

Villages' News



Committee Comments

Well, as I'm writing this it is a slightly cooler, but guaranteed to hit 30C this afternoon! Last year at this time we were hoping for warmer weather but in 2026 we or at least I am, praying for cooler days and much needed rain at any time of the day or night, as watering the garden is no longer fun!

However, a positive outcome from this hot Summer weather has been the increase in the number of insects flying around, especially butterflies. The conditions appear to suit them very well. In our churchyard butterfly surveys we have recorded over 20 species of butterfly this year!

Butterfly Conservation's "Big Butterfly Count 2026" runs from Friday 17th July to Sunday 9th August, inviting everyone in the UK to spend 15 minutes counting butterflies and day-flying moths to support citizen conservation science. You can undertake your survey anywhere, during bright (preferably sunny) weather, and you can record your results by going to: [Big Butterfly Count](#) 2026. If you have a smart phone the results can be recorded via an App.

The Count is fun for everyone and is a chance to improve identification skills of these important creatures that are sensitive indicators of the state of our environment. The data from this "citizen science" will help scientists to develop their understanding of the effect of climate change on wildlife.

So, get or download an identification chart and spend a fun filled 15 minutes, as many times as you like during the survey period, in our beautiful local countryside and see

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

Please send articles relevant to the all the villages to:

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

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

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WEST BERKS FOODBANK

HELP WESTBERKS FOOD BANK END FOOD INSECURITY

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 Foodbank accept fresh fruit and vegetables directly to their warehouse
weekday mornings 9am-12pm**

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

Children's toothpaste, Deodorant, Egg noodle nests, Female razors, Instant noodles, Shaving foam, Size 5 nappies, Toilet Cleaner, Soap bars, Cereal bars, Cereal, Cuppa soup, Pasta sauce, Suncream, Squash, Tinned Fruit, Tinned meat, UHT milk

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**

The problems of getting old

An old fellow meets the woman of his dreams. When he plucks up the courage to propose, he gets down on one knee and tells her there are two things he would like to ask. 'First,' he says, 'will you marry me?' The woman replies, 'Yes! Yes, I will!' and awaits his second question eagerly. 'That's wonderful!' he cries. 'Now my second question: will you help me up?'

HARVEST FESTIVAL LUNCH & RAFFLE SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Tickets: £12.50 *(to include drinks)*

Children under 5 free

Please contact **Beth Davenport 07810 798 468**
or email: **hello@hallcourt.farm**

Hallcourt Farm RG7 5TX 12 noon

Midgham Café Church

First Thursday of the month August 6th September 3rd

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



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



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.

Midgham Village Hall

The coffee mornings, with cake and delicious home-made sausage rolls, will be on

Wednesday 5th August and

Wednesday 19th August

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.

Woolhampton News

Village Market

The next Village Market will be in the Village Hall on Saturday August 1st between 10am and midday.

There is always a good variety of stalls and refreshments available, and it is a great chance to meet neighbours and other residents to have a chat and, if necessary, put the world to rights.

Most importantly, you can also pick up/hand in your Annual Show entries, which takes place on Saturday August 15th, see elsewhere.

District Councillor ‘Surgery’

Our local District Councillor, Mr Chris Read, will be holding another ‘surgery’ in Woolhampton Village Hall on the last Saturday of the month from 9 to 11a.m. He welcomes residents’ attendance and will endeavour to help advise, address or, if possible, resolve issues raised.

Village Notice Boards

For those new to the village, and indeed a reminder for established residents, there are three public notice boards at judicious points around the village. These are centrally outside the Village Shop, northerly at St Peter’s Church, Woolhampton Hill, and easterly in the layby, Sun Hill. Notices of community events, Parish Council meetings and other items of general interest are regularly posted on these boards for public information.

Sunflower Competition



For those of you who have been growing sunflowers again under really difficult conditions (can’t complain about the sun but water and the wind is a different thing), and have an exhibit that measures, from ground to top of plant, in excess of 6 feet (2 metres) on the 10th August, we are asking you to contact Cathy (email cathy.vallis@outlook.com), leave message on 01189713637 or refer to fb with details so that members of the committee can arrange to visit to verify measurements and announce the winner at the Village Show.



Fire (1)

Cries of "Fire!", "Fire!" resounded in Woolhampton on Monday evening 8th November 1857. The 'Reading Mercury', under the headline "Great Fire in Woolhampton Street," reported that a fire had broken out in the upper room of Mr Binfield's, "a grocer of that place," at the foot of Woolhampton Hill. The adjoining cottage of Charlotte Hale was totally destroyed. A further catastrophe was mercifully avoided when a quantity of gunpowder was safely recovered from Mr Binfield's shop! Greater damage was also avoided by the arrival of the manual fire engines of Mr Green (Midgham House) and Mr Mount (Wasing Place), their presence would have persuaded James Blyth, who had purchased the Woolhampton estate the previous year, to obtain a manual for the protection of his own property. (Blyth's manual was later purchased by Woolhampton Parish Council from a Woolhampton House sale in 1903 and stored in a shed in Brook Farm, Station Road for possible village use.)

In 1907 the newly acquired manual was brought into play when a spark from an express train started a blaze in a rail side barn of Brook Farm. In 1909 William Mount MP moved the reading of a bill that would allow compensation for crops destroyed by sparks from passing trains.

There were a number of potential fire risks in these years, naked lights, un-swept chimneys and open unguarded domestic fires. The latter were a hazard for infants, usually wearing long clothing so easily 'caught' by hot flames or tinder. In 1887 there was an incident in the home of basket maker Hugh Attwood when the clothes of a young Attwood were set alight. She was at this time in the care of a neighbour thereby allowing mother to work in the family osier beds. She was saved by the prompt action of passing estate steward Andrew Colbourn who dressed the burns with oil and wrapped the little girl in a blanket. Fortunately the proximity of the station and a convenient train enabled her to be taken to Reading for treatment and recovery. In 1856 the 'Reading Mercury' had reported the tragic death of Henry Hunt, Midgham, describing it as "yet another case" of accidents involving children and open fires in cottages.

John Trigg

Woolhampton Annual Show Saturday 15th August

To be held in the Woolhampton Village Hall, please see timetable in article below.



The show schedule and entry forms in paper form are currently available from the Corner Shop, the Village Shop or Cathy (Old Millstones, Station Road), and will also be available at the August Village Market (1st). They can be downloaded from the website woolhamptonannualshow.uk. We hope that you will be inspired to enter at least one class at this very successful and very friendly amateur event which is now in its 25th year. Growing conditions this year have not been favourable to say the least for vegetable and flower entries but we are all suffering so don't be put off entering, and there is always an unweather-related cookery class to enter. (For example, can you follow the provided recipe to make a sublime Chocolate Marble Cake to die for? If so, give it a go.)

We would like to see more entries from children than in past years, so please encourage your child to enter. If you will be away at the time of the Show, then why not leave entries with a friend. By popular request, the Limerick competition continues (for you budding poets), as will the 'Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar' (for children only).

For further information, or if you have difficulty in obtaining schedules or entry forms, please contact Cathy on 0118 9713637. Completed forms can be handed in to the Corner Shop, the Village Shop or Cathy at Old Millstones, Station Road or the Village Market. PLEASE NOTE that all entries are free if handed in before the 15th August; entries will be accepted on the day but at 20p per class entered. Finally, the timetable for the day is:

9.30-11.45 Exhibits set up (Potato-growing competition from 9.00 – please cut off foliage and put a name tag on your entry and leave in car park, near the allotments)

12.00-2.00 Judging (public excluded)

2.00-4.00 Viewing and presentations

Open to the public from 2 to 4pm and refreshments and also a grand raffle with lots of really good prizes.

Outside the Village Hall on Show Day, the Woolhampton School will have fund-raising stalls and your support for them will be much appreciated.

Even if you are not inclined to 'have a go' at anything, please come along and support this local event.

Look forward to seeing you there!!!!

If you require more information or detail, please contact Cathy or Terry on 0118 9713637

SAMUEL RAPHAEL

RITUALS AND PORTALS

Art Exhibition to raise funds for tuition fees in Clinical Psychology MSc and the Dementia Hub West Berkshire



Date and address: Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September, 10am - 4pm.
The Milking Parlour, Monksmead Farm, Upper Woolhampton, Berkshire,
RG7 5TA. Free admission. I look forward to seeing you there!

I am currently working towards a career in clinical psychology. As such, I will be starting an MSc in Clinical Mental Health Sciences at UCL in September. This exhibition is being held to raise funds to pay for my tuition fees and help facilitate this exciting new adventure that is personally deeply meaningful. Of course, an event like this would simply not be possible without our community. There will be a fundraiser for the West Berkshire Dementia Hub which will be built to support people across West Berkshire and North Hampshire to receive vital early diagnosis, transforming the way that individuals and their family carers get the training and guidance they need. There will be a raffle for one of my paintings with tickets being sold for £10, an amazing chance to win an original painting and support a meaningful cause. All proceeds from the raffle will go to the Dementia Hub.

Art and Psychology - As psychology edges closer towards that of the natural sciences in its philosophy and application, psychology and art might be seen as existing on opposite ends of an analytical - creative spectrum. I believe it is for this very reason that art, be it visual art, music or literature, has the potential to be so significant in the psychology professions. Indeed, in the current climate of "medicalisation" of mental health - assessment, diagnosis, medication - what has stayed inherent to the human condition is the desire to make meaning of our suffering by telling stories and making art, thus transcending some of the absurdity of life by finding or creating beauty, meaning and purpose.



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*Competition Schedules are available
Online, Hilliers, Aldermaston Stores, The Hinds Head, The Butt Inn*



DON'T GET YOUR VICARS IN A TWIST

By Ann Gawthorpe and Lesley Bown

**Thu 24th, Fri 25th,
Sat 26th SEPT**

**Aldermaston
Parish Hall**

at 7.45 p.m.





TICKETS: £12

boxoffice.aldermastonplayers.co.uk

0118 971 2530

This is an amateur production of "Don't Get Your Vicars In A Twist" by arrangement with Stagescripts Ltd

Bar takes cash & CR cards

Aldermaston Parish Hall – Update and plans

In June we held a very successful, fun, fundraising event, with a 1970s theme. Thanks to everybody that helped organise and run this event and those that attended. We raised £950 and had new people attending and appreciating our beautiful hall, All enjoyed supper from the fish and chip van and the music and dancing led by DJ Jim.

As a committee, we are currently updating our Business Plan and agreeing our objectives and plans for the next 3-5 years. This is particularly important as we head to our 130th anniversary of the hall construction. We are also producing a brochure on the history of the hall. Did you know that the hall was at risk 80 years ago having gone into private ownership?

Our aim is to sustain and maintain our hall at the heart of the community. We would welcome ideas, input and contributions as we work to improve our hall and continue to increase the use and role. Please share ideas to: Info@aldermastonparishhall.co.uk

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

ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

As we approach the end of the school year, our pupils continue to embrace a wealth of exciting opportunities. Our talented Year 5 & 6 children performed at The Hexagon as part of the Junior Music Festival, along with many other local primary schools. Others have enjoyed memorable residential experiences, exploring Englefield Estate bringing their learning to life with hands-on experiences and of course Sports Day, which was as competitive as always, despite the heat. These enriching experiences play such an important role in developing confidence, resilience and curiosity – key skills for the future. Our traditional End of Year service was held at St. Mary's Church when we wished our departing Year 6 pupils all the best for their next chapter, together with others who are moving on to new pastures. The KS2 classes presented their production 'Looking for Treasure' which was a great success and much enjoyed by the enthusiastic audiences.

This term in Collective Worship, the theme of Thankfulness has encouraged the children to recognise and appreciate the people, opportunities and world around them. They have explored each of the British values - democracy, mutual respect, tolerance, the rule of law and individual liberty – helping children understand how these values support fairness, respect and positive relationships within the school and our wider community. Children have also been developing the qualities of our Ultimate Learning Hero, drawing on the skills of all five learning heroes to become increasingly independent, reflective, resilient and collaborative learners, both in the classroom and beyond.

Our grateful thanks go to everyone from the school and local community who came along and supported our Summer Fete, brilliantly organised by our dedicated PTA team. As well as having loads of fun with all the stalls and activities, valuable funds were raised which will be used to benefit every pupil in school.

Wishing you an enjoyable summer break from everyone at the school. We will be back in September welcoming our new Foundation Stage children and looking forward to a new term full of exciting learning opportunities.

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor

Aldermaston Parish Council – 14th July 2026

The Medicine Festival's Managing Director came to tell us about the event at Wasing from 12th-17th August. This year the festival starts on Wednesday to include a low-key celebration of the partial eclipse. About 9,500 festival goers are expected which is slightly up from the 2024 event, but arrivals will be staggered and changes have been made at the Wasing Lane entrance to get cars off the road quickly, so the impact on local traffic should be minimal. A hotline number will be operational for the duration of the event (#0118 391 3669). Further details including the event's License, Hotline and discounted ticket offer for locals can be found on our Facebook page.

In Open Forum we also heard from residents of Aldermaston Wharf who were frustrated at the lack of maintenance of public spaces and traffic noise from the A340. APC will explore the possibility of planting on the verge as an acoustic barrier and report the need for pavements to be cleared of vegetation.

There were just two new planning applications. One from AWE for the demolition of buildings near its Red Lane gate. AWE will observe best practice construction guidelines, but we will request that nearby residents be given some way to report any problems to AWE should they arise. The other is a retrospective application for an outdoor site training area at Barlows Plantation, Silchester Road. A similar application was refused in 2023 on Emergency Planning grounds. This time the site area is considerably bigger, and the applicant's Emergency Plans lack detail on how trainees and employees would shelter in the event of a radiation incident. We will request clarity and assurance on this issue.

We had an update on the Reading Road traveller's site. Another High Court hearing took place on 8th July. All parties now have until 24th to submit final written submissions after which the Court will issue a judgement. It is important to note that this judgement will only deal with the interim injunction, including how many people can live on site while the separate planning process plays out. The planning process will ultimately determine whether a permanent residential development will be allowed. A planning application has yet to be validated, so this will take some time.

Finally, we discussed AWE's Future Materials Campus project, its community drop-in sessions and completed its feedback survey. APC is impressed with AWE's openness and willingness to engage with the local community, but also extremely concerned about the impact of the FMC project especially on our local road network. The construction phase will be 10 years and at its peak there will be around 200 HGVs/buses accessing the Aldermaston site each day, and workers are expected to access the site from 6am to 8pm for a 7am to 7pm working day. To find out more about the FMC and share your views visit the AWE website: <https://awe.citizenspace.com/fmc/summer2026/>

Our next meeting is on 11th August. For details visit <https://aldermaston-pc.gov.uk/>

Sophie Crawford

Beenham News

Notes from Beenham Parish Council meeting Monday 6th July 2026

Councillors

-Thames Water have fenced off part of the recreation area in Stoneyfield for waste and storage. This land is leased to the PC from WBC, who were notified but didn't forward the information to the PC. WBC have apologised and TW will fully restore the area when the work is finished. The PC will formulate questions to TW at the public Q&A session in the Victory Hall on Thursday 16th July at 4.00pm.

- Affordable Housing initiative. There was no update on this.

-The tender document for the grass cutting and bin emptying contract was approved.

-The quote for repairs to the playground area of the Rec. An assessment of the needs will be made.

Planning Matters

-26/00955/FULMAJ. Land opposite Hillfoot, Beenham Hill. Erection of welfare facility and barn for use and management of land as it currently, ie agricultural. The PC is to submit concerns over the clarity of the intended use as the proposed buildings appear to be substantial for the given purpose. It was noted that the site is outside the Settlement Boundary Plan.

-26/01154/HOUSE. Brynteg, Clay Lane. Replacement shed. No objection.

-26/00710/HOUSE. New Hope, Picklepythe Lane. Erection of greenhouse. Granted.

-26/00953/HOUSE. Corner Cottage, RG7 5NA. Erection of two storey side extension. Granted.

-26/00959/LBC. Awberry Farm. Replacement of 2 Barn windows. Granted.

District Councillor

-A report was provided on current WBC activities. This included advice during the heatwaves including bin collection time, effects on highways and care for dogs.

-The current housing development in Theale consists of 30% of properties being affordable.

The next meeting of the PC will be held on Monday August 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

Parish Council website: www.beenham-pc.gov.uk

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

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM – AUGUST 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
ALL MONTH	BVE Treasure Hunt	Around the village	Look out for details on FB and Beenhamonline
Mon 3 rd	Parish Council meeting 7pm	Community Room	The Clerk - Lauren West: 07919916125
Sat 8 th	Monthly Church Working Party All help is most welcome	St Mary's Church 10am – 2pm	Brinelle: 07873548852
Sat 8 th	THERE IS NO MARKET THIS MONTH		Sally: 07776 251 228
Wed 12 th	WI – Summer Event (closed meeting)	Community Room 7.30pm	Sally: 07776 251 228
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 – Charity Afternoon Tea in aid of Berkshire Vision	Victory Hall. 2pm	Marion: 9713094 Tina: 01635826154
Tue 25 th	2– 3.30pm: Tearoom and Outreach Library	Victory Hall	Dru: 07815 055 040 Pat: 07947 478 840
Mon 31 st	BANK HOLIDAY		

NB: BEENHAM WALKERS HAVE NO WALKS PLANNED FOR AUGUST.

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

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

Beenham Village Treasure Hunt

July has been just a bit too hot to expect people to walk round the village, so we are now running the Treasure Hunt during the month of August.

Clues and details of how to enter will be posted on Facebook and on Beenham Online. Meanwhile, to whet your appetite, do you know the name of the oldest house in Beenham, or the names of the houses on the site of the old Beenham School? Do you know how long the Carebus has been running in West Berkshire? And what was Gerald Benney's profession? We hope you enjoy finding out the answers to these and a few other questions!

BEENHAM CALENDAR 2027



It's time to start planning the Beenham Calendar for 2027! Please send your photos, drawings and paintings of Beenham scenes and landmarks, wildlife, events and village life for the 2027 calendar.

If you'd be willing to let us know in which **MONTH** they were taken that would be very helpful.

Entries are open to anyone living or working in Beenham or those attending Beenham School or Pre-School.

Paintings and drawings should be scanned, and all entries sent to patowen0@hotmail.com - **MAXIMUM OF 3 ENTRIES PER PERSON. WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR ENTRIES BY FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH**

Greyfield Wood

Hello to you from Greyfield Wood!

At this time of year work in the wood revolves around the battle with the fast growing vegetation: grass, ferns, brambles, etc. Having scythed and cut an area, it seems like "groundhog day" a couple of weeks later, when it can look as if it has never been cut! The heat has also played a part, with volunteer sessions being reduced for the safety of all involved. Lets hope for some cooler weather soon.

Thank you to those of you who have commented on the work the volunteers do in the wood. It is appreciated.

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



Village market

There is NO market in August when lots of people are on holiday.

The next market will therefore be on September 12.

We do need more helpers - and it's a lovely way to make friends! If you can spare an hour and a half once a month do get in touch with Sally on mrssallypellow@gmail.com or 0777 625 1228

BEENHAM PRE-SCHOOL

There are certainly some big feelings at Pre-School as we write this. Our “Leavers” are all getting ready for our final Family Fun Day before they move on to their various Primary Schools in the area, and our “Keepers” are getting ready to step into the responsibilities of being “the older children” and welcome new friends in September, and throughout the coming year.

We have had so much fun over the last 12 months and made some amazing memories which the children will keep in their Tapestry Journals to look at in years to come. The friendships which have formed between the children, and also among their families, will last just as long we hope!

The extremely hot weather has been a challenge as we have all worked hard to keep the children safe and comfortable and still having fun. I have lost count of the number of ice pops and ice creams we have enjoyed over the last few weeks or the number of ice blocks we have frozen for tuff trays ... but we made it through. A huge thank you goes to our team of 8 staff who have continued to show up every day with smiles on their faces, so we could all melt together, and to our Committee who have been so supportive and done all they can to help!

We have lots of exciting plans for the year ahead and we will continue to welcome Pop Up Play Village, Outdoor Explorers and Baby College along with some other surprise guests and activities. We will be out in our garden in all weathers and exploring the village in smaller groups so you might spot our high-vis jackets or hear us coming :-)

Please do follow our public Facebook account if you would like to see more of what we get up to and read some of the reviews which parents have been leaving for us.

We only have a few spaces left for September onwards and we are now taking bookings for up to September 2028. 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

Paula ,Manager, Beenham Pre-School

Happy Summer everyone xx

NATURE NOTES

The weather may have been rather hotter than most of us like it, but the butterflies have certainly been in their element. However, that begs the question – do we provide all they need? Their first need is nectar, so, flowers. Most of our gardens have flowers. Their next need is something their caterpillars will eat. Stinging nettles come high on the list – not as welcome! Grasses, too are popular, so we must leave some longer grasses for these, where we have room. Then they must pupate – usually for the winter – so this must be somewhere safe where they can hang undisturbed. So, we need to be careful when trimming. If you have room in a shed for a jumble of boxes butterflies which can overwinter, such as red admirals and tortoiseshells will be only too glad to make use of them.

If you stand in your garden after dark, you will notice a change in scents. This is because moths must now be attracted. We have far more moth varieties than butterflies – but that’s another story.

Stella Nesbitt

BEENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have had an amazing term at Beenham Primary School, filled with celebration, achievement and plenty of moments that remind us just how special our school community is. As the year draws to a close, we have loved taking time to recognise all the hard work, kindness and creativity that our children and our wider community bring to school every single day.

Our favourite summer traditions, Sports Day and the Colour Run, gave a fantastic send-off to the first half of term. The sunshine, cheering and the joyful splashes of colour created a brilliant atmosphere, and it was wonderful to see families and friends coming together to celebrate the children's efforts.

Since then, school has been buzzing with activity. We held our annual *Beenham's Got Talent*, where children showcased their incredible skills, from singing and dancing to comedy, magic and everything in between. Their confidence and enthusiasm were a joy to watch.

We also celebrated our second *Pride of Beenham Awards*, recognising the amazing people who shape our school and village community. A huge well done to this year's winners:

Outstanding Contribution to the Community – Kate Bowsher

Outstanding Contribution to the School – Sam and Lee O'Neill

Volunteer/Fundraiser of the Year – Jeanette Burgess

Edwin Roe Award – Aila (Tundra)

Inspiration Award – Harry (Torak)

Heart of Beenham – Peter McEwen

Lifetime Achievement Award – Jackie Homick

Each of these individuals has made a remarkable difference, and we are proud to celebrate their contributions.

Our end-of-year production, *The Rocky Monster Show*, was another highlight. Every year, we are blown away by the children's commitment, teamwork and sheer determination to put on a brilliant performance and this year was no exception.

We also enjoyed a whole-school trip to Marwell Zoo, generously funded by a kind donor in the village. It was a fantastic day of exploration and excitement, and we extend our heartfelt thanks once again for their generosity.

As we reach the end of this busy and joyful year, we want to thank our entire community - children, staff, parents, governors and friends of Beenham Primary School - for their ongoing support, love and encouragement. It is this shared spirit that makes Beenham such a special place to learn and grow.

Now, we look forward to a well-earned rest over the summer. We can't wait to be back together in September, ready for new adventures and another wonderful year ahead.

BVE's Beenham Giant Vegetable and Flower Show



From 1.30pm on 13th September 2026 in the Victory Hall

This promises to be another fun focused day, very much aimed at adults and children alike. We want to see your **longest runner bean**, **longest carrot**, **heaviest tomato**, **heaviest pumpkin** and **tallest sunflower** - to name just a few classes.

How are your potatoes getting on?

I think mine are going to have to be transported to the weigh-in at the Victory Hall in a wheelbarrow!

1.30 – 2.30pm: drop off your vegetables, flowers and wonky veg.

2.30 – 3.00pm: judging in the Hall (doors closed) whilst the "potato weigh in" is happening outside the Hall

3.00pm – 4.00pm: Doors Open and the Show is open to everyone

Refreshments in aid of St Mary's church during the Show.

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 cake recipe: Fudgy chocolate courgette cake!

For full details of all the classes and an entry form please email Jonathan: ondrury@hotmail.com or Pat: patowen0@hotmail.com

BEENHAM WI

We had a fascinating meeting in July, hearing about the Corporation of the City of London, the various Livery Companies and lots of fascinating facts about the history of the Square Mile and its status in our country. Sarah spoke with films and slides and kept us riveted.

Our next meeting, in August, is not an open meeting as it's our Summer Social: but if you'd be interested in finding out more about our social programme, our speakers, and our involvement in a respected national women's organisation, then do contact us on beenhamwi@berkshirewi.co.uk.

RIDE + STRIDE **for Churches**

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

Brenda and Bill Scott are going to do a sponsored Ride and Stride for Brimpton Church and Berkshire Historic Churches Trust.

PLEASE SPONSOR THEM!

Sponsorship form in the church

Half the funds raised will go straight to the Spire Project, and half to BHCT, which is a generous supporter of St Peter's Church, Brimpton.

Brimpton 100 Club

The 100 Club winner in July was no.9, Max Brazier.

Brimpton Parish Council

The Parish Council met on **Tuesday 7th July**. The agenda included:

Medicine Festival

We were joined for a Q & A session by Lythe Hampshire, the Operations Manager for the Medicine Festival, which will be held at Wasing Park from 12th to 17th August. They expect between 7,000 and 8,000 visitors spread out that period.

Mr Hampshire explained that they have tried to ensure the event causes as little disruption to residents as possible. There will be road signs directing traffic away from Brimpton. Most vehicles are expected to use the A340 and will enter and leave the site via two entry points, both in Wasing Lane. The organisers have a traffic management plan and emergency action plan if the traffic starts to back up.

In answer to questions about noise mitigation, Lythe Hampshire explained that the sound systems will be nearer the forest area and they will be using hay bales to suppress the sound. There will be a contact number for residents to call with any concerns. The phone will be answered at any time throughout the event .

Speed Indicator Device (SID)

The new SID has been used outside the Village Hall and at the end of Hatch Lane. There were some speeds of 100mph recorded outside the hall and whilst we know there are vehicles which travel well in excess of the speed limit, given the bends on the approach to the hall, we wondered whether these figures were accurate. We will speak to the supplier about the results and ask their opinion on whether this could be an error with the unit.

Overgrown Hedges

Charles Brims has spoken to the Wasing Estate and to the landowners regarding the overgrown hedges in three locations in the parish. The Wasing Estate has agreed to cut the hedges and the landowners are happy for this to be done.

District Councillor's Report

Cllr Dominic Boeck has raised with WBC Highways the issue of road closures with no notice for residents. Recently Wasing Road was closed for two days and residents were only informed after the closure had already started. In this case it was on behalf of Thames Water who claimed it was due to “emergency work” but there is no evidence of this.

Cllr Boeck reported that his Member's Bid to West Berkshire Council had resulted in a grant of £2,000 being awarded to St. Peter's Church for repairs to the flint walls.

Cllr Boeck's report will be available to read on the Parish Council website:

www.brimpton-pc.gov.uk

Cross Border Liaison Group

Baughurst Parish Council has suggested some dates for an initial liaison meeting between parishes along the Hampshire/Berkshire border. Wendy Matthews agreed to represent Brimpton on the group.

There were no new planning applications to consider. The Parish Council will meet again on **Tuesday 4th August**. The meeting will be held in the Village Hall and starts at 7.30pm. It is open to everyone to attend.

Nick Matthews, Brimpton Parish Council

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**



COFFEE MORNINGS

2nd Wednesday of the month

IN BRIMPTON CHURCH

10 am - 11.30 am

Wednesday 12th August

Wednesday 9th September

Wednesday 14th October

***Everyone welcome
(including dogs)***



We hope you like our new logo. Many thanks to Nick Matthews and his friend Cris, who kindly designed it for us. You may have seen banners and posters around the village, and there will be many more.

The Project Group has been busy, and we plan to hold another Open Meeting after the summer to give a detailed update on the spire. In the meantime, here is a brief outline of what has been happening since we last wrote.

First of all, we have been overwhelmed by the amazing donations and support from Brimpton parish. While we hope to find some large grants to cover some of the expense, we need help from our Brimpton community to have a chance of raising the total funds needed. Thank you to all the kind people who have organised collections for the Spire Fund, and to those who have so generously contributed. With your help, we have been able to do a lot of the preparatory work.

The two main focuses for the moment are to ensure that we get the best value for money, and to identify possible sources of funding. We are continuing to research the best materials to use, and we have already made some savings by moving the work to a new firm of architects that offers better value.

However, as we know the cost will inevitably be very high. It will take time to raise the money and there is still a long way to go. Members of the project group have been to meetings and presentations with grant making bodies, including the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NHLF), the Historic Churches Fund and Berkshire Historic Churches Fund. The Golden Ticket would be a grant from the NHLF and we are working on an application. However, fewer than half of all bids are successful, so we daren't be too optimistic about our chances and we continue to explore every avenue.

We will continue to update you about our progress, and once again, thank you for all your support.

SOS Project Group

Brimpton WI

At our June meeting our speakers were John and Margaret Baxter. They took us to Tanzania and their experience of Mount Kilimanjaro which rises to over 19,000 feet.

Before John retired from BP he was stationed all over the world, including Tanzania. They knew that organised parties could be taken on 6-day walking trips up and down the mountain. He persuaded the powers that be in BP, to have a team building exercise with other engineers from around the world.

Participants had to raise £2,500 towards the costs. Because of the altitude problem, the walks are the carefully controlled and it is compulsory to be part of an organised group. The cost includes accommodation tents, carried by porters. Everyone must carry their own personal knapsack. Food was prepared at each night stop. Portable toilets and water to wash in were available. Everything had to be carried up the mountain. All rubbish is gathered and taken to base camp, for disposal. In addition to guides, porters, catering staff etc. the local support team included a doctor, (paid for BP), a local team leader/head guide,

The Tanzanian Guide instructed them "to walk slowly", for 55 minutes then take a 5-minute throughout the walk. There were guides who stayed with the slower walkers. After dinner dancing took place!! This was a very good idea, as it helped relax the leg muscles.

Margaret then took over. Initially it was hot and dry, then came a lot of rain. As they gradually ascended, they arrived at the level pine forest with stunning views. There are two routes up the mountain. They took the shorter one, which had the disadvantage of going back downhill into the rain, before ascending again. Members of the group started getting altitude sickness, which affected individuals in different ways. Statistics show that 75% of individuals do not reach the summit.

Kilimanjaro has twin peaks, one slightly higher than the other. Having crawled across a rock field the previous day, Margaret suffered from altitude sickness and decided she would not attempt either climb and returned to her tent and slept! John reached the summit and took stunning photographs of the views. They both thoroughly enjoyed the experience but are unlikely to tackle again.

The 2 days it took to descend were much easier. Everyone was talking more and learned about the guides and their families. Learning about the National park in which Kilimanjaro sits and the tourist mecca which it now is, enables the men to support their families.

Our next meeting will be in Brimpton Village Hall on Tuesday 15 September at 7.30 pm. Helen Hyde will be giving a talk on "The Silk Road". If you would like to know more about Brimpton WI please contact Shellie Bassil (0118 971 0563) or Annette Dolphin (0118 971 0090). New Members are always welcome.

Gwynedd Roberts
WI Correspondent



Harvest Lunch

Saturday 3rd October

12.30pm in Brimpton Village Hall

Adults: £12.50 Children under 10: £5

Includes a soft drink. Bring your own beer or wine

Proceeds to St Peter's Church, Save our Spire Fund

Tickets available from:

Brenda Scott mrsbscott@btinternet.com

Mel Bowring mebowring@outlook.com

Sue Moore susanmoore50@hotmail.com

Patricia Brims pcbrims@hotmail.com

Bank details, if you would like to pay online:

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In memory of Pat Gardner 1929-2026

The lovely old church was full to overflowing as we wedged ourselves in the wooden pews with latecomers standing along the sides. What a wonder to be so widely loved at ninety-six. Heaven was beaming - bathing us in warmth so best summer dresses were brought out in April, but the men in respect donned their dark suits.

His life was a triumph in so many ways - he'd fought the good fight with a twinkly smile. Sent to school in England at such a young age - years without parents - but plenty of sport. Then leading his troops as a royal marine we learnt of his kindness and calm under fire. An MC and honours that never got mentioned: instead he'd a story of a naughty small boy!

A daughter read a poem - An Oak of a Man it described their beloved Dad, so upright and strong, his great love of games and stories well told. But mostly we heard what everyone knew that marriage to Annie made him the happiest man, as together they opened their arms to all comers, while cherishing their family - through the years how it grew.

A granddaughter had wanted to read of God's love.

But her grief for her Bumpa was too much to bear. Her father stepped up and we shared in Pat's faith in the love of his God through thick and through thin. Then we stood for the bugle and gave thanks for a life so full of giving - so extremely well lived.

We prayed for his family now he's gone on ahead they'll miss him we know - so we'll be by their sides .

Then into the sunshine we blinked out of church, both nimble and frail busy greeting old friends - and did I imagine that heads were held higher? Or were we inspired by the life we had honoured - by a core that was straight and a mind that was quick by his eyes filled with light and his heart filled with love?

Juliet Burton

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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

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

St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston and St Nicholas, Wasing

2 August	10:45	Holy Communion, Wasing
9 August	10:45	Holy Communion
16 August	10:45	Holy Communion

St Marys, Beenham

9 August	09:15	Holy Communion
30 August	10:00	Benefice Holy Communion

St Peters, Brimpton

2 August	10:45	Holy Communion
16 August	09:15	Morning Praise

St Matthews, Midgham

2 August	09:15	BCP Communion
23 August	17:00	Evensong

St Peters, Woolhampton

9 August	10:45	Holy Communion
23 August	10:45	Holy Communion

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