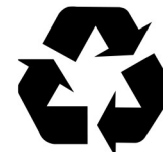

Villages' News





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Committee Comments

I am writing this just a few days after a visit to the Royal Three Counties Show at Malvern. The three counties being Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire. The showground is in a beautiful setting at the foot of the Malvern Hills. Imagine something approaching twice the size of Newbury showground and you have it.

There was the usual pole climbing competition. 95 feet high Douglas fir poles, straight and smooth and one competitor actually ran up in 17 seconds. Then there was the falconer and his van with registration number UK 11 AWK, with a deliberate accidental piece of dirt connecting the digits so that it looked like UK HAWK.

What was really amazing was the sheer number of cattle, sheep and goat varieties being exhibited, all native breeds as well. I had no idea there was such variety. Particularly impressive were the yellow and orange Suffolk sheep, almost as big as some of the cattle.

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

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

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

Advertising enquiries can be sent to mrsbscott@btinternet.com

We hope you enjoy reading your magazine.

Brimpton News



COFFEE MORNINGS

**2nd Wednesday of the month
IN BRIMPTON CHURCH
10 am - 11.30 am**



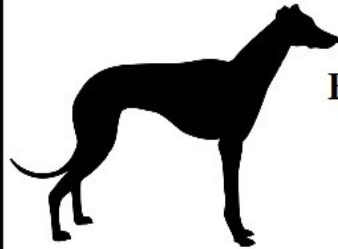
**Wednesday 8th July
Wednesday 12th August
Wednesday 9th September
Wednesday 14th October**



*Everyone welcome
(including dogs)*

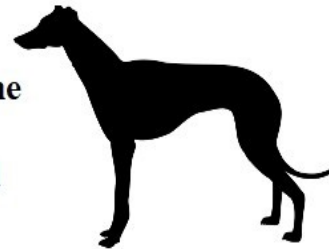
SATURDAY July 25th 2026

**Bacon Butty Breakfast at Brimpton Village Hall
10.00 am - 1.00 pm
Bacon Butty, Tea/coffee/cake**



Everyone welcome

**Water provided
for dogs**



ST PETER'S CHURCH, BRIMPTON

OPEN DAY

WEDNESDAY 29TH JULY 2-5pm

*How well do you know your
parish church?*

*History, decoration and
treasures*

Activities for adults
and children

Competition, quiz

Explore the treasures of our church

Find out about its history

Enjoy tea and cake in the church and
churchyard (weather permitting)



***St Peter's Church is a Victorian gem, on the
site of a much older church. We have a
building of superb quality, with exceptional
workmanship***

ALL AGES WELCOME.

Brimpton Parish Council

The Parish Council met on **Tuesday 2nd June**. The main item on the agenda was a **planning application for a change of use to provide a residential caravan site across 3 plots in the field off Blacknest Lane**. As we objected to the previous application for a 1 pitch site (reference number 23/02984/FUL) and to the 2 pitch application (reference number 24/00594/FUL), we decided to object to this application for a 3 pitch site.

We noted West Berkshire Council (WBC) refused permission for both previous applications; and that the refusal was taken to Appeal. The Appeal hearing by the independent Planning Inspector upheld WBC's decision to refuse planning permission and ruled that the site was to be vacated by March 2026. The applicants occupied and developed the 1 pitch site, both during the planning process, and after the refusal by WBC. We reminded WBC that the applicants have not met the deadline to vacate the site as ruled by the Planning Inspector.

The proposed site is on an agricultural field which is not suitable for development. If this proposal were granted, it would set a worrying precedent and encourage further unsuitable development in this field, against the agreed policies of the WBC Local Plan and the Brimpton Village Design Statement. We agreed to submit to WBC a list of 10 specific reasons why any development in this field is unwise and undesirable. You can see these if you view the objections listed on the WBC planning website. **The reference number to view the application is 26/00324/FUL.**

Other agenda items included:

We had no objections to the proposal to build a detached oak-framed two bay garage with ancillary loft space at Appletree House, Brimpton Common (reference number 26/00906/HOUSE)

Thames Water have closed the case on the tankers in Brimpton Road and reinstatement of the verge as they say there is no proof that the damage was done by their vehicles and there is a plan in place for a long-term solution to the use of tankers. It was agreed we would continue to monitor the situation.

The Medicine Festival is returning to Wasing Park from the 12th to the 17th of August. The organisers have asked WBC for an extension to their existing licence to include the Wednesday 12th August from 4pm to 11pm and we were invited to comment. We decided not to object.

Charles Brims reported he had received a complaint that some roads in the Parish are difficult to get through with a tractor due to overhanging hedges. Charles will speak to the landowners and to seek help with the hedge cutting from the Wasing Estate if appropriate.

The Parish Council will meet again at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 7th July** at the Village Hall. The meeting is open to the public and you are welcome to come along and raise any issue of concern which is not already on the agenda. You can receive Parish Council news and more about local events if you receive by email the Parish Update. If you would like to do so, please let me know at jhicks@brimpton-pc.gov.uk.

John Hicks Brimpton Parish Council

Midgham News

Midgham Village Hall

Midgham Village Hall held a successful Plant Sale on 23rd May raising £515.50p which will help towards the cost of renewing the roof.

The coffee mornings, with cake in July will be on **Wednesday 8th July and Wednesday 22nd July between 10 am and 12 noon.**

Good things come out of these meetings. All are welcome and will be warmly included in our friendly group.



SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2026

MIDGHAM'S ANNUAL SPONSORED RIDE & STRIDE EVENT!

Come and join us cycling a well-known route round the beautiful West Berkshire countryside with a stop halfway for a buffet lunch!



It is a fun day with a great group of people of all ages and abilities. The Midgham Ride & Stride has a tradition of over 20 years and has won the cup several times, and the sponsorships not only help to keep St Matthews open for the community, but all the other local churches too.

If you wish to join us, contact Julia for more information.

julia@emftechnology.co.uk

Mobile: 0787 635 2988



Midgham Café Church

First Thursday of the month July 2nd August 6th

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



Woolhampton News

Mikron Theatre

The annual visit from the Mikron Theatre has been advertised and is on 16th July (“The Grate Cheese Quest”) and 22nd July (“Top of the Wold”) – puns intended. Shows normally start at 7pm in the Rowbarge grounds. If you’ve not been before, this is an event not to be missed. Always topical, often irreverent, often hilarious, sometimes controversial, the cast (who travel around on a barge) are very entertaining. You are advised to bring your own seating as there are limited arrangements at the Rowbarge. Entry is free but donations are gratefully received to help fund the event.

Woolhampton Short-Mat Bowls Club

Our fourth game in our recent campaign against local villages was an away match against East Woodhay. Having lost at home, we were seeking revenge and gloried in a 3-1 win with 2 drawn games. It proved a thoroughly enjoyable evening and we revelled in the friendly hospitality of our hosts. These matches have been a new experience for most of our bowlers and we have learnt much from teams more used to playing competitively. Hopefully, we can repeat these matches later in the year.

NATURE NOTES

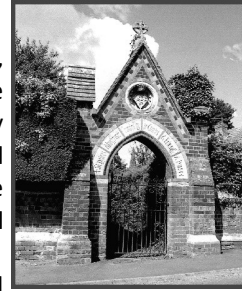
Being annoyed by two flies that were flitting around made me wonder what happened to all the flies we knew as children. We never loved them but we took flies for granted. Car windows in the early days were covered with squashed insects, many of them flies, of various sorts. Eating a meal with our farming friends meant having a fly paper hanging over the table (not obtrusively!) and negotiating flies round our food. Many of you will never have seen a fly paper, or know what it was. It was a strip of paper about 6 inches (15cm) long and covered with a sticky substance that was obviously very attractive to flies, as it was often covered with trapped flies. No wonder, then, that there are far fewer swallows and house martins here in the summer and very, very few fly-catchers. Swifts are affected by a lack of high nesting places, but that’s a different story.

Stella Nesbit

As We Were – Cricket, Cocking & Backswording

*August 1793, 28 years old Lady Viscount Falmouth, mother of five children, daughter of widowed Mrs Crewe the owner of the Woolhampton estate died on the family estate, Tregothnan, Cornwall. Mrs Crewe died in 1805 and the Falmouth family inherited the Woolhampton estate and left legacies in Woolhampton and Brimpton until selling the estate in 1856 to James Blyth.

(See Brimpton alms houses, also the stained glassed window at west end of St Peter's Church, Woolhampton)



*9th July 1773, there was for a considerable sum a grand match of cricket between Newbury and Thatcham on Thatcham Marsh adjacent to the Old Blue Coat School.

* "Cocking match" at Stephen Frankum's house at bottom of Woolhampton Hill ('Rising Sun') between Gentlemen of Theale and Woolhampton. To show 15 cocks at 2 gns a battle" (*Reading Mercury*).

*1784 Chapel Row Revels, a Golden Laced Hat (value 17 shillings) to be played for at cudgels "man who breaks the most heads to have the prize, the blood run one inch or no head". The sport was known as 'backswording', also played on Brimpton Common (*Reading Mercury*).

* 1770, A shooting contest at 'Lower Angel' Woolhampton at invitation of landlord Henry Riddells to be shot at cards for prize of silver gun.

* October 1747, 5 in the evening two highwaymen robbed a Gentleman's Coach between Woolhampton and Thatcham and one of them at 9 the same evening was taken at the 'Bell', Speenhamland and brought into Reading Gaol.

* Sep 1778, Wanted sober lad as an Apprentice to Mr Allen, Surgeon and Apothecary, in Woolhampton.

* March 1781, "On Monday last a fallow deer was turned out at 'Rising Sun', Woolhampton and a couple of Earl of Fingal's small beagle dogs, which in a chase of two hours and ten minutes, afforded uncommon diversion with 40 horsemen in the field" (*Reading Mercury*).

* 1788, Woolhampton Overseer's Account Book: "Dame Pound was paid 13s "for nursing E Hawkins" and John Brown was "given 2lbs mutton at 11d with 9d worth of wood faggots".

* May 1773, "On Wednesday night a man returning from Lambourn races, near Woolhampton accidentally dropped his purse containing notes to the amount of nearly £1,000, he later returned and found his purse in the hands of a poor man going to work who restored it very honestly to its owner, for which he was rewarded with 5 shillings and sixpence" (!) (*Oxford Journal*)

John Trigg

Woolhampton & Midgham WI May/June

Some of us attended the WI mix and mingle session at Hilliers Garden Centre, Hermitage where we spent some time having coffee and catching with other WI members and then shopping in the centre.

Our May Resolution meeting was well attended. We started off the meeting with a fish and chip supper which was a nice treat and put us in the mood for a good debate. Four of our members spoke well for and against both Resolutions going forward to the NFWI AGM, which are Accessible public facilities and Action on Women's homelessness. After discussions we all voted to support both Resolutions.

For our June meeting we met up at one of our members large gardens. Although it was a bit cool when we met at 6.00pm, in the sun it was lovely and warm. After a good look at the well-stocked vegetable garden, small orchard, paddock, pond, lovely flowers and interesting large trees we went inside her large light lounge to enjoy a cream tea supper.

We have an outing arranged to Littlecote at the end of June to look around the gardens, Cromwellian Chapel and Roman mosaic finishing with lunch.

There is also a boat trip planned from Hungerford with a cream tea.

Our July meeting is Enchanted Woodlands by Alison Claybourn

If you would like to know more about our activities please come along as a guest at one of our meetings. You will be very welcome, and you may decide to join us! Guest fee is £4 and includes refreshments. We meet on the second Tuesday of the Month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Village Market

The next Market will be on Saturday 4th July from 10a.m. to 12p.m. in the Village Hall. No matter what the erratic weather conditions are, there will be refreshments to suit your needs, hot or cold. And the friendly stallholders will always help you 'discover' the items that you never knew you needed. What's not to like!

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

The Listening District Councillor

In case you haven't seen the notices on the notice boards sited around the village, our West Berks District Councillor, Chris Read, holds a 'surgery' in the Woolhampton Village Hall on the last Saturday of each month.

Mr Read is keen to meet local residents and hear of any issues or concerns that you may have. It is a terrific opportunity for you to help him to try to make our community and environment as pleasant as possible

The Woolhampton Annual Show 2026

Please don't forget that this year's Woolhampton Show will be on Saturday 15th August in the Village Hall. There will be classes for each of vegetables, flowers, cookery, photography, handicraft and special classes for children to enter. A schedule is available at the July (and August) market, or can be picked up from the Corner Gift Shop as well as being available to download from woolhamptonannualshow.uk. So, in these challenging weather conditions, be sure to nurture your vegetables and horticultural contributions and practise your cookery skills to emphatically make this *your* year to win. If you have never entered a Show before, make 2026 your first time, remember we are all amateurs and do encourage your children to enter as well!

As ever, there is a category specifically for men (for some reason, it's traditionally thought that men can't cook!) so, Come on, guys, unleash your inner Jamie Oliver and prove everybody wrong by delivering some stunning shortbread biscuits.

And finally, don't forget the tallest sunflower competition; we are all suffering the same growing conditions so we're not expecting to beat previous heights.



What's on in Woolhampton Village Hall

Village Hall Market - 1st Saturday of every month from 10am -12

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

Womens Institute -7.30pm until 9.30pm, every second Tuesday of each month

Wednesdays

Lunch Club - 1st and 4th Wednesday of each month at 12 noon

Thursdays

Flexercise - 10am until 12pm Art Class - 1.30pm -3.30pm and 7pm- 9pm

Fridays

Bowls - 2.30pm until 5pm.

For any further information please email Kate

bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com

Aldermaston News

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

A great day out for all the family. Celebrating community, craft, and local life



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



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 84th year.

Contact: secretary@awshow.org.uk



<https://awshow.org.uk>

Aldermaston Parish Council – 9th June 2026

Representatives from Aldermaston Charity joined our June meeting and explained plans to incorporate the charity to reduce liability to its trustees. This requires the agreement of the Lord of the Manor, Rector, and APC. We agreed it was sensible to modernise the charity's legal structure and readily gave our consent. They also gave a brief background to the Charity. It began with two pairs of alms-houses built by Rev. Dixon in 1706, and land in Tadley bequeathed by Charles Keyser to help with the cottage's upkeep. More recently some of the land was sold and two further cottages purchased in Aldermaston Wharf. The charity leases its properties to older people with limited financial means that are connected to the parish for a below market rent.

In planning we had 3 new applications to review. We agreed No Objection to internal changes at 34, The Street and to the conversion of an outbuilding at Middle Lodge with the caveat that we would defer to the recommendation of the Conservation Officer with regards to the extent of development at Middle Lodge. The final application was for a new ¼ acre area of hardstanding for B8 at Youngs Industrial Estate. Councillors are worried that additional B8 could lead to more HGV traffic and agree with WBC Highways that the applicant should provide more information. We agreed to Object because of extra HGV traffic and the cumulative impact of many new developments in our area but will review again when new documentation is submitted.

Additional submissions for the application at Padworth Sawmills were noted: APC's own legal opinion and the applicant's revised Highways Technical Note and Planning Statement. APC is invited to comment on the latter which we agreed to do.

Planning enforcement cases relating to unauthorised traveller sites were discussed. In May WBC served a formal Enforcement Notice for the Reading Road site which requires the occupants to leave the land within a certain time scale. The notice from last November was a Temporary Stop Notice. Both are different to the injunction which is being reviewed at the High Court this week. The second site is on Mill Lane in Aldermaston Wharf and was occupied more recently. A planning application has been submitted but lacks the correct information to be validated. Like the Reading Road site this case will have to be progressed by WBC planning according to best practice, which is slow, but ultimately the site's location in Flood Zone 3 will make it very difficult for the owners to get permission.

Other issues in brief:

The upcoming Medicine Festival at Wasing will take place from Wednesday 12th to Monday 17th August. The event director will speak at our July meeting.

Councillors agreed a Neighbourhood Plan would be useful to influence the development of our parish, but that we need to find support for the project which must be community rather than PC led.

Our next meeting is on 14th July. For details visit <https://aldermaston-pc.gov.uk/>

Sophie Crawford

SUMMER FETE

ALL WELCOME!!

SATURDAY 11TH JULY
1pm to 4pm

ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

FREE ENTRY

This event is Sponsored and Supported by

RM Reading Money Simple Smart Advice **LEX** MARQUEE HIRE

A WONDERFUL EVENT FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY!

Inflatable Fun | Fun Fair Rides
Food Stalls | Bar | Raffle | Demos | Face Painting
And Kids Entertainer

See QR code for more info

BOUNCE JUMP HAVE FUN!

PASS AND MOVE FOOTBALL COACHING

CHARITY NO. 297701

Or email: pta@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk

BREAKING BARRIERS

YUMMY TREATS FOR EVERYONE!

SWEET TREATS!

ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have continued the work on our school value of Justice and the British Value of the Rule of Law. Children have been developing positive learning behaviours through our Learning Hero, the Manager Octopus, encouraging organisation, responsibility and readiness for learning. They have also continued improving and reflecting on their work with support from the Reflector Owl. We are very proud of the way our children continue to demonstrate fairness, responsibility and kindness each day.

Representatives from the Local Authority came into school recently to see the work we are doing, as well as looking at the areas we wish to continue to improve. We are reaching out to other local schools to collaborate with them together with the Maths and English Hubs, to support us on our school improvement journey.

school geography Field Trip Day was organised recently when pupils enjoyed a range of activities around the school grounds. Music can be heard all around the school with Rocksteady sessions, Year 4 clarinet lessons, independent music tuition and the much-anticipated KS2 production, Looking for Treasure.

At the end of term, we will say farewell to Mrs Ebrey. She has made a valuable contribution to the school over the past decade, and we wish her well for the future.

Lastly this month, please see the poster for our Summer Fete. We do hope you can join us for this special community afternoon, arranged by our wonderful PTA team.

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor



Meeting & Talk

Weds 15th July 2026 , 7:30pm

Officers Mess, The Hinds Head Inn

a talk on

“Cricket Bats from Aldermaston”

By John Surridge

Free to members , non members £5

For more information on Aldermaston History Group Membership visit: <https://group.aldermastonhistory.uk>

Summer Music at Aldermaston

Now in its 4th year of providing music to remember.

In the beautiful 12th century church with its beautiful wall paintings and its rich acoustics.

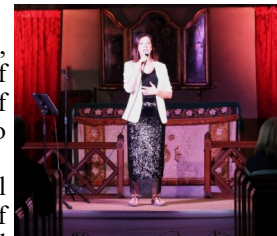
If you weren't there you missed a real treat!!

On the evening of Friday June 5th St Mary's Church, Aldermaston resonated with the beautiful, soulful voice of Charlie Greenwood. Her repertoire was a wide mix of popular music from Musicals to the Beatles, from Jazz to Country. It was an amazing evening.

Saturday June 6th saw the talented guitarist Mat Baker fill



the church with a wash of glorious music. He displayed his talent as a composer and an instrumentalist, demonstrating the versatility of the classical guitar. What a beautiful sound.



In the interval the audience were treated to a delicious array of bitesize refreshments and a free drink of their choice.

If you didn't manage to get to either of these concerts be sure to put the following dates in your diary Friday, 13th November to hear the Basingstoke NHS Male Voice Choir and Saturday, 14th November to hear the Aret Komlosy Jazz Band. Not to be missed.

CLEANING ST MARY'S CHURCH

A small group of us keep our beautiful church of St Mary's as clean and tidy as we can. The number of people who volunteer on the cleaning rota is very small, although every volunteer is much appreciated.

Cleaning the church - How it works:

We work in pairs on a two week rotation. At present this means a commitment to clean the church twice every three months and it takes about an hour each time.

Cleaning means to give the church a general dust and Hoover the carpets.

We have dusters, polish and a Hoover in the church.

There is a working party at St Mary's on the first Saturday of every month and any extra cleaning jobs are tackled then. So, if you would like to join our friendly cleaning team or know of anyone willing to join, please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you.

Please call Pat Owen on 07947478840

BEENHAM VILLAGE MARKET

Beenham holds its village market on the second Saturday of every month (except August) in Victory Hall, from 2pm to 3.30pm. We always have a range of stalls, and it's never hard to find something interesting. There's also a cake and coffee shop, served with humour and love. Come and see! And if you are tempted to have a stall yourself, the first stall is always free: a real chance to test the market on your products. Call Sally on 0777 625 1228 or email on mrssallypellow@gmail.com to find out more.



The market also always needs more helpers: can you wash up? Or set up tables? Take money for raffle tickets? Bake cakes? We'd love to hear from you!

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM – JULY 2026

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
Thu 2 nd	Beenham Walkers: Walk to Black barn and Rushall Manor Farm		
	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am		Pauline Stares 01189713481
Mon 6 th	Parish Council meeting 7pm	Community Rm	
	The Clerk - Lauren West: 07919916125		
Wed 8 th	WI-Sarah Leitjen “Weird and Wonderful Customs of the City of London”		
	£4 for guests Community Room 7.30pm		Sally: 07776 251 228
Thu 9 th	Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6 £4/person		
	Six Bells 7.30 for 8pm		9713368 to book
Sat 11 th	Monthly Church Working Party All help is most welcome		
	St Mary’s Church 10am – 2pm		Brinelle: 07873548852
Sat 11 th	2pm – 3.30pm: Village Market	Victory Hall	Sally: 07776 251 228
Wed 15 th	Beenham Friendship Club for over 55s – Visit to Worcester -		
	£25 for non-members	Pick up points	Marion:9713094
			Tina:01635826154
Thu 16 th	Beenham Walkers: TBA	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am	
			Pauline Stares 01189713481
Sat 18 th	Greyfield Woods Volunteer Morning. 8.30 – 12pm		
	Meet at wood entrance		John:9712924
Sat 18 th	Calleva Stick Dressers 9am–2pm	Victory Hall	David:07864 180 648
Thu 23 rd	Film night £5 a ticket (cash only please)	Victory Hall	7.00 for 7.30pm
			Claire: 9713574
Tue 28 th	2– 3.30pm: Tearoom and Outreach Library	Victory Hall	
			Dru:07815 055 040 Pat:07947 478 840
Thu 30 th	Beenham Walkers: Stanford Dingley Circular Walk		
	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am		Pauline Stares 01189713481

If you would like to add anything to the village diary, please contact pa-towen0@hotmail.com or 07947478840

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

**How is your garden growing?
In preparation for the
Beenham Giant Vegetable Show
On 13th 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

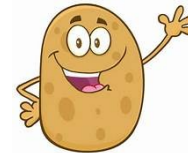
Tallest Sunflower

Largest: Sunflower Head; Dahlia Head

For children: The most unusually shaped vegetable or fruit

PLUS: anything else we can think of!

How are your potatoes growing?



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.

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 or Pat Owen: patowen0@hotmail.com

BEENHAM WI

At our July meeting we will be welcoming Sarah Leitjen, who will be talking to us about "The weird and wonderful customs of the City of London". Visitors are very welcome, for a suggested donation of £4 which includes refreshments.

The WI campaigns nationally, selecting from proposals which members then vote to prioritise. In the national WI meeting in early June, we voted to launch two campaigns: one to provide better public toilet facilities nationally, and one to focus on reducing homelessness for women. We would be very happy to give more detail!

If you are a woman looking for a social club with a conscience and an enjoyment of speakers, pub lunches, crafting and outings, then why not come along to see how we might be able to help? Or call or WhatsApp our president, Sally, on 0777 625 1228.

Beenham Primary School

It finally feels as though summer has arrived, bringing with it all the fun, colour and togetherness that make this term such a special one at Beenham Primary. The sunshine has lifted everyone's spirits, and the school has been buzzing with activity.

Before half-term, we enjoyed two of our favourite events in the school calendar: Sports Day and our much anticipated Colour Run. It was a wonderful, if very warm, day, filled with cheering, laughter and a brilliant sense of community. There is something truly heartening about seeing families, friends and neighbours gathered together to celebrate the children's efforts and enjoy a good time.

Hot on the heels of those festivities (after a needed half-term break) came our Summer Fayre on Saturday 6th June. Despite the decidedly unseasonal wind and rain, our village turned out in force to support the school. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces braving the weather, enjoying the stalls and activities and helping to raise funds that make such a difference to our children. Miss Denham drew the short straw and ended up with a bucket of iced water over her head at the end of the day having 'won' the Dunk the Teacher challenge! A big thank you to Miss Denham for being a good sport, and of course our PTFA for organising a really lovely event.

As we move through the term, we are looking forward to our Pride of Beenham Awards which is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate some of the brilliant people who contribute so much to our school and wider village community.

We are also excitedly preparing for a whole school trip to Marwell Zoo, made possible by a generous donation that has fully sponsored the visit. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the donor for their kindness and for giving our children such a memorable experience to look forward to.

This time of year is always a little bittersweet, as we begin preparations to say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 pupils ahead of their transition to secondary school. However, before we reach that moment, we have the joy of rehearsing and performing our end of year production, *The Rocky Monster Show*. The children are already throwing themselves into it with enthusiasm, and we know it will be a performance to remember.

Summer at Beenham is always full of heart, laughter and community spirit, and this year is no exception!

OPERATION CHURCH SEARCH!

Dogs and handlers from all over the South of England had the wonderful opportunity to compete in high level ScentOps trials at St Mary's Church, Beenham. Each team had between 8 and 10 minutes to find multiple "hides" of their chosen competition odour (clove, gun oil, truffle or kong). 4 Judges scored the teams on:

Location - How well did the team search the area and find the hide

Indication - Did the dog clearly indicate the location of the hide to the handler

Dog Score - efficiency, commitment, focus, responsiveness, enthusiasm.

Handler Score - area planning, observation and management skills, timing, decision making

Teamwork Score - How well did the team work together to complete the task.

The church made the perfect search location for the evening as it was beautifully cool and provided a challenging layout for the teams to navigate as well as a stunning backdrop.

Scentwork is the perfect sport for any dog that likes to sniff. It is physically low impact, so is often used as a retirement sport for older dogs but is suitable for any age or breed of dog. We run trials and training throughout the year at all levels. If you would like to find out more about Scentwork, or think your dog might like to give it a go, please get in touch. info@kdogtraining.co.uk.

Many thanks to St Mary's Church, Beenham for allowing us to use their beautiful venue for the evening. We are looking forward to more events later this summer.



The Bears of Beenham!!

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Bear Hunt at Half Term.

We hope that they brought a smile to your face as you spotted those cheeky bears in trees, windows, and simply hanging around the village!

Next year we are planning to leave them up for longer and would welcome volunteers to provide a temporary home for them.

The winner found and named 24 out of 26 correctly, which was amazing!

Thank you to Sally for putting up the "BEAR WARNING" sign as you entered the village from the A4. It was important to keep alert

SIMPLY BEAR-ILLIANT!!

Greyfield Wood



Hello to you from Greyfield Wood!

Firstly, thank you to those who recently joined us for our Open Afternoon in the wood. The rain held off and over forty attendees enjoyed walks, tea and cake as well as much chat and socialising. Particular thanks to Bob Jones for providing some much enjoyed background entertainment with his accordion. A really enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

The Volunteers are busy keeping the fast-growing vegetation at bay. We have a duty to keep the public footpaths clear and the permissive paths also need to be cleared as these are the main paths used by most walkers through the wood.

We are also beginning to tackle some of the fallen and dead trees. The wood from these will be cut into “cordwood” and sold.

We have various volunteer groups, and these are the people who work so hard to keep our beautiful woodland thriving. Thank you so much for your support.

If you would like to join our volunteers, please give me a call.

Please take a walk through **YOUR** wood and enjoy it.

John Hammond

john@meadvale-bays.com

07818 400440



People's Emergency Briefing

On the climate and nature crisis

**Brimpton Village Hall
7.30 pm Thursday
30th July 2026**



Film screening and discussion. No charge but please book using this QR code to secure a place.

Brimpton Village Hall, Crookham
Common Road, Brimpton, Reading
RG7 4TD

16

www.nebriefing.org

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A vertical advertisement for B&B Brickwork and Landscaping. The background is black with a brick border at the top and bottom. At the top is a stylized logo consisting of a yellow 'B' with a leaf-like shape on the left. Below the logo, the text 'B&B BRICKWORK AND LANDSCAPING' is written in yellow. Underneath, a list of services is provided in yellow: 'ALL TYPES OF BRICKWORK', 'PATIOS', 'FENCING', 'DRIVEWAYS', and 'GARDEN MAINTENANCE'. At the bottom, the name 'Matthew Fletcher' and the phone number '07792980432' are written in white, followed by the email address 'matthewfletcher7@icloud.com' in white.



WEST BERKS FOODBANK

The foodbank relies on the generosity of others. Could you help to make a real difference?

The support of local communities and businesses is vital to the running of the foodbank. They would love more help to tackle food poverty on your doorstep. There are lots of ways to get involved: If you share their belief that no-one should go hungry in our local area, they would love to hear from you. Email: info@westberks.foodbank.org.uk or telephone: 01635 49923

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

Sugar, soap bars, tins carrots/peas/sweetcorn, cereal bars, cereals, cuppa soup, non-bio washing powder, pasta sauce, suncream, tins rice pudding/custard, squash.

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

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

Sundays

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

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

5th July	10.45am	Holy Communion Wasing
12th July	10.45am	Holy Communion
19th July	10.45am	Morning Praise

St Mary's, Beenham

5th July	9.15am	Morning Praise
12th July	9.15am	Holy Communion
26th July	10.45am	Holy Communion with Holy Baptism

St Peter's Brimpton

5th July	9.15am	Morning Praise
12th July	10,45am	Holy Communion
19th July	9.15am	Holy Communion

St Matthew's, Midgham

5th July	9.15am	BCP Communion
19th July	9.15am	Holy Communion
26th July	5pm	Evensong

St Peter's, Woolhampton

12th July	10.45am	Holy Communion
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26th July	10.45am	Holy Communion

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

Parish Councils: Clerks' details:

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Brimpton: Christine McGarvie: 0118 970 1576

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