Beetle and Dominoes. It's always nice to have a social evening like that - we have a lovely chat, catch up with one another and relax.

Our November meeting is going to be very interesting: it's Christine Green, talking about Playing with Knives. She does beautiful crafted cut-out paper calligraphy and designs and is very well known in the crafting world for her quilting too - come along and hear her. Guests are always welcome to our meetings, both male and female, and we simply ask for a £4 contribution to our costs. And if you're a woman and are interested in joining us, then this is a good meeting to come to and see what we offer. The meeting is on Wednesday 12th November at 7.30 pm in the Community Room next to the village school. As well as our monthly meetings, we have pub lunches, craft afternoons, a book club, occasional outings and litter picks. For more information (or to check everything is going ahead as planned!) call our President, Sally, on 0777 625 1228.



DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM – NOVEMBER 2025

Date	Event	where	contact
Tuesdays	Art Group 10am-12pm	Victory Hall	Georgia: 07970 646713
Tuesdays	Badminton Club 8pm – 9.30pm	School Hall	Ernie: 07954 127 771
Mon 3 rd	Parish Council meeting 7pm	Community Rm	
Sat 8 th	Monthly Church Working Party All help is most welcome	St Mary's Church 10am	Brinelle: 07873548852
Sat 8 th	Village Market and repair shop 2-3.30pm	Victory Hall	Sally: 07776 251 228
Sun 9 th	Remembrance Day 10.50am	Memorial Cross in St Mary's graveyard	Brinelle: 07873548852
Wed 12 th	WI: Talk: "Playing with Knives"- Christine Green. Non-members £4	Community Rm 7.30pm	Sally: 07776 251 228
Thu 13 th	Beenham Walkers: Car share to Mortime. Walk through woods	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Thu 13 th	Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6 £4/person	Six Bells 7.30 for 8pm	9713368 to book
Sat 15 th	Greyfield Woods Volunteer Morning. 8.30 – 12pm	Meet at wood entrance	John:9712924
Sat 15 th	Calleva Stick Dressers 9am–2pm	Victory Hall	David:07864 180 648
Wed 19 th	Beenham Friendship Club for over 55s. Christmas Party	Victory Hall 2pm	Marion:9713094 Tina:01635826154
Thu 20 th	Film night: "Four Letters of Love" £5 a ticket (cash only)	Victory Hall 7.00 for 7.30pm	Claire: 9713574
Tue 25 th	Beenham Tearoom 2pm-3.30pm + Pop-Up Library (pre-booked collections only)	Victory Hall	Dru:07815 055 040 Pat:07947 478 840
Thu 27 th	Beenham Walkers: local walk to Cottage Inn and back.	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am	Pauline Stares 01189713481

If you would like to add anything to the village diary, please contact patowen0@hotmail.com or 07947478840

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

News from Greyfield Wood



Hello to you from Greyfield Wood!

I am pleased to report that the clearing of the Ash wood debris, in preparation for planting, is going well and we expect to have this completed by the time you are reading this!

The next tasks for our merry band of volunteers from the village and the “Green Gym” volunteers is to clear the brambles and ensure that any ditches are cleared to allow for rain water to drain.

For regulars in the wood, you will notice that some stakes have already been positioned. These, which will be marked with white paint, are showing where naturally regenerated trees are growing. These will be mainly Beech or Hazel. These will be protected and allow to grow in with the saplings we hope to plant in December and January.

In the background the Directors are finalising the planting and ordering of the circa 1000 saplings and protectors! It will be another busy month of activity in Greyfield Wood.

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

John Hammond

BEENHAM CALENDARS 2026 – 2 VERSIONS - £5 EACH

Thank you to everyone who contributed photos to our 2026 calendar.

These will be on sale at the November and December markets, at the School Fayre on December 5th and in the Six Bells, or to reserve a copy please call

Pat Owen: 07947478840, or email: patowen0@hotmail.com.

Beenham Village Advent Windows - Christmas 2025

Yes, it's time to think about the Village Christmas Advent windows again!

As in previous years there will be two windows revealed each day – one created by children under 16 and one created by childlike adults

If you decide to take part, you will be allocated a date in December from
1-24

BUT Keep your number a secret!

Plan your advent window – go as wild as you want but don't forget to
include the number!

Unveil your window to the world on the morning of your allocated day

Keep the decorations up until New Year's Day

The numbers go really quickly, so don't delay!

**Contact: Pat Owen patowen0@hotmail.com 07947478840 – stating
child or adult category and preferred date (we'll do our best to give you
this) Organised by Beenham Village Events - BVE**

Requests for grants for next year from the Parish Council

As part of its budgeting process for the year April 2026 to March 2027, the Parish Council would like to receive requests for grants from clubs and community organisations in the parish by **Friday, 28th November**. Please submit your request using the Grant Request Form available here.

<https://beenham-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Beenham-Parish-Council-Grant-Form-2025.pdf>

Our grants policy can be found here:

<https://beenham-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Beenham-Parish-Council-Grant-Policy-2025.pdf>

You may not get the amount budgeted that you ask for, but it will not preclude you from asking for grants over and above what you have asked for during next year.

We are here to help, so if you have any questions or require any assistance, please get back to David Hancock

David Hancock: Parish Councillor – Beenham 07471 148256

BEENHAM PRE-SCHOOL

The last few weeks have been full of stories at Beenham Pre-School. We have been using story sacks and puppets to add excitement to some familiar tales and then sharing lots of new books and opportunities to use our imaginations and create stories. Even our very youngest children have been sharing their ideas, and we have



been amazed by some of the stories they have imagined. One of our favourite games is “What’s in the Box” which we have now extended to “What’s in the Socks” and “Who’s in the Box”. This has really supported the children to work on their listening and attention skills and also their problem solving as they listen to clues and try to work it out. This has

also led to some fun games exploring rhymes and rhyming pairs. We have really high expectations for our children, and they always exceed them when they show us what they can do!



We pride ourselves on our therapeutic approach and our Manager is going to be talking to other education staff and professionals in the area later in the month at a Network Meeting about how valuable this approach can be ... which is really exciting and a chance for us, as a setting, to show off about our lovely provision! We put the child at the centre of everything and work closely with parents, guardians and families to make sure that every child knows they belong, and this is key to our approach and to having children who are settled and confident to explore and learn. Our Tapestry App is a fabulous opportunity for us all to share news and while we don’t have computers and TVs for the children (we think they should be moving and exploring!) we do give the children opportunities to share their photos with their friends on Tapestry, which is a great way to get them communicating and sharing news.

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

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

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

Paula (Manager, Beenham Pre-School)

CHRISTMAS 2025 in BEENHAM – DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 5th DEC

5.00pm – 7pm: School Christmas Fair

Tuesday 3rd DEC

1.30pm-2.15pm: School's Christmas Play dress rehearsal. Tickets from the school office

Sunday 7th DEC

4.00pm: Christingle at St Mary's Church

5.00pm: Turning on the Tree lights on the green outside the school

5.15pm: Mulled wine and mince pies in the Community Room and School Hall with Christmas songs and carols accompanied by Beenham Wind Orchestra

If anyone is willing to donate mulled wine or mince pies that would be wonderful. Please leave them at "Fernwood", opposite the school

From 6pm: basket meals at Six Bells – please book

Friday 12th December

2pm Christmas Tea Party at Beenham School – please phone for tickets.

Saturday 13th DEC

2pm – 4pm: Christmas Village Market in the Victory Hall

Sunday 14th DEC

4pm: Carols by Candlelight in St Mary's

Monday 16th DEC

From 5pm – 6.15pm: Father Christmas visits Beenham

Tuesday 17th DEC

2pm – 3.30pm: Christmas tearoom in the Victory Hall

Thursday 18th DEC

Carol singing around the village from Warings to Six Bells- everyone welcome – time tbc.

**If there are any other dates to add to this list, please let me know. Contact Pat Owen
07947478840 or email:patowen0@hotmail.com**

Brimpton News

HYDE END VINEYARD

For those that walk along Hyde End Lane, one cannot have failed to notice the vineyard that was planted in 2022. It is seven acres with 15,000 vines, which once mature should produce 10-15,000 bottles of wine per year. It has been planted with the three classic grapes that make Champagne or in our case English Sparkling Wine. These are Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. In addition, there is Pinot Precoce, an early flowering red Pinot, and Bacchus, which has successfully produced still white in the UK.



On Sunday, the 28 September, the harvest took place with nearly 40 locals from around Brimpton and beyond joining to help. 2025 has seen the most sun on record which has meant a very good year for UK grapes. Sugars have been high although yields have been low due to the lack of rain. It has also meant a very early harvest with Hyde End Vineyard three weeks ahead of our harvest last year.

In all, we picked nearly 3 tonnes of grapes which will produce nearly 700 bottles of still rosé and about 2000 bottles of white English sparkling. The grapes were shipped to Litmus Wines at Denbies Wine Estate near Guildford for the production. After the harvest, we all enjoyed lunch in the barn and of course some English white wine (as well as some French red!).

On a few evenings in the summer, a variety of locals do come to help with the management of the vineyard. A social event that is followed by drinks and maybe a BBQ. If anyone would like to join the WhatsApp group to help in 2026 then please message Simon Brazier on (07595) 457765 or simonbrazier88@gmail.com.



100 Club winner: No.134, Dawn Smith.



COFFEE MORNINGS



2nd Wednesday of the month
10 am - 11.30 am

8th October in the church
12th November *Bring and Buy at One Church Lane*

10th December in the church

Everyone welcome
(including dogs)



COFFEE MORNING
BRING-AND-BUY
AND RAFFLE
WEDNESDAY
12TH NOVEMBER
10.00 - 11.30 a.m.
at 1, Church Lane
To raise funds for Brimpton Church



BLISTER PACKS

Unfortunately we are no longer able to collect empty blister packs at St Peter's Church as Boots the Chemist are no longer willing to accept large quantities.

Boots (Calcot, Reading and Newbury) will still take smaller quantities ie carrier bag, so please consider taking your empty packs there in future. Superdrug stores that have a pharmacy also have collection points.

Thank you.



**Remembrance Service
including
2 minutes silence
at
BRIMPTON
WAR MEMORIAL**

**Tuesday 11th November
at 10.50 a.m.**

Steeplejack carrying out
minor repairs and an
assessment of the steeple
at St Peter's Church.



Brimpton
CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 14th December
at 6pm in St Peter's Church
Collection to be shared between
Newbury Soup Kitchen and St Peter's Church

You are welcome to join our informal

CHOIR FROM SCRATCH

Details in December magazine



**Come along and enjoy 6 games of
BINGO**

**At Brimpton VH on Saturday 15th November
1900-2300 eyes down 1930**



Will be 6 games of 6 cards at a cost of £5.00 including table snacks
With prizes of drink from the bar for a line and £20.00 for house
An optional game of Play Your Cards Right during interval between games 3 & 4
Tickets @ £1.00ea with a prize of £20 if you win if not the next ticket will be drawn

There will be a cash or card bar

Please book tickets in advance @

<https://brimpton-village-hall.sumupstore.com/>

Contact John Dolphin on 07737160925 if you don't use online payments
Numbers will be limited so get your tickets now to avoid disappointment

Midgham News

Organ Recital at St Matthew's Midgham by Gill Blythman on Friday 19th September



About 60 people came to St Matthew's Midgham on the evening of Friday 19th September to hear an excellent organ recital by Gill Blythman. Gill, who used to play regularly for services at St Matthew's, has recently become the organist of St Mary's Thatcham where the three-manual Gray and Davison organ is in need of substantial restoration. The Midgham PCC kindly agreed to support St Mary's by donating the takings for the evening to their restoration fund. The high attendance was partly due to welcome support from the church community of St Mary's.

Gill's programme included little of the standard organ repertoire. Instead she chose pieces which showed off the variety of sounds available from this little organ, and were a delight to hear. However, she started with the Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne in C Major by Buxtehude which opens with a fearsome pedal solo on full organ. Buxtehude was a significant influence on the young JS Bach and this piece probably did have done just that.

Gill continued with a gentle piece by CV Stanford, his Andante Tranquillo before introducing us to the nineteenth century French composer Lefébure-Wély whose music often has a fairground-organ feel. This piece however, "Elevation" began with a haunting tune before modulating to something more optimistic.

The programme continued with JS Bach's Concerto in A minor, a Vivaldiesque piece which may have been written by Vivaldi and transcribed for organ by Bach. The baroque era was further represented later by a chorale by Georg Böhm, Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist. Sandwiching that we had three pieces by Scandinavian composers Egil Hovland, with a variation on "Now thank we all our God" and two pieces by the contemporary composer Mons Liedvin Takle, his Flute of Grace", which showed off the Midgham organ's flute stops beautifully, and his "Hymn to Freedom", a jazz acknowledgement of Oscar Petersen's theme of the same name. It had the audience tapping their feet, knowing they were listening to a piece that they won't normally hear as an organ voluntary on a Sunday.

The evening ended with delicious home-made refreshments and our thanks go to those who prepared them, as it does to Gill for entertaining us so finely.



Midgham Café Church

First Thursday of the month November 6th December 4th

Join us for tea and cake and fellowship 2.00pm **in the church**

Contact Sarah Henderson for more information

Tel: 0118 9713956 henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com



Midgham Village Hall

On alternate Wednesdays from 10 until 12 coffee mornings are held in the Hall. Everyone is welcome to come for a cup of tea and cake and the opportunity to meet with their neighbours and friends. In November the coffee mornings are on the 12th and the 26th.



Harvest Lunch

Once again the Gibbs family hosted a wonderful harvest lunch enjoyed by many. Thanks go to them for all the hard work involved and to all those who contributed raffle prizes and food.



VILLAGE SHOP

There was alarm in Woolhampton at the prospect of losing our village shop forever, so brothers Harry and DK were met with a warm welcome when they re-opened the shop recently, offering an extraordinary range of every-day necessities. For approaching a century, the shop has been an important village hub. Many villagers value it as a place to bump into their neighbours, as well as buying essentials. It is also well-known to people travelling along the A4.

I enjoyed an “armchair view” of life in the new shop one Sunday morning in October, when DK took the time to tell me about the brothers' aspirations. “We want the shop to be a good business that serves the community for the longer run,” he told me. From my seat behind the counter, I witnessed villagers’ enthusiasm for the new shop and the brothers’ warm welcome. It was evident that they are getting to know their customers; “Those are not gluten-free,” DK said to one regular.

I wondered how things were going. “We’re not yet fully stocked. I hate it for customers to come looking for something and leave empty-handed. We can’t stock everything, but we can get most things within 24 hours.” They have recently gained their license to sell alcohol, a coffee machine is coming, and they hope to offer more fresh produce in time. They welcome local products, currently offering Woolhampton honey and handmade cards by Jenny Campbell and her daughter.

I asked him how villagers can support the shop. “We want to get to know you and to hear what you want,” he said and showed me a juice he stocks for one regular customer. “It also helps us if you spread the word by telling people about us and ‘liking’ us on our Facebook page, which is coming soon”.

NATURE NOTES



There seem to be far fewer squirrels around. I have not seen one for some time and have actually had some ripe nuts from my hazel. Is this because the population has dipped, or because there is so much bounty in the woods for them that they are not bothering to search further afield? Beech trees are shedding their 'mast' but I have not yet seen any full beech nuts, so either they are not doing as well as other trees or they are hanging onto the mature nuts. Nobody can have missed that it is an abundant year for acorns. It is impossible to walk along the country pavements without treading on them and the missing squirrels may be indulging on them. They are indigestible to many animals, but others eat them freely – such is nature. Mushrooms and fungi {the same, really, only there are those you shouldn't eat!} are growing under the fallen leaves. Surprisingly Berkshire is one of the drier counties, but if we do get some rain there should be a toadstool burgeoning by the end of November.



Ladybirds are beginning to invade buildings – be kind to them – but as I write, halfway through October, there are still butterflies on the ivy.

Stella Nesbit

District Councillor's 'Surgery'

The District Councillor representing Woolhampton parish, Mr Chris Read, will be holding his monthly 'surgery' at Woolhampton Village hall on Saturday 30th November from 9 to 11a.m. If you have an issue with an area within the parish or with West Berks District services, please come along to discuss it with him. Please take advantage of Mr Read's generous allocation of his time.

Recycling

In Woolhampton school car park, next to the Church, there are bins for recycling fabric, clothing, curtains, sheets, etc., plus shoes and handbags. Please, if you have any of these items to donate, it will help school funds: if you are unable to get to the school, items can be left at the monthly Market and they will be passed on to the school.

Also, recyclables such as used stamps, milk bottle tops and spent printer ink cartridges can be brought to the Market and they will be channelled to the appropriate collector.

Tribute to Tony Renouf

Sadly the former Woolhampton Parish Council Chairman Peter Anthony Renouf, always known as Tony, passed away on Tuesday 7th October after long-term illness.

After moving to Woolhampton in 1996 with his wife Jackie, Tony became very involved in village life, joining the Parish Council and soon becoming Chairman, a role he cherished and was dedicated to for 25 years. He was very involved with many projects beneficial to the village, particularly the negotiations and development of the current Village Hall. On its commission, Tony was proud to have served as a Trustee and Chairman of the Hall Management Committee.

Tony made many contacts within WBC and this helped him get approval for the pedestrian crossing and for the bus shelters both of which have been of enormous benefit to villagers.

He was very well respected and his knowledge of village issues will be greatly missed.

R.I.P. Tony

Village Market

Well, that's Halloween done and dusted, forgetting Fireworks, the next calendar event is Christmas. It's now the ideal time to start thinking of unusual and special gifts, and where better to start than the November and December village markets for ideas and a selection of unusual and affordable gifts that are not available in shops. Some stallholders, particularly those that make items, are very happy to take orders for unique and personalised presents for collection at the Christmas Market in December.



Naturally all regular stallholders, such as the W.I. for cakes and savouries, a selection of soft furnishings and a wide choice of, books, cards and other treasures will be there, so why not come along and browse without pressure to buy and enjoy a cuppa at the same time.

**The next Market will be on
Saturday 1st November from 10a.m. to 12noon in the Village Hall**

Cars, Garages & Bristol



During the 1920s the increase in the number of motor vehicles led to the establishment of garages able to provide the appropriate services. (Vehicles on the road had risen from 398,000 in 1914 to 1,500,000 by 1928.) Purpose-built accommodation for a car was provided for some houses in the years prior to the 1914-18 war and referred to variously as 'motor shed', 'motor den' or 'motory'. The first bulk storage filling station was opened in 1920 on the Bath Road, Aldermaston, by the AA. The service provided hand-pumped 'National Benzole' petrol; also available was water for radiators, a compressor for inflating tyres, a fire extinguisher and, for members only, the use of a telephone.

Inspired by this, the Maynard brothers Cyril and Leonard, their father being electrician for the Woolhampton estate, applied in 1920 for permission to open a workshop on estate land on the site of the present BP service station. The brothers advertised themselves as providing vehicle repairs and a car and charabanc on hire service on Woolhampton Tel: 25. There was competition from the 'Angel' where 'Pratt's' motor spirit was available in cans and the 'Scarlet Runner' was a rival charabanc service.

Shock! On a January morning in 1926 it was discovered that the Maynard's garage had been burgled and all stock to value of £196 had been stolen. The culprits were arrested in Bristol. Thieves were now mobile! The incident led to the addition of an Alsatian dog and a bungalow on the site of the garage

John Trigg

WASING

1759

An Update from Wasing Estate

It was wonderful to welcome so many familiar faces to this year's **Pumpkins & Woodland Trail** event. Our **Woodland Trail** was more fun than ever, with the addition of some organic willow sculptures, a live actress playing the part of a Celtic white witch, plus all the much loved favourites such as the toad stool forest and the area of remembrance with candle lighting. The **fairy-tale pumpkin carriage** was a firm favourite once again, creating plenty of magical photo moments.

We hope everyone enjoyed exploring the **Wasing Woodlands**, choosing the perfect pumpkin, and indulging in some delicious seasonal treats. Thank you for joining us.

As autumn turns to winter, and much of the estate takes its seasonal rest, there's still plenty of life and activity across the Farm, Park, and Wild Swim Lake. Our Sussex cattle continue to thrive, with new calves joining the herd and bringing fresh energy to the farm.

The Wild Swim Lake & Sauna remains open throughout the winter months for members seeking the invigorating power of cold-water immersion and the warmth of the sauna. If you'd like to learn more about memberships or exclusive hire, please visit the wellbeing page of our website, we'd love to welcome you.

And the Wasing Fisheries team have also been busy maintaining swims and mowing around our lakes and river stretches. We are delighted to announce that our Wait Lists are now open and you can join the list via our new Clubmate system at www.wasingfisheries.clubmate.co.uk

If you haven't heard already, our On The Mount series of outdoor concerts will be back again for 2026. You can sign up to our newsletter via the website to find out who will be playing over the coming weeks.

We hope to see as many of you as possible next month for our **Christmas Carols & Craft Fair** in the Castle Barn. Until then, warm wishes from all of us here at Wasing. May the cooler months bring you peace and plenty of time to rest and reconnect.



Join Us For Christmas Carols In The Castle Barn

We're thrilled to once again be hosting **Wasing's Christmas Carols & Craft Fair** on **Monday 8th December** at **Wasing Park**.

From 4.30pm, step into the festive magic of our beautiful Garden Room, which will be filled with the sights, sounds, and scents of Christmas. Enjoy a heartwarming selection of festive food and drinks, from classic mince pies to steaming mulled wine, while browsing a charming craft fair featuring local artisans and Wasing's own produce, perfect for thoughtful Christmas gifts.

From 5pm, Father Christmas will make his grand entrance to his enchanting **Castle Barn grotto**, ready to welcome children and share a special gift with every little one on his Nice List.

From 6.15pm, gather round for **live Christmas carols**, beautifully performed by **Tadley Concert Brass**, setting the perfect tone for a joyful festive celebration. Come together with family, friends, and neighbours to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year at Wasing Park.

Tickets are £3 each and all proceeds will go to [The Mount Charity](https://www.mountcharity.co.uk/) which actively supports a variety of local causes throughout the year.

To purchase tickets, please visit <https://wasing.digitickets.co.uk/>

For any queries, please email events@wasing.co.uk

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**All Souls' Memorial Service
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Sunday 2nd November at 4pm
Followed by refreshments**



**A time to remember those we love who
are with us no longer.**

For further details please contact

The Revd Jane Manley

01189 712 891

jmanley.awb@gmail.com

A man is standing on the bathroom scales desperately sucking his stomach in. 'That's not going to help', says his wife. 'Yes it will,' replied the man. 'It's the only way I can see the numbers.'

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7.45 am	Mass
12.50 pm	Midday Office
6.00 pm	Vespers
8.00 pm	Compline

Sundays

As above, plus

10:30 am Mass

But no Compline

Brimpton Baptist Church

Contact number : 07944 956242

Sunday service: 11.00 am

Wednesday night Bible study : 7.00 pm

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0118 9713334 (Mrs Cardy)

between 9.30 and 11.30 am,

Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

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

St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston and St Nicholas, Wasing

2 November 10:45 Holy Communion + Blessing **WASING**

9 November 10:50 Remembrance Service

16 November 10:45 Holy Communion

St Marys, Beenham

2 November 9:15 Holy Communion

9 November 10:50 Remembrance Service

30 November 10:00 Benefice Holy Communion

St Peters, Brimpton

2 November 9:15 Holy Communion

9 November 9:15 Holy Communion

11 November 10:50 Armistice Service (War Memorial)

16 November 9:15 Holy Communion

St Matthews, Midgham

2 November 9:15 BCP Communion

9 November 10:50 Remembrance Service

23 November 16:00 Evensong

St Peters, Woolhampton

2 November 16:00 All Souls Service

9 November 10:50 Remembrance Service

23 November 10:45 Holy Communion

Details correct at time of going to print.



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