

Villages' News



Useful Contacts

Non-emergency numbers:

NHS 111

Police 101

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

Problems with roads (eg potholes), footpaths etc:

www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem

Doctors' surgeries:

Chapel Row Surgery: 0118 971 3252

Holmwood Surgery: 0118 981 4166

District Councillors:

Woolhampton/Midgham: Chris Read: 07714 081565

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

Parish Councils: Clerks' details:

Aldermaston: Abi Lewis : parishclerk@aldermaston-pc.gov.uk

Beenham: Lauren West : 07919 916 125

Brimpton: Christine McGarvie: 0118 970 1576

Midgham: Ellie Brewer 07877 122127

Woolhampton: Ellie Brewer 07877 122127

Village Halls:

Aldermaston: aldermastonparishhall@gmail.com

Beenham: 01189 714 822

Brimpton: 0118 971 3731

Midgham: 07941 093 853

Woolhampton: bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com

Churches:

Aldermaston & Woolhampton Benefice: 0118 971 2891

Brimpton Baptist Church: 07944 956242

Douai Abbey: 0118 971 5300

Magazine advertising:

Brenda Scott: 0118 971 3113 mrsbscott@btinternet.com

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Thatcham RG19 4QB . Tel: 01635 876498

Committee Comments

A number of pundits are comparing this year's summer with the summer of 1976. Well, I remember the summer of 1976 very well. It was the year that I bought my very first open top car, a brand new MG Midget.

With the weather so nice a friend and I decided to go on holiday in the car after the schools had gone back for the Autumn term. We were going to go 'cruising', covering Devon, Cornwall and South Wales in a week. Well on the day we left in mid September the weather broke and it started teaming down with rain, but we carried on regardless [it was fortunate that the roof didn't leak like my next car, an MGB].

Being the days before an extensive motorway network, we had to navigate via A and B roads. When we got to Wales it was up and down the hills and valleys, which was a nightmare as there was so much water running down the roads it was like driving in a river.

Anyway, back to the present and reality [and my open top car days disappeared from the scene years ago]. As I write this the weather forecast is for rain in a week or so time, enough to dampen the ground and indeed no doubt enough to get my lawn growing again so I will have to get out and start cutting it again!!

Well enough of my rambles, we hope you enjoy this edition of the Villages News. Do also check out the advertisers, since all the ones I've used are really good and reasonably priced.

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.



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

Deodorant, instant noodles, mug shots, cereal bars, cereal, cuppa soup, pasta sauce, suncream, squash, tinned fruit, tinned meat.

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 problem with getting older

A senior lady goes to the doctor complaining of aches and pains. After examining her, the doctor feels he should be frank: 'Well, Mrs Smith, I'm sorry to say that the aches and pains you're getting are all part of the natural aging process. I'm afraid I can't prescribe anything to make you younger.' To which she replies, 'I'm not so worried about getting younger, I'd just like you to help make sure I get a little bit older!'

Woolhampton News

Village Market

The next market will be in the Village Hall on September 5th from 10am to 12noon. There is no entry charge for this popular monthly event which gives everyone the chance to find out what's happening in the area. If you're new to the village, it's an ideal way to meet people and see the great variety of merchandise on offer at the stalls. As ever, refreshments are available.

District Councillor's Surgery

The District Councillor, Mr Chris Read, representing Woolhampton parish will be holding his monthly 'surgery' at Woolhampton Village hall on Saturday 26th September from 9 to 11a.m.. If you have an issue with an area within the parish or with West Berks District services, please come along to discuss it with him.

Woolhampton & Midgham WI

Our talk in July was from Ailsa Claybourn who does walks and talks exploring the ecology and history of our countryside. She is mad about birds and showed us many species in her slide show and had the various sounds they make on her phone. She is often found at The Discovery Centre in Thatcham. Her talk was Enchanted Woodlands. It was fascinating hearing all about the different trees and how they behave throughout the season, the birds and animals that affect the ecosystem. We have the landed gentry to thank for so many ancient Oak Trees still thriving as they refused to let anyone on their land to disturb it and now more and more people are striving to regenerate our woodlands. Cutting down bracken and smaller invasive shrubs and trees so that other sturdier trees can reach the sun and thrive. Oaks especially like a lot of room. Trees also protect themselves. In the spring the leaves are lovely and green and once the caterpillars are out nibbling on them the leaves turn darker and tougher to deter them. As the leaves decay in the winter, they provide nutrients for the trees.

In August we had our summer evening out at the Bladebone, Chapel Row, which we all enjoyed. There were 15 of us and although it was still hot due to the never-ending heatwave we managed to watch the eclipse due to the special glasses our Committee supplied to everyone.

We are having Simon Booker a Nature Photographer to our September meeting, which will be really good as some of have seen his wonderful work already.

We are also looking forward to our river cruise in October with a cream tea.

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, Woolhampton.

More information from Mrs Beryl Smith, our President – 01635 861374.

Annual Village Show 2026



The 25th Annual Show took place in the Village Hall on Saturday 15th August. Fortunately, it was a pleasant summer's day (not the searing heat which has defined this summer) and this seemed to prompt such a large number of visitors.

For the first time, this year's Show had theme which was to raise monies for the Cancer Research Charity and featured a special class 'Decorate a Bra'. The Organising Committee agreed that the proceeds of the raffle and refreshment sales in conjunction with donations from the public would go to the Charity and to-date the total raised, plus subsequent personal donations, reached £500. A truly remarkable effort from all participants.

In the Show, there were very good displays of vegetables and flowers despite the extremely challenging growing conditions. As usual, the cookery classes were very popular, and there were more entries in the children's classes this year due to the encouragement of parents and the presence, on the day, of school-fundraising events such as a tombola. This Show is such a fun event, it was good to see many new families and it is hoped that they will be enthused to participate more in the future.

Individual prize-winners were:

Best Show Vegetable – Krista May (for her French beans)

4 Vegetables on a Board – Krista May (50 points total)

Best Floral Display – Krista May (for her vase of fresh flowers)

Specimen rose – Stephanié Molloy

Best in Show for Cookery and Preserves – Heather Hughes (for her sausage rolls)

Potatoes grown in a container' competition (adults) - Woody with 23lb 4oz

(juniors) – Alberta Reed with 1lb 4 oz

Tallest sunflower – Rackie Powell whose sunflower, at the time of measuring, reached 323.5cm (10ft 7in – old money!)

In an effort encourage more children to get involved, special mention was given to Adaline Coombes and Lydia McWhinney whose sunflowers were measured at 292.5cm and 282.5cm, respectively.

There were well over 150 exhibits from 60+ entrants. Congratulations to all class winners and commiserations to all other entrants, who will no doubt have vowed to do better next time! (It was very encouraging to hear people saying "Oh, I'm going to have a go at that next year", across a variety of categories apparently – we look forward to seeing you next year.)

Huge thanks to all who entered classes, and to the judges, all who attended (well over 100), and to the organising committee (Cathy, Anne, Jenny, Krista) and helpers (David, Margaret, Heather, Dewi, Woody, Mark, Roger) who made the Show such a success.



'Coming together, learning to be the best we can be'

At Woolhampton C of E Primary School we continue to pride ourselves in living our Christian **ROCK** values in everything we do. **R** for Respect, **O** for Optimism, **C** for Compassion and **K** for Koinonia. The children understand the meaning and relevance of these values in their learning and it is the hope that they stay with them beyond the classroom and into the community.



Community is so important to us as a school and as the annual Village Summer Show proved once again. The 'Friends of Woolhampton', FoW, provided traditional activities for the villagers coming to 'show' their home grown produce; activities of hook-a-duck and tin can alley along with the chocolate tombola were enjoyed by everyone. Thank you to those who supported our activities and for also those helping out on a rather warm afternoon!

Members of the community are often supporting our school behind the scenes and this is so valuable to the experiences we can offer the children. Several generous donations have been received to support the purchase of our new minibus, volunteers continue to give their time to listen to our children read and the frequent drop-offs of clothing and ink cartridges go towards the much-needed budget to enhance the school day for everyone. These seemingly small things make a big difference to the school so thank you!

Finally, we would like to ask that if you would like to be part of our community, perhaps offering a skill or subject of interest to share with the children at office@woolhampton.school.org.uk, we would love to hear from you. If you have a child due to start school or would like to know more about what we offer then look out for our open-day sessions during the Autumn term, specific dates can be found on our website www.woolhampton.school.co.uk

Nikki Jordan, Chair of Governors



Fire (2) Osier Beds Ablaze - ‘Wasing Place’ Inferno

In March 1934 police and ‘AA’ scouts guided motorists through the smoke that slowed traffic on the A4 to the east of the village. A fire from the road-side osier beds had spread rapidly from the railway line across the beds with flames threatening the cottage of rod workers George and Norman Adnams. Two fire engines from Newbury were alerted to attend, one broke down and failed to reach Woolhampton. Fire fighters ran a hose from the river under the railway track. The fire progressed 100 yards before it abated. Storage sheds were destroyed, horses rescued from stables by ‘Elby’ Hawkins, rod worker from Tadley. A fire engine remained on the site all that night and the fire continued to smoulder until the following evening.

At 07.30 on Thursday 22nd February 1945, the last year of the war, an outbreak of fire was discovered in Wasing Place the home of the Mount family since the 18th century. The Newbury brigade was alerted at 07.59 but was misdirected to Basing. The outbreak was seen to be serious and brigades were summoned from Thatcham, Reading, Didcot, Maidenhead and Bray. Fire-fighting was hampered by the boggy ground and the need to pump water from an ice pond a half mile from the seat of the fire. Alas! The once proud mansion stood gutted and roofless with the blackened beams reflecting the severity of the blaze. The cause?

A daily occurrence in these war years was the arrival at Midgham Station of a train from Paddington conveying GWR clerical staff from the London ‘blitz’. These refugees then alighted and transferred to waiting single decker ‘buses’ and were taken to the wartime offices at Wasing Place. At this time other GWR staff were similarly conveyed on the same train to their work places at Beenham Grange and Crookham House.

Sir William Mount was at this time resident at Wasing Farm recovering from wounds sustained while in action during the D-day landings. He later recorded “the fire due it is believed to a char woman lighting fires with a taper dropping burning wax into a waste paper basket”.

The rebuilding was delayed because of the acute post-war shortage of building materials.

On 13th July 1956 the ‘Daily Telegraph’ reported, “Sir William and Lady Mount have returned to Wasing Place”.

John Trigg



DUCK DERBY TICKETS: <https://duckderby.awshow.org.uk>

FIND OUT ALL ABOUT IT ON OUR WEBSITE

<https://awshow.org.uk>



DUCK DERBY TICKETS
COMPETITION CLASSES
CRAFT STALLS
CHARITY STALLS
CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT
BAR
EGG THROWING
GRAND RAFFLE
COMMUNITY STALLS
FOOD STALLS
TOMBOLA
MAIN ARENA
& LOTS MORE

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

Aldermaston Parish Council – 11th August 2026

Aldermaston Parish Council discussed a wide range of planning, highways and community issues at its August meeting.

Planning matters featured prominently. APC objected to proposals for a new car wash at Hilliers Garden Centre, citing concerns about noise affecting neighbouring homes, operating hours, signage, lighting, drainage and emergency planning. The PC will submit its objections and request appropriate conditions should WBC be minded to approve the application.

APC also agreed to **object to the proposed temporary Park and Ride facility at Tadley Rugby Club for AWE construction workers**, which would operate until June 2028. Concern relates to additional pressure on local roads and the partial loss of community use of the rugby club. The proposal would generate around 170 daily two-way vehicle movements, including three 28-seat shuttle buses, from as early as 5:30am. APC believes the impact on residents has been understated and has suggested that workers could instead walk to AWE's Boiler House entrance and then use AWE's internal road network, avoiding additional large vehicles on our roads.

The Council also remains strongly opposed to the **Padworth Sawmills development**. WBC's planning officer is currently expected to recommend approval when the application goes before Planning Committee on 2 September. APC will seek early sight of the officer's report, press for another site visit and prepare a presentation highlighting the potential impact on the local community.

Several **planning breaches** were discussed, including ongoing development at sites on Reading Road and Mill Lane. APC will formally report concerns about a large commercial building recently erected at Pinewood on Soke Road.

On **highways and public transport**, APC expressed concern about the proposed withdrawal of the 7:45am bus service from Aldermaston Wharf from September. The Council is worried about the impact on vulnerable and isolated residents, given the loss of other rural services in recent years. APC will respond to WBC. Residents have also reported damaged bridges on the Aldermaston cycleway; the Council will ask WBC to address these urgently, particularly ahead of the new school term.

The Council also discussed the storage of used tyres at the former car supermarket site on Paices Hill. APC will report its concerns to WBC, including potential health and safety issues associated with the tyres being stored close to neighbouring properties.

Looking ahead, APC will respond to **WBC's scoping consultation on its new Local Plan**, highlighting the significant and growing impact of AWE's Aldermaston site on our parish. With the Hub development still ongoing, and the proposed 10-year Future Materials Campus expected to begin in 2027, APC believes future planning policy must ensure adequate mitigation and prevent further development from compounding the impact on local residents and roads.

Finally, APC is arranging a meeting with neighbouring parish councils to discuss the potential impacts of AWE's site development and whether councils should respond collectively to the anticipated outline planning application. Six councils have so far expressed an interest in attending.

Our next meeting is on 8th September. For details visit <https://aldermaston-pc.gov.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

We are in the middle of the school holidays, at the time of writing this piece, and I trust that everyone is enjoying a well-deserved break.

As term ended, we were proud to announce that we have been awarded the Gold School Games Mark. This is a nationally recognised award which celebrates our commitment to providing high-quality PE, school sport and physical activity opportunities for all our children. Achieving Gold is a wonderful recognition of the hard work, enthusiasm and dedication shown by our pupils, staff and volunteers throughout the year. From taking part in a wide range of sporting competitions and festivals to promoting inclusive opportunities and encouraging healthy, active lifestyles, this award reflects the value we place on sport and physical activity as part of a broad and balanced education. We are proud of the children who have represented the school with enthusiasm, determination, resilience and excellent sportsmanship at every event. They have been fantastic ambassadors for our school, and this achievement belongs to each one of them.

Our PTA team was pleased to report that, with the help of our sponsors, a profit of just under £4000 was raised at the Summer Fete. Thanks again to everyone who supported this event, Across the year the PTA has been able to fund a fantastic range of items including Pantomime coaches and ice creams, a Christmas gift for every child, five new playground benches and parasols and a Digi Maps subscription for Geography and a globe for every classroom.

In a few weeks the new academic year will begin, and we look forward to welcoming our new pupils across the classes. I am confident that they will settle in quickly to the pattern of the school day, develop friendships with classmates and embark on their learning journey with us.

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor



heritage open days

There are 50 Heritage Open Day events within a 10 miles radius of Aldermaston. Check out the website.



<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/whats-on.html>



Find My Past



ALDERMASTON HISTORY GROUP

St Mary the Virgin Church Aldermaston

Church Road, RG7 4HR

Saturday 12th Sept 10:00 to 17:00
Sunday 13th Sept noon to 17:00

Thanks to the rector and PCC, this is a chance to take a leisurely wander around this beautiful local building. Members of the History Group will be on hand to talk about the church and some Aldermaston. Everyday histories.



DON'T GET YOUR VICARS IN A TWIST

By Ann Gavthorpe 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



Bar takes cash & CR cards

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

Beenham News

BEENHAM CALENDAR 2027 – LAST CALL!



Thank you for the entries I've already received for the 2027 Calendar.

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!

Thistle seeds are menacing Beenham! At times it has seemed as if there is a blizzard of white floating thistle seeds being carried on the little breeze we may have had. This is especially the case in the wood! We have therefore been cutting the thistles down, albeit this year, too late to stop the spread of the seeds....

Other jobs being done are clearing drains and ditches as well as felling a dead Sweet Chestnut tree.

Over the next month we will be checking the saplings to see how many have succumbed to the hot and dry weather. They will be replaced at the end of the year. We will also be adding some wooden railings to the "sleeper bridge" that crosses the Bourne stream. We will also be adding some anti-slip mesh. These things will make it safer for people walking through the wood. The "Winter path" near the stream will be cut back, ready for when the stream area gets boggy. (I am sure it will at some stage....)

I think that is it for this month, except to say that if you fancy a nice walk in the shade, please wander down to Greyfield Wood.

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



Community Harvest Lunch

Sunday 11th October

The Victory Hall, Beenham

12 noon for 12.30pm start

- £12.50 for an adult's ticket
- £5 for children 5-10years old
- Under fives: free

Includes a two course meal, and a welcome soft drink

Bring your own beer or wine and glasses!

Tickets available from:

Janette Hammond: 07917818283 janette@janettehammond.co.uk

Pat Owen: 07947478840 patowen0@hotmail.com

You are also welcome to pay for your tickets online.

Account name: Beenham Parochial Church Council

Account number: 70163503

Sort code:20-71-03

Please give a reference of HARVEST

Proceeds to the maintenance of St Mary's Church

Autumn Charity Party at Awberry Farm on 14th Nov

Awberry Farm is hosting an Autumn Charity Party on Saturday 14 November 2026, from 7–11pm.

Tickets are £15 and include a delicious curry supper and live music from Twozcompany. All proceeds from ticket sales and the raffle on the night will go towards local causes.

Come along, enjoy a great evening and support some worthwhile local charities.

Tickets: Email info@awberryfarm.co.uk with the number of tickets you require.

Raffle prizes: Donations of raffle prizes would be very gratefully received.

Notes from Beenham Parish Council meeting 3rd August 2026

Tributes were given to Dieter Hinke following the news of his untimely passing in Spain. He was a retired Parish Councillor who had given a great deal of effort, advice and support to Beenham and its Community. Our condolences were offered to his family and friends at this difficult time.

Public Forum

- WBC to asked to clear the debris left after the hedge cutting in Church Lane.
- Junction with Bath Road. WBC response to a complaint was explained. A meeting with WBC is to be requested regarding this dangerous junction to try to escalate the matter further.
- The lime trees alongside the rec are obstructing the path. This is to be investigated.

Councillors

- Thames Water extended work. The discussions between the PC and TW's contractors regarding road closures and the disputed use of the play area in Stoneyfield which is being used to store plant equipment and waste spoil, was reported. Although we have been assured that the area will be fully refurbished after the work has been completed, this does not resolve the issue of a recreation area being removed from use by Parishioners. As a result the PC will communicate its concerns to M Group/Thames Water and WBC and the need for restitution. As a reminder, this land is owned by the Parish Council, and no request was made to authorise this use by either WBC or Thames Water.
- Affordable Housing initiative. There was no further update on this.

Planning Matters

- There were no new Planning applications.
- Planning decisions.
- 26/01100/CERTP Jayswood, Clay Lane. Fitting of PV panels. Granted.
- 26/01066/CERTP 3 The Strouds. Application for Lawful Development Certificate. Refused.

Parish Councillors

- The quote for maintenance of the childrens play area on the Rec was discussed. A site visit revealed that not all the issues identified in the quote indicated significant risk. The contractor will be met to clarify the work required. The PC will consider placing a contingency in its annual budget for ongoing maintenance costs.
- The matter of the PC acquiring its own Speed Indicator (SID) was discussed. Neighbouring PCs are to be asked what they do and whether we can share the use.
- Grants. It was agreed to provide grants totalling £1300 to the Parish Church (PCC) for the maintenance of the Church Grounds and acquisition of the necessary power tools.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday September 7th in the Community Room at 7.00pm**

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 – SEPTEMBER 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
Mon 7 th	Parish Council meeting 7pm	Community Room	The Clerk - Lauren West: 07919916125
Wed 9 th	WI-Speaker: Jackie Dimmock- "Tales from a life in policing"	Community Room 7.30pm	Sally: 07776 251 228
Thu 10 th	Beenham Walkers: walk from Pangbourne to Mapledurham lock and back through Purley.	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am – car share	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Thu 10 th	Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6 £4/person	Six Bells 7.30 for 8pm	9713368 to book
Sat 12 th	Monthly Church Working Party All help is most welcome	St Mary's Church 10am – 2pm	Brinelle: 07873548852
Sat 12 th	2pm – 3.30pm: Village Market	Victory Hall	Sally: 07776 251 228
Sun 13 th	Giant Veg and Flower Show-see ad. Refreshments in aid of St Mary's	Victory Hall 1.30pm – 4pm	Pat: 07947 478 840
Sat 19 th	Greyfield Woods Volunteer Morning. 8.30 – 12pm	Meet at wood entrance	John: 9712924
Sat 19 th	Calleva Stick Dressers 9am–2pm	Victory Hall	David: 07864 180 648
Wed 16 th	Beenham Friendship Club for over 55s – Bingo Afternoon	Victory Hall. 2pm	Marion: 9713094 Tina: 01635826154
Thu 24 th	Beenham Walkers: Walk around Hermitage	Meet at Victory Hall at 9.30am - car share	Pauline Stares 01189713481
Tue 29 th	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 or 07947478840

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

Beenham WI

Our August social meeting challenged us with some serious brain teaser puzzles, as well as enjoying a pot luck supper with Pimms. We started the meeting slightly later than normal so that we could all watch the eclipse. In September, we have a speaker coming, Jackie Dimmock, who will be talking about her career in the police force: she comes highly recommended. Visitors are welcome, for a suggested donation of £4; the meeting begins at 7.30 in the Community Room. If you'd like to know more about joining the WI, contact us on beenhamwi@berkshirewi.co.uk for details.

Beenham's 2nd Giant Vegetable and Flower Show



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

TIMETABLE:

1.30 – 2.30pm: drop off your vegetables, flowers and wonky veg for judging (we will need your name and a contact number)

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.

We appreciate that due to the dry weather some vegetables may be much smaller than expected but please enter into the fun and bring along some entries – you may be surprised to win a rosette!

- Please photograph your tallest sunflower with a measure beside it and either email the photo to Jon or bring it along on the day to put on our sunflower height chart!
- If you need help with transporting potato bags please get in touch!

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!

NEW ADDITION:

Children's Vegetable animal. Make an animal out of vegetables and bring it along!

THERE ARE LOTS OF ROSETTES TO WIN!

Tea and cake for sale in aid of St Mary's church

COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FUN!!

If you have **ANY** questions at all please email Jon jondrury@hotmail.com or Pat patowen0@hotmail.com (07947478840)

Beenham Village Market

After our summer break, the village market returns on Saturday 12 August, opening from 2pm to 3.30pm. Come along for a range of stalls, for coffee and cake or even for our slightly eclectic raffle!

If you are interested in having a stall, please get in touch with Sally Pellow on mrssallypellow@gmail.com or on 0777 625 1228. We welcome new stalls, and this is always a good way to assess interest in what you are selling.



Brimpton 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 or 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:

Sort Code: 30-96-96

Account number: 89162760

Please mark your payment **Harvest**

Harvest Festival Service
9.15am on Sunday 4th October

*Donations of non-perishable food etc for the Foodbank
will be gratefully received*

RIDE + STRIDE **for Churches**

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

**Brenda and Bill Scott will 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 Parish Council

The council met on Tuesday 4th August. The agenda included:

Community Connect Bus

Mr Matthews reported that the Community Connect Bus that runs through the village every weekday at 8:07am was going to be cancelled by West Berkshire Council due to low usage. Cllr Dominic Boeck was able to intervene and provide evidence of the importance of the service. West Berkshire Council have reversed the decision to cancel the service. Mr. Matthews thanked Cllr Boeck for his help and West Berkshire Council for reversing the decision.

To discuss request from Aldermaston Parish Council for a joint meeting with AWE to discuss site development plans and impact on local community.

Mr Dolphin volunteered to attend the suggested meeting.

To consider new planning applications received and provide updates on any already considered

26/01159/HOUSE – Eastbank, Brimpton Lane - Demolition, reconstruction and remodelling of rear section and refurbishment of listed house

The applicant was at the meeting and outlined the background to the application. Approval had already been given for the demolition of the extension but there have been changes to the original plans, so they are seeking permission for a different design.

The old extension has already been demolished.

The Parish Council agreed to respond with no objections if the Heritage Officer is in agreement with the plans.

26/00402/FUL – Lyra Stables, Wasing Road - application was approved. The Clerk received confirmation from the planning officer that the condition that the office was ancillary to the dwelling (Tarkwa) has been removed as part of this approval.

To provide an update on the new Speed Indicator Device

SID is currently outside the hall.

The supplier has said that the late flashing of the SID is due to the sight lines rather than any parameters. Clerk to respond and ask him to look at this again.

WBC scoping consultation on the new West Berkshire Local Plan

It was agreed not to comment at this time but to keep updated on the progress of the Local plan.

District Councillor's Report

He urged residents to support the petition started by Aileen O'Connor, Chair, Thames Valley Police Federation which aims to stop the early release from jail of PC Andrew Harper's killers. The petition can be found at the following link <https://c.org/gQckVs9CfG>

Nick Matthews, Chairman

Brimpton Church Clock Time Synchroniser

The clock at Brimpton Church was manufactured and installed in 1869. It is a fine example of Cooke of York engineering. Being of a mechanical construction, the timekeeping varies across the year. This variation is dependent on temperature and perhaps surprisingly, wind velocity.

This 'drift' requires the clock mechanism to be adjusted to maintain the accuracy of the timekeeping. Fine adjustments to time are made with small weights on a tray attached to the pendulum rod. Adding weights speeds the clock up and conversely removing them slows it down. The traditional 'weight' used is a penny (approximately 3.6 gm). Over a seasonal year the adjustment is around 6 pennies. Adding weight is quite straightforward but it is more challenging to remove a penny without disturbing the pendulum. This 'tweaking of time' has been my responsibility for a number of years.

Being of an engineering background I began to think about possible ways to automate the process of weight variation. After many months of experimentation, a system has evolved. The pennies have been replaced by a thin nylon cord with fishing weights clamped at regular intervals. The cord and its weights are raised and lowered using a small motor.

Controlling the motor is an electronic logic unit. The electronics compare a very accurate hourly GPS time signal with a signal derived from the first strike of the bell. Depending on which signal arrives first, the logic decides whether to raise or lower the string of weights by an incremental amount. Clearly there is a bit more to the logic but this is the essence of the control process. The addition of a radio link to the system allows me to monitor the clock's status in my workshop.

I was not aiming for the system to give the clock the same accuracy as the BBC pips. Something that kept the clock within a couple of seconds would suffice. This would be more than enough for the village to know when to put the kettle on, come in from the garden or go to collect the children from school etc. The installation seems to be achieving this and like all engineering projects, continues to evolve.

Here are some images from the installation. For those interested in more details you will find a full write up at the following web address.

<https://altrish.co.uk/2026/04/20/church-turret-clock-synchroniser-using-arduino-hardware/>

Alan Wood



Garloff competition

Hello all,

I'd like to thank everyone that were involved in our elephant garlic growing competition.

It is a tongue in cheek event, that people take very seriously!, and rightfully so!

For those that don't know, this is the third year of a fiercely contested competition of which John Hicks has been victorious for the past two years but has been knocked off of his pinnacle by Janice Cross - well done Janice!

Our competition has been for a very worthy cause this year as the proceeds have been donated to the SOS (save our spire) fund.

We are very proud to announce that we have been able to raise more than £2,000.00 for the Repairs to St Peter's spire.

A big thank you goes to everyone who attended our summer barbecue and who entered the competition as without our local residents help this wouldn't have been possible.

The other big thank you is to the whole team behind the scenes that helped out and made our night at the Village Hall, a fantastic success!

So watch this space in the autumn as the fourth annual Garloff competition will be announced.



Nick Matthews



COFFEE MORNINGS

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

9th September
14th October
11th November *after Remembrance*
Service
9th December

Everyone welcome
(including dogs)

BRIMPTON WI

For many years Brimpton WI has arranged something different for July meeting. On a sunny 21st July we gathered at the Thames Valley Police Training Centre at Upton Nervet, where the TV Police Museum is housed together with Police Dog Training Centre and kennels.

Our visit started with a short lecture on the history of policing in the area by the Honorary Curator and a Volunteer Guide. Following Robert Peel's creation of a police force in London, Parliament granted permission for other larger towns and cities to create their own forces. After WW1 the local forces were gradually merged to what is now known as Thames Valley Force.

The Museum has altered since we last visited over 15 years ago. There are displays of several major cases the police force has been involved in since its inception in the 19th century.

There are currently about 12 dogs, which are being trained. Training starts when the dog is about 12 weeks old. They are still referred to as "puppies" way past their first birthday. Once they have been allocated a permanent dog handlers, they are taken home with handler who gets involved with their training. Sometimes handlers choose to keep their dog when they retire or the dog is adopted.

We then retreated to a local hostelry for a very enjoyable buffet lunch.

Our next meeting will be in Brimpton Village Hall, on Tuesday, 15th September at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Helen Hyde, who will be talking about the "The Silk Road". If you would like more information or joining us, please contact Shelley Bassil (0118 971 0563)our President, or our Secretary, Annette Dolphin (0118 971 0090). New Members are always welcome.

100 Club winner for August: no. 95, Chris and Sue Keast

Midgham News

Midgham Café Church

First Thursday of the month

September 3rd October 1st

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

Contact Sarah Henderson for more information

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

Midgham Village Hall

The coffee mornings, with cake in September will be held on

Wednesday Sept 2nd

Wednesday 16th

and Wednesday 30th

10am until 12 noon.

All welcome for a friendly chat.

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.



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 Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

After a very successful 'NDP' day touring Midgham with our consultant in June, we are now busy building the evidence base for our development plan. We are aiming to ensure that any potential future development within Midgham Parish is directed to the most sustainable locations and are focused on creating policies that will safeguard Midgham's rural environment and scattered layout. Biodiversity, green spaces, wildlife, footpaths and key views are all currently being explored to ensure the plan reflects the Parish's character.

If you have any lovely photos of Midgham, we would also love to see them. It could be of a building, a view, an iconic feature of the Parish, wildlife, green spaces, or anything else that you think represents Midgham. Our photography competition is open to all and we look forward to seeing your entries.

ENTER YOUR BEST PHOTOS OF MIDGHAM.
WINNERS WILL HAVE THEIR PHOTOS PUBLISHED IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN.



**MIDGHAM
PHOTOGRAPHY
COMPETITION**

**DEADLINE
31 OCT
2026**

EMAIL ENTRIES TO:
NIGEL@MIDGHAMPARISH.CO.UK

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR EMAIL THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S NAME AND THE LOCATION FROM WHICH YOUR PHOTO WAS TAKEN.

SUBJECTS COULD INCLUDE:

- VIEWS OF THE PARISH BUILDINGS, STREET SCENES,
- WILDLIFE, GREEN SPACES, FOOTPATHS AND THE CHURCH.
- ANYTHING YOU THINK REPRESENTS THE PARISH.

NATURE NOTES

This is not really a nature note – you will all have noticed it has been uncomfortably hot and rather dry – but a reminiscence of past weather. It seems a long time ago that we had snow to any degree, but even forty years ago we could enjoy a bit of sledging, or at least a snowball fight. Droughts come and go, but some are worse than others. The first I remember in my lifetime was not long after the war when my family was living in Cornwall. Our faithful well dried up, and our kind farmer friend (who tapped the spring further down the hill) brought us water in churns. No baths (no showers in those days) – just all over washes. Luckily my father, when having the house built, had put in a large underground storage tank for the rainwater, and this just lasted for the poultry and goats. The last one I remember like this was in 1974. Our cows were saved by kind friends who coincidentally had spare pasture. We went on holiday to Wales at the end of school holidays: our youngest, 11, moaned ‘I bet it will rain now we’re going on holiday!’ His father said “If it rains on holiday I will give you £1”. It started to rain as we were packing the car to come home. Joy all round!

Stella Nesbitt

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WASING

1759

The Return of our Pumpkin Event

We are very excited to announce that our Pumpkin event is returning for its sixth year, taking place on selected dates between 16th–31st October 2026. Our farm team have been hard at work growing and nurturing our much-loved Jack O'Lanterns, ready for the seasonal fun!

The event begins with an enchanting trail through the Estate's stunning autumnal woodland, with plenty of magic to discover along the way. Look out for woodland creatures, make a wish at the wishing well, light a candle for a loved one and explore the mysterious Witch's Apothecary.

The trail leads to Wasing's rustic pumpkin patch, where you can choose your perfect pumpkin to take home and carve. You may even encounter a fairytale pumpkin carriage along the way! Warm up afterwards beneath our stretch tent, where you can browse speciality pumpkins and enjoy Wasing organic beef pasties, warming pumpkin soup, sweet treats and hot drinks, all with panoramic views across the Estate.

Tickets available at www.wasing.co.uk/pumpkins



Wasing Named the UK's Most Desirable Venue

This summer, we were honoured to be named the UK's Most Desirable Venue by Bridebook, topping a shortlist of 25 of the UK's leading venues after receiving the highest number of enquiries over the past year.

While the accolade celebrates our wedding offering, for us it represents something much bigger. It reflects everything Wasing has grown to become. Thanks to the dedication of our hard-working team and the continued support of our local community, Wasing is a place where people come together to celebrate, reconnect, slow down and immerse themselves in the natural world.

An Update from Wasing Estate

As we approach the end of Summer, now is the perfect time to reflect on all the other wonderful happenings here at Wasing over the past few months.

WASING

1759

June brought an incredible cultural calendar, with the return of our literary festival **Well Read**, followed by our beloved midsummer celebration, **Solstice at Wasing**, bringing literature, music, nature and connection to the heart of the Estate.

It was amazing to welcome so many of you to **The Mount** this summer for our concert series and we hope to see you all again in 2027 for more magical musical moments immersed in nature.

This year's harvest saw our farm team hard at work across the Estate, while we proudly joined the **Farm24 campaign**, celebrating the people and passion behind British farming.

The Wasing Park team have been busy throughout the summer wedding season, welcoming our newest Wasing couples. Looking ahead, we're inviting engaged couples to join us for our **September Showcase, Forever**, on **Sunday 27 and Monday 28 September 2026**, to explore the venue, meet the team and start planning their happily ever after.

Our wellbeing team were delighted to welcome new members to our Wild Swim Lake & Sauna this summer. To find out more about memberships and exclusive hire, visit www.wasing.co.uk/wellbeing - we'd love to welcome you.



Medicine Festival

Our friends at Medicine Festival returned to Wasing in August, inviting visitors to reconnect with nature and experience a vibrant programme of world music, dance and ceremony. The festival opened with a special Brythonic Eclipse Ceremony, marking the rare celestial event with a moment of connection, reflection and celebration in the heart of the Estate.

To allow the land to rest and renew, Medicine Festival is due to take a fallow year in 2027. You can find out more about Medicine Festival at www.medicinefestival.com

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
6.00 pm	Vespers
8.00 pm	Compline

Sundays

As above, plus

10:30 am	Mass
----------	------

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: 0118971 2891 (awb.org.uk)

6th September: The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

St Mary's, Beenham	9.15am	Morning Praise
St Peter's Brimpton	9.15am	Morning Praise
St Matthew's, Midgham	9.15am	BCP Communion
St Nicholas, Wasing	10.45am	Holy Communion

13th September: The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

St Mary's, Beenham	9.15am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, Brimpton	9.15am	Holy Communion
St Nicholas, Wasing	10.45am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, Woolhampton	10.45am	Holy Communion

20th September: The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

St Mary's, Aldermaston	10.45am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, Brimpton	9.15am	Holy Communion
St Matthew's, Midgham	9.15am	Holy Communion
St Peter's, Woolhampton	10.45am	Holy Communion

27th September: The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

St Mary's, Beenham	9.15am	Holy Communion
St Matthew's, Midgham	9.15am	Harvest Communion
St Peter's, Woolhampton	10.45am	Harvest Communion



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