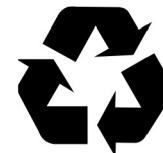


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# Villages' News





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## Committee Comments

Here we are in June already and there is so much to enjoy across our local area and further afield. This issue has posters from local groups telling us about several events you can take part in. Most are arranged by willing volunteers from the various groups, who put their time and energies into bringing these activities to our local community, often raising funds for local good causes. Hopefully many people will support them and perhaps even consider joining them and discovering a new interest and a new way of helping locally.

Once again with this issue, we are grateful to all our advertisers, team of delivery volunteers and you, our readers. If there is something going on in your area which you would like to see included, please do get in touch and tell us about it. We welcome regular and occasional articles and like to receive a variety of items to suit different interests. We hope you enjoy this issue.

### ARTICLES FOR THE MAGAZINE

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

Please send articles for the magazine to:

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

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

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

For the villages of Midgham and Woolhampton:

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

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

Advertising enquiries can be sent to [mrsbsscott@btinternet.com](mailto:mrsbsscott@btinternet.com)

We hope you enjoy reading your magazine.

I asked my girlfriend what she'd like for her birthday. 'Some lorry oil' she replied. Strange, I thought, but I bought her two gallons of Castrol GTX. It turns out she spells it L'Oreal.

## Beenham News

### WI

Beenham WI celebrated their birthday with an exuberant meal out at the Bladebone this month: as one of the oldest WIs in the Berkshire area, it's an enormous pleasure to head out for a social evening with one another. We return to normal meetings in June: our speaker for the June meeting, on Wednesday 10 June, is our local farmer Kate Bowsher, who will be talking about her life as a young woman farmer, raising heritage breeds of sheep and cattle. We meet in the Community Room, in the grounds of Beenham School, at 7.30pm. If you would like to come along to our meeting, we ask visitors for a contribution of £4 towards our costs: just contact us on [BeenhamWI@BerkshireWI.co.uk](mailto:BeenhamWI@BerkshireWI.co.uk) to check that there are no last minute changes of timings, venue or indeed speaker! And if you'd like to know more about the WI and are looking for an opportunity to meet other women in the village, enjoy regular good speakers, and simply get out and have fun, please contact us on the same email address for more info.

### Beenham Village market

The Beenham Village Market will take place on Saturday 13 June from 2pm to 3.30pm. Please support your village market: the proceeds from the cake stall, the raffle and the trader's fees all go towards the costs of running the Victory Hall and ensure we keep the hall going for the benefit of the community. If you haven't been to the market before, you'll find that there's a wide range of stalls which can vary at each market: everything from local meat from Beenham Park Produce, through to vintage and pre-loved stunning silver jewellery, eggs, greeting cards, dog treats, pet photography, and so much more. But in addition, there is a cake and coffee stall, with spaces to sit and enjoy a chat with others: the cakes are all freshly home made that morning and you're guaranteed a dreadful joke from the kitchen... and there's a raffle, too, to try your luck. If you are interested in trying to sell something yourself, then the first time you have a stall it's free of charge: after that we ask for a contribution of 10% of your sales. It's a great way to test the interest in your products. For more information, contact Sally on [mrssallypellow@gmail.com](mailto:mrssallypellow@gmail.com) or on 0777 625 1228.





**Available Allotment Plots in Beenham**  
We have a few ½ allotment plots now available at Beenham Allotments. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, this is a lovely opportunity to enjoy growing your own and get involved in the local allotment. £25 per half plot (per year)  
If you're interested or would like more information, please email: [Beenhamallotment@gmail.com](mailto:Beenhamallotment@gmail.com) or call 07946 562946

**Greyfield Wood**



Hello to you from Greyfield Wood!  
So the annual “tussle” with the vegetation in the wood is now in full swing... That is the necessity to keep the paths open and the undergrowth under control. The volunteers have been busy working on this.  
We have also now completed protecting all the tree stumps where we are encouraging natural new growth. Protection is needed from the many deer who visit the wood and love nothing more than fresh shoots to nibble!  
We have identified some tree damage done by squirrels, where they have climbed the wire mesh and then stripped the bark from around some fairly new Sweet Chestnut trees. This will kill the tree. We are therefore taking measures to protect against squirrels....

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2PM – 4PM.  
GREYFIELD WOOD OPEN AFTERNOON.**

Please join us in the wood to see what has been going on, speak with the Directors about the future plans and enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of cake! We will be running some organised walks through the afternoon. If you are considering joining our volunteers, this is a great opportunity to find out more.  
Please take a walk through your wood and enjoy it.  
If you would like to join our volunteers, please give me a call.  
Enjoy our wood!  
John Hammond [john@meadvale-bays.com](mailto:john@meadvale-bays.com) 07818 400440

## **Notes from Beenham Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th May 2026**

### **Public Forum**

The Six Bells has been asked by the PC to remove an advertising board outside the Six Bells as it contained offensive, if now modified, language. The school bus stops at the Six Bells so this was an added concern.

The pre-school is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Over this time 1600 children have attended.

### **Councillors**

The CCTV system for Beenham School is to be discussed next month.

In response to the large numbers of empty vodka bottles being dumped at the bottom of Beenham Hill, the PCSO is to attend to next litter picking session with the WI.

A Beenham SID (speed monitoring system) was discussed. The shared unit from Aldermaston PC was damaged whilst being operated in Beenham and will no longer be available for use. The PC will apply for Members Bid funding from our WBC District Councillor.

A quotation for repairs to be sought following the Rospa safety report for the Rec play area.

WBC has agreed to carry out repairs to fix the flooding on both Clay Lane and Church Lane. Date to be decided.

Car parking issues. Five locations have been identified as needing action.

### **Planning Matters**

-26/00710/HOUSE. New Hope, Picklepythe Lane, Beenham. Erection of greenhouse. No objection.

-26/00352/HOUSE. 1 Mulberry Cottages, The Green, Beenham. Erection of single storey conservatory. Granted.

- 26/00343/HOUSE. Russetts, Webbs Lane, Beenham. Two storey side extension. Granted.

### **Parish Councillors**

The issue with the hot water supply in the Community Room was raised. This is a shared water system with the school. Our District Councillor will be asked to raise the matter with WBC.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday June 1st 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/](http://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](mailto:clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk)

CR Bookings: Paula Read Tel: 07793116937 Email: [info@beenhampreschool.org](mailto:info@beenhampreschool.org)

Parish Council website: [www.beenham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.beenham-pc.gov.uk)

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

## DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM – JUNE 2026

Tuesdays	Art Group 10am-12pm	Victory Hall	Georgia: 07970 646713
Tuesdays	Badminton Club 8pm – 9.30pm	School Hall	Ernie: 07954 127 771
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>	Parish Council meeting 7pm	Community Rm	The Clerk Lauren West: 07919916125
Thu 4 <sup>th</sup>	Beenham Walkers: Leckhampstead walk		
	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am		Pauline Stares 01189713481
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	Beenham School Summer Fete	Beenham School	1 – 3pm
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	Greyfield Open Afternoon – from 2pm		
	Greyfield Wood – follow signs!		John:9712924
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	WI-Kate Bowsher “The ups and downs of farming life”		
	£4 for guests Community Room 7.30pm		Sally: 07776 251 228
Thu 11 <sup>th</sup>	Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6 £4/person		
	Six Bells 7.30 for 8pm		9713368 to book
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly Church Working Party		
	All help is most welcome St Mary’s Church 10am – 2pm		Brinelle: 07873548852
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	2pm – 3.30pm: Village Market	Victory Hall	Sally: 07776 251 228
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	Beenham Friendship Club for over 55s – Visit to Weymouth		
	£25 for non-members Pick up points		Marion:9713094 Tina:01635826154
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	Beenham Walkers: Kingsclere circular Walk		
	Meet at the Victory Hall at 9.30		Pauline Stares 01189713481
Thu 18 <sup>th</sup>	Film night £5 a ticket (cash only please)		
	Victory Hall at 7.00 for 7.30pm		Claire: 9713574
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	Band on the Rec 7.30pm		Pat 07947478840
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Greyfield Woods Volunteer Morning. 8.30 – 12pm		
	Meet at wood entrance		John:9712924
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Calleva Stick Dressers 9am–2pm	Victory Hall	David:07864 180 648
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup>	2– 3.30pm: Tearoom and Outreach Library	Victory Hall	
			Dru:07815 055 040 Pat:07947 478 840

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

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

Victory Hall Bookings contact Nola – [nolesandfrank@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nolesandfrank@hotmail.co.uk) or

phone 01189 714 822

NASA are claiming their Artemis mission is the hardest thing Man has ever attempted. They have clearly never tried to downgrade a UK Sky subscription.



**ANNUAL BAND ON THE REC**

**Friday June 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**

Beenham Village Recreation ground

Beenham once again welcomes Beenham Wind Orchestra

Bring your family, friends, picnics and rugs/ chairs.

BBQ, Bar by the Six Bells and Ice creams by Dave's Ices

**Come along and enjoy our free concert!**

**How is your garden growing?**

**In preparation for the**

**Beenham Giant Vegetable Show**

**On 13<sup>th</sup> September – Beenham Victory Hall**

**CLASSES TO INCLUDE:**

Longest: Carrot; Cucumber; Leek; Runner Bean

Heaviest: Apple; Beetroot; Cabbage; Carrot; Cucumber; Marrow; Onion; Potato; Pumpkin or Tomato

Tallest Sunflower

Largest: Sunflower Head; Dahlia Head

For children: The most unusually shaped vegetable or fruit

**PLUS:** anything else we can think of!



**All seed potatoes are now distributed, and we are excited to see who will have the heaviest total weight of potatoes in the bag!**

**The Arthur Sutton Six Bells' Trophy** will be awarded to the heaviest crop of potatoes in the bag, brought in on the day by a Beenham resident.

**The Edwin Roe cup** will be awarded to the most unusually shaped vegetable or fruit grown by a child in Beenham.

We are introducing: **Beenham's Best Baker** – please contact us for this year's vegetable themed recipe.

To enter or for any queries please contact Jonathan @ [jondrury@hotmail.com](mailto:jondrury@hotmail.com)

### **BEENHAM PRE-SCHOOL**

In April 2026 Beenham Pre-School celebrated our 40th Birthday! We had a wonderful day with our garden set up in the style of a “festival” with music, games and crafts, festival foods, birthday cake and a campsite. We made so many happy memories on that day and we want to send our love and thanks to everyone who has been part of our journey over the last 40 years. It will be exciting to see how Pre-School changes in the next 40 years but we are starting the next stage full, currently with a waiting list and bookings being taken up to September 2028.

We have loved meeting the new children who have joined us this term and they are settling into Pre-School life and learning what it means to be a preschooler. We follow the lead of families and children for their settling in period and we welcome parents to stay during the first few sessions so that even the youngest children can feel safe and secure when they are left for the first time. We know it can be really difficult to leave a young child for the first time, so we build strong relationships with families with lots of observations sent home and reassuring calls and text messages.

We are now supporting our older children who will be moving on to their local primary schools, which means that June and July are always full of fun and emotions and lots and lots of conversations. We have Wellness Sessions planned for all our school leavers using play therapy techniques to explore the idea of moving to school (we have a visiting professional running them for us) along with lots of visits from Pop Up Play Village, Outdoor Explorers and Baby College.

We enjoyed a wonderful visit from Sooty the Lamb a few weeks ago and we hope that Bruce the Therapy Dog will be back to visit us again in Term 6. As I am writing this, we are all excited to have a farmer visiting with their tractor in the coming week. Lots and lots happening alongside our child-led curriculum and our continuous provision resources, messy play in the garden and more .



We try to keep the local villages involved via Facebook by sharing some of our lovely activities so please do follow us if you don't already, as we try to make our posts fun.

We are currently full (which we take as a huge compliment) and we only have a few spaces left for September onwards. Please do get in touch if you would like to find out more or arrange a tour. You can contact me on 07793116937 or [info@beenhampreschool.org](mailto:info@beenhampreschool.org) Paula (Manager, Beenham Pre-School)

## Brimpton News



### **COFFEE MORNINGS**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month  
IN BRIMPTON CHURCH

10 am - 11.30 am

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August

*Everyone welcome*

*(including dogs)*



## **ST PETER'S CHURCH, BRIMPTON OPEN DAY**

For all ages

**WEDNESDAY 29TH JULY**

Come and learn about the  
history and

heritage of our church

Take part in a quiz

Explore the carvings and treasures  
in the church and the churchyard

Details in next month's magazine



# Brimpton Church of England Primary School

*Amazing things happen here.....*

**SATS** - Our amazing Year 6 children sat their SATS test in May. It is always an anxious time for them and for us, but our children are all superstars and always do their best. Well done Year 6!

**Sporting Events** - All our pupils from all year groups have taken part in a sporting event this term. We always try and participate in all the events that are offered to us. We love kwik cricket, tri-golf, football and tag rugby. Our children always do us proud.



**Ice Cream Friday** - Our fundraising Friday is back. We sell £1 ice creams on a Friday after school. All proceeds go towards our school fund and helps our school to fund wonderful events for the children. If you would like to come along and buy an ice cream, our community family are very welcome.

**Sir David Attenborough** - As a school we all celebrated

Mr Attenborough's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. We sang to him in assembly and we were all given a packet of seeds to plant to leave our mark on this wonderful planet. Lots of discussions and watching documentaries have been on the school agenda as part of the celebrations. The children and staff have enjoyed all the activities.



If you require any other information regarding Brimpton School

Please contact Mrs Sarah Vockins on 0118-9712311

[office@brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:office@brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk) [www.brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk](http://www.brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk)

Come along and enjoy 6 games of **BINGO +**  
At Brimpton VH on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2026 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 Fast Bingo @£5 £50 prize  
Plus 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

**SATURDAY July 25<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**Bacon Butty Breakfast at Brimpton Village Hall**

**10.00 am - 1.00 pm**

**Bacon Butty, Tea/coffee/cake**



**Everyone welcome**

**Water provided  
for dogs**



### **Brimpton Parish Council**

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May for what is designated as its Annual Meeting. We began with the election of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the coming year. As I had previously said I would not be standing again, we unanimously elected Nick Mathews to be Chairman and Phil Bassil to be Vice-Chairman.

Cllr Dominic Boeck reported on a letter he had received from WBC's Planning Enforcement Team regarding the unauthorised mobile home in Brimpton Common. This indicated that moves to enforce the Planning Inspector's decision had been halted whilst three new planning applications for that and other sites were validated. As it appeared that a resident had received contrary information from WBC, Cllr Boeck agreed to ask the enforcement team for clarification.

We had no objection to a planning application for single storey side and rear extension with other alterations at Martingales, Brimpton Common.

We used funds received from the Corporate Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to grant the Parochial Church Council £5,000 for urgent repairs to a collapsed boundary wall.

We also used CIL funds to grant the Village Hall Management Committee £1,400 towards the cost of replacing kitchen facilities.

We appointed Phil Bassil to be our representative on the AWE Local Liaison Committee and John Dolphin to be our representative on the Village Hall Management Committee. We have been unable to find a representative to serve on the Almshouses Charity and we still require another trustee on the Brimpton Common Fuel Allotment Trust.

The rest of the meeting consisted of items that are necessary but not exciting unless you are obsessed with local government. These included:

We noted the Internal Auditor's report was positive and contained no recommendations for changes to our financial procedures. We appointed Wendy Matthews to be our Internal Checker.

We agreed the dates of the period during which members of the public may request to examine our financial records. This will be from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July. If you wish to do so please contact our clerk on [clerk@brimpton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brimpton-pc.gov.uk)

As required by the audit regulations, we approved the Annual Governance & Accountability Statement, which may not sound important to most people but it is in the world of local government.

The Parish Council will meet again in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm on

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.**

The meeting is open to everyone to attend. If you are concerned about something that is not on the agenda, you are welcome to come along and raise it in the Open Forum at the start of the meeting. You will find the agenda and supporting papers on our website three days before the meeting: [www.brimpton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.brimpton-pc.gov.uk)

## BRIMPTON WI

April was a busy month for Brimpton WI with our usual monthly meeting and a Beetle Drive, both at the Village Hall.

Our meeting on 21st April was an open meeting and was well attended by members and guests. Our speaker for the evening was Kathy MacDonald, one of the first female BA pilots. Now retired Kathy has worked in the aviation industry for 40 years and has over 20,000 hours flying time. She still flies and has a private plane which is kept at Brimpton Airfield.

Kathy started in the aviation industry after completing A Levels in 1984. At this time there were no female commercial pilots, so she trained in air traffic control, graduating in 1986 after which she was posted to Edinburgh.

Whilst working in Edinburgh she saw a BA advert offering sponsorship to put people through flight school. She applied, and despite the fact she didn't have all the necessary qualifications she was selected. Having completed the training, she worked as a co-pilot before becoming a captain. Initially based in Birmingham, she moved to Manchester and later to Heathrow. She flew Boeing 737 and 767 planes. For the final 12 years of her service flying Boeing 777s on long haul flights to the US East Coast, Africa and the Middle East. She was the first woman to lead an all-female crew.

Since the early days of aviation there have been women pilots, when the first pilot's licences were issued in 1901 five were issued to women. Women pilots are still in the minority in the Commercial sector, but this is changing with around 25% of trainee pilots are now women. We also heard about how to fly a plane and the duties of the Captain and crew prior to and during a flight.

On 28th April we held our Beetle Drive, the first of our additional fund-raising events. This has been an annual fixture in the WI calendar for many years and is always a very light-hearted and entertaining evening. This year was no exception. To complete the evening a supper of Bolognese, baked potatoes and salad followed by trifle was prepared and served by the Committee. Our future fund-raising events are a BBQ in July, a Quiz in October and a Craft Day in November.

Our June Meeting (Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June) will be a talk on a Trip to Kilimanjaro with John and Margaret Baxter.

New members are always welcome and if you are interested in joining Brimpton WI please contact either President Shelley Bassil (01189 710563) or Secretary Annette Dolphin (01189 710090) or e-mail us at [brimptonwi@berkshirewi.co.uk](mailto:brimptonwi@berkshirewi.co.uk)

## Midgham News

### Midgham Village Hall

Holds coffee mornings on alternate Wednesdays from 10 until 12. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a hot drink and cake and to socialise with their neighbours and friends.

The dates for the coffee mornings in **June are 10th and 24th.**



### Midgham Café Church

**First Thursday of the month June 4th July 2nd**

Join us for tea and cake and fellowship 2.00pm at

**In the church**



Contact Sarah Henderson for more information  
Tel: 0118 9713956 henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com

### Midgham Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

Thank you for your responses to our questionnaire. A summary has been posted on the village notice boards and can be found on our website:

<https://www.midghamparish.gov.uk/plan/>

It was great to hear your views and priorities for Midgham, which were unanimous in valuing the quiet, rural character of our Parish. You also suggested some fantastic ideas for our future community projects.

We are now beginning to research and write policies for our plan, and there will be an opportunity for locals to explore these with the steering group before they are finalised.

In the meantime, if you would like to assist, please contact:

[ndp@midghamparish.co.uk](mailto:ndp@midghamparish.co.uk)

## Woolhampton News

### What's on in Woolhampton Village Hall

**Village Hall Market – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month from 10am until 12 noon.**

#### **Mondays**

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

Dance Fit with Lorraine – 5.45pm

Pilates with Lorraine 6.35pm

#### **Tuesdays**

Stroke Care – 9am until 3pm

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

Women's Institute – 7.30pm until 9.30pm, every second Tuesday of each month

#### **Wednesdays**

Lunch Club - 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 12 noon

#### **Thursdays**

Flexercise – 10am until 12pm

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

#### **Fridays**

Bowls – 2.30pm until 5pm.

For any further information please email Kate - [book-](mailto:bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com)

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

### **NATURE NOTES**

By the time you read this it will no longer be news that the cuckoo has arrived, so we can assume that many others have come too. Sadly, we don't see as many of them as we used to and we don't make them as welcome as we ought. Swifts and house martins no longer find nooks in our houses, although a few nature lovers are beginning to supply nesting boxes not only for tits. The mess they make is nowhere near as much as we make all the time without a thought. But enough of the rant! I would recommend an evening visit to Bucklebury Common, where you may well be rewarded with the sight and sound of nightjars as they hunt for moths and other insects in the twilight. Or maybe an early (4am) walk in the same place. Even these days the dawn chorus there is wonderful and can only be heard before they really get busy for the day. Happy birding!



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*Stella Nesbit*

### Woolhampton Primary School

Our school continues to go from strength to strength as we strive to provide every child with a fantastic education within a kind, caring and nurturing environment where all learners can flourish.

This term, we are especially excited to introduce our new school motto:

**“Coming together, learning to be the best we can be.”**

This new strapline has been developed through thoughtful reflection by our amazing Headteacher Mrs Cox, staff and governors, and truly capture what makes our school such a special place.

“Coming together” reflects our commitment to belonging, inclusion and respect. We celebrate every individual and ensure all children feel welcomed, valued, and supported.

“Learning to be” reminds us that education is about far more than academic achievement. We encourage children to grow socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually, learning resilience, compassion and confidence along the way.

“The best we can be” reflects our aspiration for every child to discover and develop their own unique gifts and talents, becoming the very best version of themselves.

Amongst all the many interesting things happening at the school, the children have also enjoyed a wonderful week of learning inspired by the life and work of David Attenborough and the importance of caring for our world.

To celebrate his 100th birthday, we held a special “David Attenborough Day” filled with exciting activities across the school. One of the highlights was a collaborative art project entitled **“100 Animals for 100 Years.”** Each class explored a different biome, with every child drawing an animal to contribute to a giant world display created using the fingerprints of every pupil in the school. We are hoping to unveil the finished artwork on World Environment Day on 5th June.

The children also enjoyed fascinating bee talks throughout the day, learning about the vital role bees play in protecting our environment. We are incredibly grateful to one pupil’s grandad, who generously shared his knowledge as a beekeeper and brought along an observation hive so the children could see the bees hard at work. His visit sparked huge curiosity and excitement among pupils of all ages.



It has been a joyful and inspiring week, full of creativity, curiosity and community spirit. Please do take a look at our Instagram page for more photographs and glimpses into the many wonderful opportunities our children enjoy each day. At our school, we truly believe learning is most powerful when it is engaging, inclusive and fun for everyone!



Kim Wyrley-Birch SEND Governor

### **District Councillor's Surgery in Woolhampton Village Hall**

Our District Councillor, Mr Chris Read, holds a 'surgery' in the Village Hall on the last Saturday of each month from 9 to 11a.m. He welcomes interaction from local residents about issues of concern for our parish and environment. We are grateful for Mr Read to give up his time for the benefit of our community.

### **ON THE ROAD –'DOING YOUR DAGS'**

One of the more obvious changes during the first 30 years of the last century was the increase in the number of motor vehicles and the unsatisfactory state of the existing roads to convey in safety this unregulated traffic. The days were passing when village children were able to play in safety on the Bath Road with skipping ropes and hoops. In 1913 village children were warned of the danger of 'doing your dags'. This was the game of crossing the road at the last possible moment in front of oncoming traffic, probably at this time just a single vehicle.

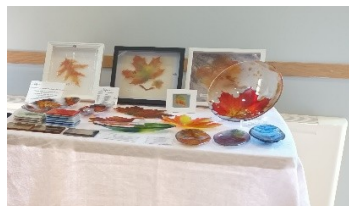
As early as 1903 motorists were fined for exceeding the speed limit of 12 mph on the Bath Road (this was raised to 20 mph by the Motor Car Act of 1903). The suspect motorist was timed over a ½ mile stretch which he had covered in 1min 15 seconds to give him an illegal speed of 24 mph! Other legislation seemed necessary; licenses were issued for a year at 5 shillings per annum, age limit for car drivers set at 17 years and 14 years for motor cyclists. Driving tests did not become compulsory until 1<sup>st</sup> June 1935 even though there were, in 1914, 358,860 vehicles of all kinds on the roads. In 1915 Henry Ford's factory at Old Trafford, Manchester. produced 6,000 Model T's. The move to the motor car was accelerated by its progressive cheapness. In 1925 the Austin Seven cost £225, during the 1930s this had been reduced to £118.

The increasing number of road users, lack of driving skills, poor road surfaces and lack of safety measures contributed to a rising number of road accidents. In 1911 Prime Minister Herbert Asquith was returning to Downing Street in his chauffeur-driven car when it collided with cyclist Nelly Green at the junction of the Bath Road and Northfield Road, Thatcham (Nelly was taken to hospital and she recovered from her injuries). The 5<sup>th</sup> Earl Carnarvon was a noted 'speedster' and in his own words enjoyed 'scorching' and was fined for speeding on Andover Road, Newbury.

Alas, in March 1928 Woolhampton pupil 7 years old Roy Hawkins was returning from school and while crossing the Bath Road was fatally struck by a motor car. His grave is well marked and tended in St Peter's churchyard and lies close to that of his grandfather, ex-soldier Thomas Hawkins, a veteran of the Crimean war and the Indian Mutiny, honoured in 1912 with a military funeral in the village.

### **Village Market**

The next Market will be on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> from 10a.m. to 12 noon in the Woolhampton Village Hall. There are more unusual stalls with unique jewellery, glass-ware and decorated pottery, plus all your favourite stalls, from books to buns, from greetings cards to homeware, and much more. Not your cup of tea? Well, there are other refreshments available and it is a great chance to meet up with friends and neighbours, or just get to know what goes on in the village.



### **Woolhampton Annual Show 2026**

The Woolhampton Show will be on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August in the Village Hall. There will be classes for each of cookery, flowers, vegetables, photography, handicraft and special classes for children to enter, and hopefully there is at least one class that you will want to enter. We now have the facility for the full schedule, entry form and rules to be downloaded from [woolhamptonannualshow.uk](http://woolhamptonannualshow.uk). There is also the link from **Woolhampton Parish Council** website.

Paper copies of schedule, recipe for Chocolate marble cake, entry form and rules will also be available at the June, July and August markets and will be displayed on notice boards. Why not take a look at the schedule you may be tempted and

**Remember – there is no entry fee!!**

Don't forget to water your Show potatoes in a container!  
From Previous show



## Aldermaston News

### ALDERMASTON COFFEE CLUB

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



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Everyone is welcome – just come along

For further details contact Cynthia Newman

[cmnewman2021@outlook.com](mailto:cmnewman2021@outlook.com) 01189713525

## Summer Music @ Aldermaston



<https://aldermastonconcerts.org>

Artist Information  
& Box Office :



At St Mary's, Church Rd, Aldermaston, RG7 4HR

**Friday June 5th, 7pm**

**Charlie  
Greenwood  
(Vocalist)**



**Saturday**

**June 6th, 7pm**

**Mat Baker (Guitarist)**



£20 Adult Ticket, £5 Children in full time education, Under 12s free / Both Nights: £30 Adult, £10 Children, Under 12s free  
includes a welcoming glass of fizz (or similar) and interval nibbles

**All profits to St Mary's to help maintain the beautiful Grade I listed building**

## ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term in Collective Worship, we have been focusing on our school value of **justice**. We explored what it means to be just and fair, thinking about how laws help to guide us in making the right choices and ensuring fairness for everyone. We also reflected on themes such as British justice and marked occasions like St George's Day, linking these to the idea of justice for all.

We also encouraged children to think more deeply about fairness in the wider world, asking questions such as: *Does everyone have fair access to the things we sometimes take for granted?* This led to meaningful discussions about inequality and how we can respond to injustice to help make the world a fairer place.

Children learned about inspirational individuals who have worked to bring about justice and fairness, including Elizabeth Fry, Malala Yousafzai, and Thomas Barnardo. Their stories helped pupils to understand how compassion, courage and determination can make a real difference in the lives of others. The British Value we explored this term is **The Rule of Law**. Children have learned why rules are important, how they help to keep us safe, and why it is essential that everyone is treated fairly. We linked this closely to our own school rules - **Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe**, helping pupils to understand these expectations support a positive, fair and secure environment for everyone in our school community. Through all these experiences, our children are developing a strong sense of fairness, compassion and responsibility, helping them to become thoughtful and active members of society.

Our Infant classes had a fantastic trip to 4 Kingdoms, where they enjoyed a full day of exploration and discovery. They explored a range of habitats, took part in an insect hunt and even had the opportunity to meet some fascinating creatures, including stick insects and a giant snail. In the farm area, the children saw a wide variety of animals, including sheep (with twin lambs born that very morning), goats and their kids, chicks and chickens, ducklings, rabbits, guinea pigs, tortoises, terrapins, a bearded dragon and even an axolotl! The adventure continued with a ride on the little train, travelling through tunnels and past a mix of real animals and statues, followed by a tractor and trailer ride where we spotted more sheep, llamas and alpacas - great fun was had trying to tell the difference between them. After a busy morning, lunch was enjoyed outside in the sunshine before spending time in the play areas, making the most of the slides, climbing frames and giant bouncy pillows. The children showed great curiosity throughout the day and asked lots of thoughtful questions.

We will be holding our Summer Fete on Saturday 11 July on the school field, organised by our PTA team. There will be games, tombola, raffle, cakes and much more. All welcome, please come and join us for a great community afternoon.

*Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor*





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- 7:00 pm 12 June: St Martin's Church £17 (Including refreshments)
- 6:00 pm 13 June: Shaw House £15 (Café will be open)
- 2:30pm 14 June: Brimpton Village Hall £15 (Including refreshments)





Tickets available online from:  
[www.jumblebee.co.uk/kennetopera1](http://www.jumblebee.co.uk/kennetopera1)

Some tickets MAY be available on the door.





*A date for your diary!*

## Sunday 6th Sept ALDERMASTON & WASING SHOW Schedule of Classes

Re-vamped classes for clarity and today's world.

Get your schedule early so you can plan your veg & flower growing and practice your crafts. AVAILABLE on our website

<https://awshow.org.uk>

### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP ON THE DAY?**

We are always looking for volunteers to help run this traditional village fete, you would be most welcome whether you can spare the whole day or just an hour or two.

Come along and be part of the show's history in this its 84<sup>th</sup> year.

Contact: [secretary@awshow.org.uk](mailto:secretary@awshow.org.uk)

## **Aldermaston Parish Council – 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

This was our annual meeting so involved admin including electing a Chairman and Vice Chairman. There was unanimous support for no-change, meaning that myself and Rob Smith will remain in position for another year. We also updated our policies and procedures in-line with our Clerk's recommendations. Councillor responsibilities were rejigged a little—the most notable change is Des Farnell becoming our representative on the Parish Hall Committee.

In planning there was just one application which we felt no need to comment on. Since April WBC had decided 4 applications, all in-line with our recommendations. It approved 2 discharges of conditions for Dixons Cottages, and Sascron's industrial building. It refused Youngs Industrial Estate's attempt to remove Conditions attached to an earlier consent.

We had an update on enforcement cases following a meeting with WBC. The Reading Road traveller's site is 'resource hungry' so other cases in our parish are progressing more slowly than we'd hoped. That said there was some positive news. WBC is getting Easy Concrete and the owner of the adjacent field to agree a plan of how to restore the site within a prescribed timescale. WBC has taken on board our view that the whole Padworth Sawmills site does not have B8 use, and the applicant has been asked to submit revised planning and transport statements. Another period of consultation will follow, so application 25/01915/FULMAJ will not be decided until July at the earliest. Retrospective planning applications for Corbyn and the breaker's yard at Wrays Farm are pending.

In other business we reviewed a good RoSPA playground inspection report for the Rec. Councillor's will carry out minor remedial actions over the next few weeks. In addition, our Clerk will arrange for an inspection of trees on the Rec and elsewhere in the village to ensure that they remain safe.

Speeding in Aldermaston Wharf was discussed following a resident complaint. This is a known speeding hot-spot but all efforts to get a permanent speed camera or additional TVP enforcement have been rejected. The only viable option is for residents to carry out their own Community Speed Watch programme; the PC is happy to work with residents on CSW if there are volunteers. We will also investigate the option of using a SID at this location on a semi-permanent basis.

There was an AWE LLC meeting at the end of April. We had reassurance from Regulators that AWE is operating safely, and from AWE we heard about several large site development projects in the pipeline. Planning applications will be submitted later this year. Whilst necessary from a national defence and security perspective, these developments will impact our parish particularly in terms of more construction

We finished by considering a grant request from St Mary's for funds towards grass cutting. It was agreed to cover half the cost of the churchyard's grounds maintenance contract.

Our next meeting is on 9<sup>th</sup> June. For details visit <https://aldermaston-pc.gov.uk/>  
Sophie Crawford



## WEST BERKS FOODBANK

### HELP WESTBERKS FOOD BANK END FOOD INSECURITY

Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in The Trussell Trust network is donated by the public – that’s why your food donations are absolutely vital to their ability to give everyone that is referred a balanced and nutritious three day supply of food.

The shopping list below shows the food items needed. **Please ensure that there is a long ‘Use By’ date on any food donated. Thank you.**

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

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

#### Items urgently needed

Tinned carrots, peas and sweetcorn, cereal bars, egg noodle nests, shaving foam, squash, tinned fruit, tinned meat, size 6/7 nappies, long life fruit juice, UHT milk, toothpaste.

Drop off locations:

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

**Beenham:** Under community noticeboard.

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

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

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

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

### People’s Emergency Briefing

In November 2025, the National Emergency Briefing brought together leading experts to present the latest evidence on the climate and nature crisis to politicians and other influential people in Westminster. As a next step this vital message is being taken across the UK to the general public, bringing together people from across local communities to hear the evidence and discuss how to respond.

#### Brimpton Film Screening 30th July

The message is presented in a film designed for public engagement. Screenings, Intended to be followed by a facilitated discussion, are being organised across the country. There will be one at Brimpton Village Hall on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July at 7:30 pm (doors open at 7 pm). There is no charge, but to book your place please visit Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-peoples-emergency-briefing-tickets-1988031403444> .

If you cannot make this screening, you will find a map of other screenings and dates at <https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map>.

**Church Services in the Villages****Douai Abbey** Contact number 0118 971 5300**Weekdays**

6.20 am	Matins & Lauds
7.45 am	Mass
12.50 pm	Midday Office
8.00 pm	Compline

**Sundays**

As on weekdays 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

**June 2026****Church of England Services contact 01189712891 (awb.org.uk)****St Mary The Virgin, Aldermaston & Wasing**

7th June	10.45am	Holy Communion Wasing
14th June	10.45am	Holy Communion
21st June	10.45am	Morning Praise

**St Mary's, Beenham**

7th June	9.15am	Holy Communion
14th June	9.15am	Holy Communion
21st June	9.15am	Morning Praise

**St Peter's Brimpton**

7th June	10.45am	Morning Praise
14th June	9.15am	Holy Communion
21st June	9.15am	Holy Communion

**St Matthew's, Midgham**

7th June	9.15am	BCP Communion
21st June	9.15am	Holy Communion
28th June	5pm	Evensong

**St Peter's, Woolhampton**

14th June	10.45am	Holy Communion
21st June	10.45am	Holy Communion
28th June	10.45am	Benefice Service to celebrate 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Priesting of the Revd Dr Derek Spears

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### 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](mailto:parishclerk@aldermaston.co.uk)

Beenham: Lauren West : 07919 916 125

Brimpton: Christine McGarvie: 0118 970 1576

Midgham: Ellie Brewer 07877 122127

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### Village Halls:

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

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