
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

Mobile library: 01635 519827

District Councillors:

Woolhampton/Midgham: Chris Read: 07768 793 155

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

Parish Councils: Clerks' details:

Aldermaston: Des Farnell: parishclerk@aldermaston.co.uk

Beenham: Lauren West : 07919 916 125

Brimpton: Christine McGarvie: 0118 970 1576

Midgham: Alice Owens: 07896 321 058

Woolhampton: Alice Owens: 07896 321 058

Village Halls: Aldermaston: aldermastonparishhall@gmail.com

Beenham: 07793 116 937

Brimpton: 0118 971 3731

Midgham: 07941 093 853

Woolhampton: bookings.woolhamptonvillagehall@hotmail.com

Churches:

Aldermaston & Woolhampton Benefice:

www.awb.org.uk

For local contacts please see church notice boards

Brimpton Baptist Church: 0118 971 2059

St Mary's Woolhampton: 0118 971 5350 (9am- 2pm Tue-Fri)

Douai Abbey: 01189 971 5300

Magazine advertising: Brenda Scott: 0118 971 3113

mrsbscott@btinternet.com

This magazine is printed by Nova Press, Thatcham House, Turners Drive,
Thatcham RG19 4QB . Tel: 01635 876498

Villages' News

As I sit writing this I am still on a high following a weekend of celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles III. We Brits certainly know how to do pomp and pageantry in bucket loads don't we! And as for the concert at Windsor Castle – WOW! The stars, stage and light displays were phenomenal. A weekend I am sure we will remember for a very long time to come.

I hope you enjoy reading about the village festivities that took place during the weekend later in the magazine. Congratulations and well done to everyone involved in organising picnics, fetes, beacon lighting, decorating gardens, hanging bunting etc. I am sure everyone appreciates and thanks you for your hard work. I wonder how many miles of bunting lined our streets. I know Brimpton had its fair share.

The word '*thankyou*' sometimes does not really relay the extent of gratitude we have for someone or something. For example, we have a band of people who collate and deliver magazines to approximately 2,000 homes, offices and shops in the area. They go out in all weathers to get the magazine to you as quickly as possible after they receive them. Some people have been doing so for more years than I can remember. I, and the magazine committee, send our sincere thanks to every one of them – I am not sure how we would manage without their help.

The financial contributions from so many people across the six villages, along with our loyal and new advertisers, has made a new style magazine a viable proposition once again. The magazine committee are thrilled with the positive comments we have received following the start-up of the new magazine and are indebted to you for your support. Our grateful thanks to you all.

Please note this is NOT a church magazine. It may be run by people who go to church, but we are a like-minded group, who are merely answering a plea from so many people in our villages to reintroduce a hard copy magazine following the demise, in December, of the church-run Parishes' Magazine. Any comments relating to this magazine should be sent to mrsbscott@btinternet.com and NOT to the Rector who is not involved in any way with the magazine, articles or content.

Please send any articles, and items of interest to brimptoncommon@aol.co.uk and Henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com, or ring 0118 971 3113 if you do not have internet.

Happy reading.

Brenda Scott

Chair, Magazine Committee

Thank you to the many people who have been very generous in sending contributions towards printing costs. Should you wish to contribute towards printing costs payments can be made by BACS as follows:

Bank: Lloyds Bank

Account name: Villages' News

Sort code 30 99 50

Account No: 55728360

Our sincere thanks in advance.

ARTICLES FOR THE MAGAZINE

Please send articles for the magazine to:

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

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

For the villages of Midgham and Woolhampton henderson.sarah.c@outlook.com

For the village of Beenham patowen0@hotmail.com

Please send articles relevant to the all the villages to:

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

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

Advertising enquiries can be sent to mrsbscott@btinternet.com

Articles will be included and/or edited at the Editor's discretion.

Brimpton News

Brimpton Parish Council

The Parish Council held its Annual Meeting at Brimpton School on Tuesday 16th May. It was largely a procedural meeting to elect the officers, nominate our representatives on external bodies, receive the auditor's report and to approve the Annual Governance Statement.

I was elected for a further year as Chairman, and as Phil Bassil has stood down as Vice-Chairman, Nick Matthews was elected to that role. Phil and I served together as Chairman and Vice-Chairman for six years and I would like to thank him for his support and for his work as a parish councillor.

We re-appointed Grahame Hawker, Bob Moore, Gaila Adair and Nick Paus as the Brimpton Common Fuel Allotment Trustees, nominated John Dolphin as our representative trustee on the Village Hall Management Committee, and Paddy Bowring to the trustees of the Brimpton Almshouses. We confirmed Phil Bassil as our representative on the AWE Local Liaison Committee and Grahame Hawker on the West Berkshire Climate Forum. We are grateful to all of them for giving their time to serve the community.

John Hicks

Coronation Celebrations in Brimpton

We started our celebrations early by lighting the Brimpton beacon on Friday 5 May, behind the Village Hall. Nearly 90 people had bought tickets for a fish or sausage and chip supper but we believe over 130 may have been in or outside the hall, or on the public footpath. It was a very enjoyable evening and all the more remarkable because the only thing to which I set fire was the beacon itself.

In brilliant sunshine on Sunday 6 May we held a “bring your own” Community Lunch, again in and outside of the Village Hall. Not as many participated as when we closed Brimpton Road for the Jubilee Street Party last year, but still around 80 people joined in. Many thanks to the helpers who put out the tables and chairs and helped clear up afterwards. These events wouldn't happen without you.

You may have noticed that the village, Brimpton Common and Hyde End were extensively decorated with flags and bunting. This was all part of our decorated house competition which was won by Grahame and Lesley Hawker of Brimpton Common, with a special award to Maureen and John Hartwell of Enborne Way. Both winners demonstrated originality, including a living tableau in which Grahame and Lesley played the king and Queen. Apart from other decorations, Maureen and John literally rolled out the red carpet and put out bowls of flowers in red, white and blue. Congratulations to everyone who participated. The Parish looked magnificent.

The Parish Council presented 39 local children and young people with commemorative mugs. They were also available for sale to adults. Having been concerned there would forever be a box of unsold mugs under my desk, we were surprised at how fast they were claimed or sold. We ordered a second batch but these went equally as fast and several people have since contacted me asking if we have more. I can order again if we reach 20 requests. If you would like a commemorative mug which is specific to Brimpton, please let me know on jhicks@brimptonparish.org.uk

100 Club Winners

100 Club winner for April: 158 Kate Turner

100 Club winner for May: 134 Dawn Smith



COFFEE MORNING
 (SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH)
IN BRIMPTON CHURCH

DROP IN ANY TIME BETWEEN
 10:00 am-11:30 am

WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE 2023
 WEDNESDAY, 12 JULY 2023
 WEDNESDAY, 9 AUGUST 2023
 WEDNESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2023

Everyone (including dogs) welcome

SATURDAY July 22nd 2023

Bacon Butty Breakfast in Brimpton Village Hall
 10.00 am - 1.00 pm
 Bacon Butty, Tea/coffee
 £3.00 per head
 Cake extra



Everyone welcome

Water provided
 for dogs



**BRIMPTON
 HARVEST LUNCH**
 Saturday 30th
 September
 Save the Date!

MANSFIELD PARK



**The Watermill Theatre is coming to
 Brimpton! Saturday 24 June at 7.30pm**

Audience members are encouraged to bring fold up chairs and a picnic, and enjoy the beautiful view across the hills to Brimpton Common. Doors open 5.30pm. Performance starts at 7.30pm. Bar Service open from 5.30pm (Cash/ card accepted)

All tickets (unreserved seats) £15. Click on the link:
<https://brimpton-village-hall.sumupstore.com/>

Kennet Opera Following our recent success with Mozart's 'Il Seraglio' Kennet Opera are pleased to present a concert of opera and choral choruses, solos, duets and trios from the pen of composers such as Donizetti, Offenbach, Mozart, Puccini, Verdi and Gounod. Venue **St Peter's Church, Brimpton** Date **Sunday 2nd July 2023 at 3pm** Tickets £15 to include refreshments available from <https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/kennetoperaatstpetersbrimpton> Do come and join us for an afternoon of pleasure.

COFFEE AND PLANTS IN BRIMPTON CHURCH

- AND AN EVEN WARMER WELCOME IN FUTURE!

A very big thank you to all our friends who supported the Plant Sale.



It was lovely to see so many neighbours for coffee and a chat and the opportunity to buy some beautiful plants for our gardens. With your help, we raised over £500 for the church, and this has been matched by a donation from a parishioner, bringing in a total of a fantastic £1,000.

If you have ever felt COLD in St Peter's Church, you will be pleased to hear that we are planning to install a new heating system, and the money from the sale will help to pay for it. The old oil-fired boiler has done well for many years, but it is on its last legs and is expensive to run and ecologically unfriendly. The new electric under pew heaters will be far more economical to run and much better for the environment. Instead of wafting the heat into the roof, they toast the people sitting in the pews. Brenda and Patricia visited a church that has this system, and they can confirm that it will definitely be a big improvement.

If anyone would like to contribute to the final £4,000 we need for the new system, the PCC would be very grateful. Please contact the PCC treasurer, Bill Scott, on 0118 9713113 or brimptoncommon@aol.co.uk.

Rogation Sunday at Manor Farm

Brimpton Church owes a big thank you to Michael and Mandy Bowden for their generous hospitality on Rogation Sunday.

The congregation gathered in the sunshine at the big barn at Manor Farm, and we moved from there around the farm to pray for the livestock, the farm machinery, the crops and the homestead, as well as for the people who work so hard to farm the beautiful countryside around us.

It was lovely to see so many people of all ages at the service, and we enjoyed delicious refreshments in the barn afterwards. Thank you to Brenda Scott for leading our worship, to Mike Bowden for explaining how the land is farmed, and to Mandy for making us so welcome after the service. We are very blessed to live in such glorious countryside, and with such wonderful neighbours!



Brimpton WI

We welcomed James Geering as our Speaker for our April meeting speaking about "The Adoption Process".

After several years of marriage, James and his husband Kyle, decided they would like to adopt a disadvantaged boy. James is a teacher working with disadvantaged children so he understood the special needs that such a child might require. They carefully considered when would be the right time to start a family and having moved to a more suitable house they started their first steps in the adoption process. They attended an adoption evening run by "PACT" a charity that finds parents for children with special needs. Because of James' work, it was important that they look outside the Thames Valley area so that there was no possibility that prior contact could have been made through his work.

The suitability of James and Kyle and their life-style was covered in a series of interviews with PACT staff and Social Workers sometimes in person and then via Zoom due to the COVID pandemic. Their application moved much faster than they had expected with Interviews and training sessions coming in quick succession. Even the assessment of their house and garden was an online!

Eventually good news arrived, and they entered the second stage of the process to find the right child. They went on a 4 day course where they met other potential parents who were going through the process. Emphasis was always placed on the needs of the child. Adoptive parents need a community of reliable supporters who they can rely on when the pressure of parenting wears them down!

They reviewed details and photos of possible children. Kyle looked at over 500 records and together they made a short list of children that they would like to know more about. One little boy, Lewis, whom they eventually selected was living with experienced Foster Carers. They visited Lewis at the carer's home and then started visiting regularly. When they came away from the first visit, they both felt that they had selected the right child. Longer visits followed, then the legal process started, and following a court appearance Lewis came into their family.

James ended by showing us a film taken at Lewis' first party. We saw a happy 2½ year old, laughing as he played with other children and his parents.

Our Next Meeting has a change of Speaker from our Advertised programme, as now Christine Cutts from the local charity "Berkshire Vision".

Contacts If you would like to find out more about our activities, please contact our President Shelley Bassil (0118 9710563) or our Secretary Annette Dolphin (0118 9710090) or use our dedicated e-mail link brimptonwi@berkshirewi.co.uk

Gwynedd Roberts
WI Correspondent



Brimpton Church of England Primary School

Amazing things happen here.....

All Creatures Great and Small

This week at Brimpton we have had lots of visitors from the animal kingdom with butterflies, ferrets and rabbits. The children and staff enjoyed seeing all these wonderful things. Thank you to all those that brought in their pets for the children to see and to hold.

Coronation Celebrations

We celebrated the King's coronation with all the children and staff wearing red, white and blue. Sadly the weather was not on our side and we had to have our picnic in the school hall, but we all still enjoyed the day. I hope you have all enjoyed seeing the flags flying around the village houses and the school. God save the King!

The crown was crotched by our  *very talented Mrs Byway*

Year 6 SATS

Well done to our Year 6 pupils who have been sitting their SATs tests all this week. Their last one was today! Well done to our Brimpton Superstars they have all been amazing and focused. All their hard work deserved a treat today and pizza was ordered in, which we all enjoyed.

If you require any other information regarding Brimpton School
Please contact Mrs Sarah Vockins on 0118-9712311
office@brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk www.brimpton.w-berks.sch.uk



Brimpton Couple at King's Garden Party

For Brenda and Bill Scott it was a big day out on 3rd May. They had an invitation to the first Garden Party of King Charles's reign. Luckily the sun shone, despite a cool breeze. Along with several thousand guests they made their way for a delicious afternoon tea, including an innovation – apricot and lavender tart. Brenda was close enough to the King to get some really good photos. Bill, although disappointed not to find City Boy or Country Girl amongst the guests, was delighted to get a handshake from Queen Camilla on her way out. All in all, a very lovely day.

Midgham News

Midgham Village Hall

Thanks to all the villagers who attended the Coronation picnic and made it such a pleasant and successful event. Once more the sun shone for us and everyone enjoyed a good chat with their neighbours whilst savouring their glass of Pimms. A most enjoyable event.

Coffee mornings

In June the coffee mornings will be on the 7th and 21st. Come and enjoy a hot cuppa and piece of cake whilst relaxing in the companionship of good neighbours.

Lottery

This month's winner was PRU. Congratulations to her.

Quiz night

We are investigating the possibility of holding a quiz night in June. Watch the notice boards for further details.

CHAPEL ROW COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP

Beenham-Midgham-Woolhampton

For details of services provided, requests and offers to help ring:
0118 9713334 (Mrs Cardy) between 9.30 and 11.30 am,
Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Woolhampton Surgery Run:



CORONATION RINGING

On Friday 5th May a quarter peal was rung for the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles 111. The quarter peal was called King Charles 111 Doubles. Those ringers taken part were:

1 Ken Waller 2 Carol Waller 3 Tim Pink. 4 Jonathan Waller 5 Ben Waller 6 Jo Waller.

PET SERVICE

A very successful Pet Service was held at St Matthews on Sunday 14th May. The weather was wonderful and it was enjoyed by all, tea and cakes and dog snacks were served!





Midgham Café Church

First Thursday of the month

Thursday, June 1st, July 6th

Join us for tea and cake 2.00pm

Aldermaston News

Aldermaston CE Primary School

Our Value for this term is 'Perseverance' and we are giving the children lots of opportunities to show perseverance in their learning and daily school life. The Learning Hero is the Manager Octopus who helps the children to be organised, responsible and ready for a challenge. We will also be looking at the British Value about the rule of law. It is helpful for them to understand why we have rules and why some of them are made into law.

Statutory assessments are taking place across various year groups. Whilst for some it is a time of worry, many children do relish the challenge and to show what they have learned and remembered. Our teachers have prepared the pupils well and parents had an information evening too, to help them support their child.

The annual Aldermaston Cross Country Championships have taken place on a rather damp day. Every child took part in an age grouped race and this year's winners were Keyser (yellow) house.

Years 3 and 4 had a trip to the Living Rainforest to support their Geography fieldwork studies. They certainly made the most of their time there and learned lots of new facts.

Of course a recent highlight has been our celebrations for the Coronation. We had a non-uniform day with everyone wearing red, white and blue. A special assembly was held followed by a morning of Coronation linked learning in house groups and then a picnic on the school field. There was an appreciation of the historic nature of this event and the pupils enjoyed learning about the King, his family and the Monarchy.

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor

Aldermaston Parish Council– 16th May 2023

This was our first meeting since the local elections. Your Parish Council was elected unopposed, there being 7 candidates for 7 vacancies. In addition, our Ward Member, Dominic Boeck, was re-elected, so there was plenty of familiar faces! The one shining exception to this rule was our new Clerk, Des Farndell, who was officiating for the first time, having recently taken over from Christine McGarvie.

Amongst our numerous statutory duties, we had to appoint a Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and we were pleased to note the current incumbents, Sophie Crawford and Rob Smith, were both willing to continue. They were duly elected. Apart from a couple of changes, our roles and responsibilities were also unchanged (see website for details).

On the planning front, we agreed No Objection to the application for an extension to 10 Swan Drive, and noted the request from AWE on whether planning approval is required for their proposed demolition work. Perhaps more controversially, we agreed to respond positively to Wasing re their planned licence amendments, though we reserved the right to change our position when they submit the actual application. Since our last meeting, WBC have approved 3 applications: additional signage at Howdens on Young's Industrial Estate, extensions at Hengistbury, Reading Road, and at Caspians Lodge, Rag Hill. All 3 are consistent with our recommendations. Despite this apparent progress, there are many applications awaiting decisions from WBC. Included in these is one for land adjacent to Barlows Plantation, which we will escalate as it was submitted in 2021, and appears to be implemented in any case!

We reviewed the proposed Sentinel speed camera, which is intended to enforce rather than simply educate drivers. At £4k, however, it is not cheap, and we will approach Dominic Boeck for possible inclusion as a Member's Bid

Our efforts to persuade WBC to repair the bridge on the cyclepath have proved unsuccessful, as Highways have inspected and concluded there is no need for action at the present time.

We agreed to seek alternative bids for the Lock Up, as our chosen contractor is not responding to our emails. We will seek bids for a survey of trees in the Parish. Additionally, we were pleased to note there was nothing serious found in the recent RoSPA report of play equipment at the Rec.

By now, all households in the Parish should have received the REPPiR booklet from WBC describing what to do in the unlikely event of an emergency at AWE. Two Parish Councillors attended a recent liaison meeting at AWE and our Chairman was involved with ALDEX, a dry-run exercise simulating an incident

Lastly, we have nearly £90k to spend, largely from the Rosebourne and Lidl developments. Any thoughts on community projects gratefully received!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th June 2023 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. As usual, your presence is welcomed.

For full information on Parish Council matters, please visit our website at www.aldermaston.co.uk

Dave Shirt tel. 0118 971 2549



ALDERMASTON HISTORY GROUP

proud to have created and to maintain

Aldermaston History Online ⇨ <https://aldermastonhistory.uk>



News:

Our April meeting at the Hinds Head was well attended to hear Roger Day and Tim Green speak about local subjects from their book "Motoring History of the Kennet Valley". Of particular interest were the first ever AA filling station on the A4 near the railway station and The Halfway Garage, especially as the son of the owner, Commander Michael Allison, travelled from Bramshill to meet the authors and to give us a deeper understanding of his father's business.

The Coronation: For the website, can you help us build the story of Aldermaston's 2023 Coronation celebrations, by letting us have photographs of your events, crafts, house & street decoration, souvenirs, etc ?

Future Dates:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Weds 19th Jul 2023, 7:30pm | Meeting & Talk "Not all Beer and Skittles", Officer's Mess, The Hinds Head |
| Weds 1st Nov 2023, 7:30pm | AGM & Talk "Berkshire Records Office", Officer's Mess, The Hinds Head |
| Sun 10th Sep 2023 | Heritage Open Day: St. Mary's Church open, exhibition in village
<i>free entry for all, more details to follow</i> |
| Weds 17th Jan 2024 at 7:30pm | Meeting & Talk about Wasing & the Mount family by Josh Dugdale |

Meetings are Free to Members, Non-Members £5

For more information: <https://group.aldermastonhistory.uk>



Aldermaston Coffee Club In the conservatory of Hilliers' cafe

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

Everyone is welcome just turn up

**1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month
Any time from 10am-11.30am**



For further details contact Cynthia Newman 0118 971 3525

Aldermaston Coronation Big Picnic

The Aldermaston Coronation Big Picnic was a huge success, the weather was sunny and warm, we had a great turnout, children playing, lots of red, white and blue and community singing. Everyone relaxed and ate very well from some impressive picnics and home-made pizza organised by 1st Aldermaston Scouts. The Crown Inn run by the Aldermaston PTA was busy all afternoon. The children played games including archery and loved running around the field. The cake was very impressive, topped by a crown and surrounded by coronation cupcakes. The cakes were created by Christina Booth and sponsored by Aldermaston Parish Council. The cake cutting was followed by a community photograph by Ed Tilsley, CAA Licensed Drone Pilot. The children were fascinated by the drone and we were lucky to have this way of capturing the memory of the event. We sang the National Anthem led by Tiffany Ebrey on the keyboard.

This was a fantastic community event that will live long in people's memories and a fitting celebration of the Coronation. Thank you to everyone involved or who supported us. Anyone with photos and anecdotes should feed this through to the Aldermaston History Group so that we have a permanent record of the event.

Some feedback from Facebook:

Was such a lovely day at the Meadow
Well done, you always do Aldermaston proud
Great event and turnout
Brilliant afternoon
It was gorgeous

Karen Dignan

This great community event would not have been possible without a lot of local support and help on the day. A huge thank you has to go to everyone involved but especially to Karen Dignan for the most generous use of her field.

Well done Aldermaston.

What a wonderful way to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

Cynthia Newman and Cathy Jones



Aldermaston & Wasing
SHOW
The Old Mill
Sunday, 3rd Sept, 1:30pm

For further details, see website: awshow.org.uk

A heads up on this years Show Classes

This years schedule will show the full list of the entries for the 2023 show and will be available shortly. The vegetable section is the same as for 2022. The following are highlights of some of our classes for this year:

NEW FOR 2023 BEST DRESSED FLOWERPOT

For our 80th year, our theme is best dressed flower pot. This can be created, decorated to any theme, stands that are part of the theme are permitted as long as the overall structure doesn't exceed 30cm. You can provide a name for your best dressed flowerpot if you wish.

VEGETABLES

Don't forget to plant your potato seeds for class 57. Plant a maximum of two potatoes in a container (maximum 10 litres). Judging will be by total weight of the potatoes.

** if you can't get seed potatoes let a shop potato sprout in the warmth of your house before planting.*

PHOTOS

For the adults class we have two classes:

- A photo with the theme "*British Wildlife*". This could be wildlife you observe in and around your garden or further afield, perhaps taken on a nature trip or a walk.
- A photo with the theme of "*Rainfall*". The interpretation of this theme are endless: umbrellas, raindrops, profiles of people walking in the rain, photo taken through the window of a bus, floods, etc.

The children's classes are as follows:

- 11 – 16 Years on 1st September
 - A photo with the theme "*British Wildlife*"
 - A photo with the theme "*Rows*" think of composition, textures and shapes
- 10 Years and below on 1st September
 - A photo with the theme "*Beasties in your garden (insects including bees, dragonflies, spiders, beetles, etc)*"

CRAFT

We have a range of craft classes, why not try one of the following:

- Knit, crochet or sew any vegetable
- Make felt or paper flowers into a decorative item for example jewellery, corsage or hair clips
- Create a picture in any medium on the theme of Dig for Victory
- Make an item out of wood, either something modern or something that would have been available in the 1940s.
- Make a hanging decoration suitable for the garden or a garden room
- Create a garden in a seed tray celebrating our 80th year.
- Write a limerick of five lines including this first one: "In our 80th year"

FLORAL CLASSES

This year we are asking you to avoid foam in your floral decorations - this was not available in the 1940s and the trend is away from this now.

- niche, '*fantasy*' To be an arrangement in a traditional style using seasonal flowers presented as you wish
- petite, '*earth's treasures*' to be viewed all round. Made with dried materials such as seed heads, preserved roses etc.
- a jardinaire design titled '*poetic pastels*'
- table decoration themed '*feast for the eyes*' this is to be presented in a baking tin.
- table top design titled '*twists and turns*', Height unlimited or you could do a foliage only display presented in a wine glass

Woolhampton News

WOOLHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Due to an uncontested election for Woolhampton Parish Council, the Council members with contact details are:

Sean Garden	sgarden.ca@gmail.com	07899906193
Laurence Harwood	l.m.harwood@reading.ac.uk	07768667350
Malcolm Large	malcolmlarge@btinternet.com	01189712901
Jack Lovell	jack.lovell@monksmead.co.uk	01189714311
Tony Renouf	tony@renouf.me.uk	07732612028
Cathy Vallis	cathy.vallispc@outlook.com	07771867276
The Parish Clerk is Alice Owens	hoskinsamp@gmail.com	07896321058

There is currently a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you have an interest in the village and have thought of becoming a councillor, why not attend a Parish Council meeting on the third Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall, 7.30pm start.

Race Night

On Saturday 22nd April, we held a "Race Night" at the Woolhampton Village Hall in aid of Medical Detection Dogs, the charity that trains dogs to detect a variety of medical conditions and diseases.

We have been blown away by the support and generosity of those who came to the evening and those that donated if they weren't able to be there in person. Thanks to the many businesses who donated the wonderful raffle prizes. They were the Rowbarge, Renegade Brewery, Artisan Handmade, Fiona Cue Photography, Isabel's Retro, Between the Lines, 66 North, and Serve Sports.

It was a fantastic evening that raised over £1800, so a huge "Thank You" again to everyone who participated.

Also, a special thank you to the team at the Rowbarge who have decided to match the amount we made on the night as a further donation. The monthly dog walks that are run by the Rowbarge team are now also in aid of Medical Detection Dogs.

Village Market

The next Market will be on Saturday June 3rd from 10a.m. to 12 noon in the Woolhampton Village Hall. All your favourite stalls will be there, from books to buns, from honey (local) to homeware, from peanuts to plants, and much more. If you've not been before, do come along to browse and enjoy the ambience. No entry charge and refreshments (including delicious hot bacon rolls) available.

Occasionally there is spare capacity so if you are entrepreneurial and have, preferably, home-made items for sale:

please contact Cathy (email cathy.vallis@outlook.com) to check viability.

Woolhampton Annual Show 2023

Woolhampton Show will be on Saturday 12th August in the Village Hall. There will be classes for each of cookery, flowers, vegetables, photography, handicraft and special classes for children to enter. A schedule will be available at the June market and for the competition that needs advance preparation, please see the following:

Annual Show Photographic Competition

Categories for 2023 are:

A pair of photos depicting winter/summer sun with common theme

Architecture – building or monument

Macro – close up of any subject

Landscape featuring flowers

Happiness

Please remember that photos should be no bigger than 7"x5" and not mounted.

Woolhampton and Midgham WI

The weather has been less than springlike during April – still cold with little sign of sunshine. The gardens are feeling the lack of warmth and are very behind what we would normally be expecting. May has started in similar vein with lots of cloud and rain showers.

This led to an exciting – or frustrating! start to our WI meeting this month. The day was humid and threatened a storm – which arrived in West Berkshire around 6pm. Just at the time members would have been getting ready to gather for the meeting. Then – all the lights went out – a power cut. A message from the electricity company led us to believe that there would be no electricity until 9.30pm. The committee got busy ringing round to cancel the meeting, then Hooray! The lights are back on! Time 7.15pm. A few more phone calls and to their credit, 12 members made it down to the village hall. In atrocious conditions, for the meeting to debate this years resolution.

Clean rivers for people and wildlife - a campaign to clean up our rivers to enable designated safe bathing waters across the UK.

Two members highlighted the pros and cons of the resolution and a lively debate followed. The vote for the resolution was unanimous. The committee then served excellent refreshments which more than made up for our late and uncertain start.

The competition for the evening was 'Memorabilia of the Coronation'. The table was bedecked with flags and decorations to mark King Charles III coronation. There was a wealth of items on display – from photographs to tiaras and commemorative artefacts of past coronations. It was very interesting to listen to members memories of the late Queen's coronation. A splendid collection.

Members enjoyed their walk among the bluebells earlier in the month at Hampstead Norreys followed by an excellent lunch in the community shop and café. Further events are planned for the coming month – lunch at Basingstoke College of technology and visits to a couple of gardens in the area.



WOOLHAMPTON SCHOOL

Finally, it seems sunshine has arrived and it was very welcome during the events being held at Woolhampton School over the past few weeks. Our twice weekly Golden Mile sessions, where the children aim to run or jog for 15 minutes, are clearly having a positive impact on the children as all years groups took part in the World Daily Mile - fingers crossed that we make it into the Guinness Book of World Records!

The Coronation of King Charles III was also marked with a day of activities to celebrate the historic event. All children participated in a writing project inspired by two books about the King and two pieces were selected from each class to be shared in a special Coronation assembly with the whole school. The children have designed their own mugs and received a red leather bookmark to commemorate the occasion, which was kindly donated by Friends of Woolhampton School (FoWS) to all of the children. As the rain held off, the whole school was able to celebrate with a picnic on Douai Field wearing colours of red, white and blue.

Children in Sycamore Class have been working hard to raise money for the school by participating in a Spelling Bee - overall the children raised a whopping £567.66 by correctly spelling 2180 words - an amazing achievement!

A special mention goes to our Year 6 children who, along with the rest of Year 6 children nationally, have completed their end of Key Stage 2 SATs. They have been working extremely hard in the run up and during the assessments as well. We are so proud of our children who remained calm, focused and upbeat throughout – well done to Year 6!

As always, we are incredibly fortunate to have such a wonderful school community and are blessed to have such admirable children and staff.

Sarah Fenwick-Stubbs (Foundation Governor, PCC)

Woolhampton Village Hall Area

Due to ash tree die back on many trees around the Village Hall, it may be essential for safety reasons to limit access in the play area, adjoining grass area and the copse. Arrangements are being made to fell diseased trees as soon as possible but please be aware of dangers posed, specifically falling branches, particularly in extreme weather conditions such as high winds. If an area is fenced off, please do not try to access it.

Beenham News

BEENHAM PRE-SCHOOL

The Coronation was an important time for us all at Beenham Pre-School as we all celebrated together and made lots of memories. An enormous thank you to the Parish Council for providing each Pre-School child with a commemorative medal which they are all really thrilled with! It was certainly a spectacular start to our summer term as we begin to think about School Transitions for our older children and welcome new faces to the setting who are joining us this term. We are looking forward to lots of days in our gardens, with water play and magnifying glasses and picnics!

As well as following the Early Years Foundation Stage through our curriculum we also offer lots more. We have our own qualified ELSA (our Manager recently received her certification after a year of training and supervision), we have been trained in Restorative Practice and LGBTQI+ Inclusivity which are a major part of our planning and our approach. We use Makaton sign language with all children, we are part of the Every Child a Talker programme and we are also contributing to the latest initiative from West Berkshire called "Through my Eyes" which supports social communication in Early Years. Our fortnightly visits from Pop Up Play Village, Outdoor Explorers and Robot Phonics (which are all still included in our fees with no extra charges to parents) mean that we offer a very full and exciting programme for our children which everyone can join in with even in these tricky financial times.

Paula Read (Beenham Pre-School Manager) Email: info@beenhampreschool.org

Beenham W.I. - Looking Ahead

A sneak preview of talks in the run-up to the summer

June 14th Keith Churcher is talking about the History of Magic and doing a few tricks with the help of the audience

July 12th Airline pilot, Kathy McDonald will be talking about her career

August 9th Malcolm Wells is our speaker. An ex-soldier he is now involved with the charity sector – for 16 years with Canine Partners and latterly with Literacy in a Box. His talk is called So Far So Good.

Do come and join us. **All** members of the public are very welcome. Non-members pay £3.00 each. We meet in the Community Room of the school at 7.30 pm.

BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15th MAY 2023

The new council met for the first time after the elections. The five councillors were re-elected. There are still two vacancies – do come and join us! Graham Bowsher was re-elected as Chairman.

Dominic Boeck was re-elected as our District Councillor.

PUBLIC FORUM

A parishioner said that several people have felt intimidated by recent events surrounding the application for Change of Use at Awberry Farm.

It was reported that some neighbouring parishes now have “Slow down” stickers for their waste bins. 20mph speed limits are becoming more common, and WBC is now more open to applications for villages for 20mph zones. Can Beenham look into this? It was suggested that notices should be put up in the parking area outside the Victory Hall asking drivers to switch off whilst stationary.

A councillor noted that diversion signs are being put that are wrong, and sending people the wrong way. The PC will write to WBC asking them to take more care that the signage is correct.

PLANNING

PC had no objection to applications from Wayound, Malthouse Farm and St Mary's Farm.

PC objected to a garage at Ararat on grounds of location and size, and incremental development.

CORONATION MEDALLION

The school PTFA arranged to give the children in Beenham School and Pre-school a medallion to mark the coronation. This was funded by the Parish Council. If any primary age children living in Beenham (but not attending Beenham School or Pre-school) would like a medallion then please email Beenham PTFA at treasurerbeenham@hotmail.com before 1st June.

CORONATION MEMORIAL

It has been suggested that something should be provided in Beenham to mark the coronation. The suggestions are:

A clock over the entrance to the Victory Hall. Cost of a fully automatic clock would be £1,200 to £1,600.

A village sign like a pub sign on the grass outside the school, with scenes of Beenham. Cost might be in range £6,000 to £12,000, but this is subject to more investigation.

Funding would be from PC and local sponsors. Some funding might be available from WBC.

It was agreed that PC would discuss the feasibility of these options with the landowners and authorities, and also develop the proposals further.

We would love to hear from businesses or individuals who would like to sponsor either option.

Date	Event	where	contact
Tuesdays	Art Group 10am-12pm	Victory Hall	Sunny: 9712255
Tuesdays	Badminton Club 8pm – 9.30pm	School Hall	Ernie: 07954 127 771
1 st Thur	Beenham Walking Group	VH 9.30am	johnnewitt27@gmail.com
2 nd Fri	Soultones live music 7.30pm	Club	9713991
3 rd Sat	Church Working Party	St Mary's	All help is most welcome Janette:07917 818 283
5 th Mon	Parish Council meeting 7pm	Community Rm	
10 th Sat	Village market and repair shop 2-3.30	Victory Hall	Claire:9713574
14 th Wed	WI – 7.30pm £3 non-members	Community Rm	Sally:07776251228
15 th Thur	Beenham Walking Group	VH 9.30am	johnnewitt27@gmail.com
15 th Thur	Charity Quiz Night 8pm Teams up to 6 £3/person	Six Bells	9713368 to book
16 th Fri	Coffee Morning 10.30am	Six Bells	Janette:07917818283
17 th Sat	Greyfield Woods Volunteer Morning 8.30 – 12pm	Meet at wood entrance	John:9712924
17 th Sat	Calleva Stick Dressers 9am – 2pm	Victory Hall	David:07864180648
17 th Sat	Live Music and Acoustic Night	Club	9713991
21 st Wed	Beenham Friendship Club for over 55s - coach trip to Brighton	Pick up points	Marion:9713094 Tina:01635826154
22 nd Thur	Film Night - Fabelmans £5 adults, under 18s £3	Victory Hall	Claire:9713574
27 th Tue	Beenham Tearoom 2pm – 3.30pm	Victory Hall	Dru:07815055040 Pat:07947478840
29 th Thur	Beenham Walking Group	VH 9.30am	johnnewitt27@gmail.com

DIARY OF EVENTS FOR BEENHAM – June 2023

Useful contact numbers:

Victory Hall Bookings: nolesandfrank@hotmail.com

Community Hall Bookings: Paula Reade: paula_and_chris@hotmail.com

Churchwarden: Janette Hammond: 07917818283

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

Coronation Crowns

Beenham Village Events (BVE) would like to thank everyone – the School, the Pre-School, friends, parents, children, grandparents, grandchildren, supporters, etc. – who coloured, painted and decorated the crowns which we put up to make the village bright and festive for the Coronation.

BEENHAM IN BLOOM 2023

It is time to start planning for the Beenham in Bloom competition. You can grow your own flowers or make a trip to one of our wonderful local garden centres.

If you would like to enter yourself or a neighbour (with their permission), please contact us. There are also two children's categories: 0 – 5 and 6 – 11 year olds. The children will need to make a tub or planter of flowers of at least 20cm diameter (8 inches) and care for it by watering and weeding.

The Six Bells Beenham in Bloom Cup will be awarded to the "best in village" from amongst the Adult winners and the Edwin Roe Memorial Cup to the best children's entry.

Judging will take place around mid-July depending on how the season develops.

To enter please email Pat Owen – patowen0@hotmail.com by **Friday 30th June**, giving your name, address and the category you wish to enter: Adult, Child 0 – 5 or Child 6 – 11

Summer Events

Beenham Wind Orchestra's summer season got off to a fantastic start with a very enthusiastic reception from an audience who braved the rain to attend the orchestra's performance at the Bucklebury Coronation event held at the Cottage Inn. The programme covered a range of music – with Crown Imperial and the National Anthem chosen for the Coronation event. The orchestra's summer season continues over the next few months with appearances at Newbury bandstand on Sunday 11 June at 3pm and Englefield Fete on Saturday 1 July. There will also be the regular Band on the Rec at Beenham Recreation Ground on Friday 23 June from 7.30 until it gets too dark to read the music! There will be a barbecue and bar at this event, so why not make it an evening out for all the family.

More exciting news... Please visit our **new website** for up-to-date information on our events.

www.beenhamwindorchestra.org

John Thurley

In case you wonder why the Scarecrow Cup is named in honour of John Thurley, I thought it was worth remembering how it was John who revived the Beenham Summer Fête about 13 years ago. He and his late wife Ann hadn't lived in Beenham very long before he decided to run an event for the whole village and he master-minded it with great enthusiasm every year until his untimely death. I started the Scarecrow Festival as my contribution to run alongside the summer fêtes, and well remember John's "Doctor Foster" entry! John also helped set up the tradition of a Village Christmas Tree and, among other duties as a Parish Councillor, he undertook the refurbishment of the Telephone Box so it could become the very popular library. His legacy is the Beenham Village Events Team which continues to organise things for the village so we have a lot to thank him for. Cheers John!

Lesley McEwen



MANAGED BY THE COMMUNITY
FOR THE COMMUNITY

Greyfield Wood Open Day – 23rd April 2023

The Sunday morning arrived and helpers and tent erectors gathered in the Wood looking anxiously at the skies and wondering if it would rain on our parade, spoiling the day which had been planned for some time. We also considered that last Year's Jubilee Bridge building might be a hard act to follow, fortunately both concerns were unfounded as the sun shone, the tea and coffees were drunk, the cakes eaten and the afternoon was a success.

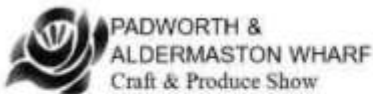
There were a number of interesting activities going on during the afternoon, log splitting, an excellent

guided woodland walk took place and, thanks to BVE, there was the opportunity to take part in their Teddy Bear's Trail.

We estimate that at peak there were 50 visitors who came along to meet some of the volunteers and directors of the CIC. So, a huge thank you to everyone and for the generous donations given for the teas and eats.

Thanks must also go to our own CIC helpers, servers and erectors who were beavering away all day to make the Day special for our visitors.

So, if you came and enjoyed the afternoon and like the idea of becoming a volunteer yourself, please call John Newton – 07721 748272 – as the CIC always need more willing bodies for our 3rd Saturday morning in the month volunteer sessions. Even if you weren't there but the idea of volunteering appeals then please call John to learn more of what the CIC is about and our work in the Wood.



PADWORTH &
ALDERMASTON WHARF
Craft & Produce Show

Padworth & Aldermaston Wharf Craft & Produce Show

Sunday 11 June From 12 noon

Padworth Village Hall, Padworth Lane, Padworth RG7 4HS

Arena Show ♦ Craft & Produce Competitions ♦ Dog Show

Other attractions

Arborfield Military Wives Choir ♦ Filipino Dance Display ♦ The WI will have a tea and wonderful selection of cakes ♦ French crepes and Belgian waffles ♦ Ferret racing with the Hampshire and Berkshire Ferret Club ♦ BBQ run by The Mortimer Sausage ♦ Licenced bar ♦ White Ridge Band ♦ Children's entertainers ♦ A wide range of stalls

A fantastic afternoon for all the family!

For further information go to: <https://padworthshow.simdif.com/>

Beenham Scarecrow Festival 2023

This year's theme is Kings and Queens, historical, realistic or abstract, fantasy or factual, so it could be royalty, British or otherwise, or royalty in nursery rhymes, fairy tales, music or films. There are lots to choose from!

To take part in the Scarecrow Festival, just make your scarecrow and ensure it is able to survive life outside for at least a week or so. Then display it by the 28th May. If you would like it to be included in the judging for the John Thurley Cup, please email me your name and address, with "scarecrow" in the subject box, by 24th May so we can produce a map for people to find them all.

The winners will be announced at the Beenham Wind Orchestra event on the Rec on 23rd June. Good luck!

Lesley McEwen lesleymcewen@btinternet.com

That's Nature

I have just dug up the last of my leeks to prepare the ground for beetroot and carrot seeds. I am later than usual due to the wet weather we have been experiencing. I am dreaming and thinking back to last year. We are lucky to have water laid on in troughs at Beenham allotments especially after last year's heat wave. On filling one of the many watering cans full of water when I noticed a red admiral, wings spread wide drowning in the water. I gently put my hand gently under the stranded butterfly and lifted it out, it was still alive. After a couple of minutes still in my hand it started to open and close its wings. The colours were so vivid, the broad red stripes against the black wings with white spots near the tips was brilliant. It continued opening and closing its wings, it was quite hypnotising. After about five minutes it tried to fly but ended up crashing onto the grass after a few flaps. I again picked it up and it climbed up my hand to the end of my finger. I held it high above my head and the colours against the bright blue sky were brilliant. After a few minutes in the bright warm sunlight, it flapped its wings and took off this time with no problem. I watched as it flew up to about twenty feet and away from me, wings opening and closing then gliding for a bit. Just then a sparrow swooped down and plucked it out of the air and flew off with it in its beak. Did I do all that just to give a sparrow its lunch, well I guess that's just nature.

Mick Cox

MOBILE LIBRARY

Aldermaston

Wednesday

Foresters

Beenham:

Wednesday

Stoneyfields

June 21st

9.30-9.50

June 13th

3.15-4.00

Midgham:

Thursday

Goddard's Drive

Woolhampton:

Thursday

Watermill Ct

June & 22nd

10.10--10.20

June 1st & 22nd

10.25-11.10

Welcome to "Down on the Farm" in May

My family have farmed Manor Farm, Brimpton since 1901. At the moment my wife Mandy and I run the farm. It is a typical mixed farm, with wetter areas down by the river; that grow grass for the beef cattle, and drier fields where we grow arable crops.

Here on the farm, we buy beef calves at 4 to 6 months old, and feed and look after them until they reach the required weight of 750kg at 24 to 28 months old. They will then go to the Abattoir and hopefully make the grade of Prime Beef. We normally will rear Aberdeen Angus or British Blue beef animals, or when I can find any, my favourite are Herefords.

We grow most of the things on the farm that we need to rear our animals. Grass, to graze in the summer, and to conserve for feeding in the winter months. Barley, to grind and mix with a protein source, such as rape meal or beans, to make a balance diet that helps the animals grow at a consistent and sustainable rate. Straw, this is from the barley crop, and is used for bedding and is turned into manure that is used as a fertiliser to grow the next crop.

So far March and April have been particularly wet. This means that spring crops of barley have been sown up to 2 months late and will have a lower yield. Our beef animals haven't been let out to eat the grass yet, as they would turn the wet ground into mud. Due to the excessive rain some fields were still under water where the River Kennet broke its bank.

We recently held the Church Rogation Service on the farm. This is a very old, and traditional service that blesses the animals and crops, and the machinery and the people involved, hopefully for a prosperous and fruitful year ahead. This was the 20th year we have held the service, it was a lovely warm and sunny morning with nearly 30 people and 5 dogs attending.

I hope that we will all be enjoying some warm BBQ weather this summer so we can enjoy our wonderful countryside and experience nature first hand. We are really lucky to live in such a beautiful place.

Michael and Mandy Bowden

In a Garden in Brimpton

It's at this time of year that the extent of winter casualties becomes apparent. For the past weeks I've been counting the number of plants that failed to make it through the weeks of rain and freezing temperatures that we saw last winter. I've disposed of large numbers of agapanthus, salvias, gaura and even hostas. Tropical bulbs that were wrapped up and kept frost free, have rotted. It's sad but every casualty offers the opportunity to buy another plant and maybe to try something different.

At the same time as disappointments are revealed, there is also the joy when other much loved plants break through. From the number of buds this will be a good year for peonies. I have around 80 varieties, acquired over the years from local nurseries and specialist growers. As soon as it's obvious there will be a lot of flower heads there's a rush to get the supports in place. Without them the first storm will leave the flowers at best hanging their heads and if there's too much rain, they'll be flat on the ground.

It's a myth that peonies don't like to be moved and will not flower for years afterwards. Like most plants they need to be dug out carefully, but if it becomes necessary make sure they are planted at the same depth as before. The main reason they won't flower after being moved is being planted too deep. The same principle applies to irises. I have a smaller number of Iris Germanica, mainly because their rhizomes need to sit on the surface and be baked by the summer sun. If they are overshadowed by other plants they won't perform well and may even rot. My borders are too full to leave space for sun bathing.

This is also the time when rhododendrons and azaleas are at their best. They've always been a favourite of mine. I grew up close to the New Forest where the acid soil meant almost every garden had at least one specimen. We have several large examples but they are grown in pots and stand at the front of the house with acers and camellias where they are protected from the sun from midday onwards. Being in pots, once we get into the summer they need a lot of watering or they won't produce flower buds for the following year. If a plant isn't happy in its location or with its treatment, it will soon tell you. Yellow leaves and brown buds are a sure sign something is wrong.

In addition to everything that is happening in the garden, the plants in the conservatory are also growing rapidly. Some such as the callistemon and colocasia have already moved outside and will stay there until the late autumn. The more tender plants such as iochroma, aoniums and bourganvillea will follow once the danger of frosts and cold winds has gone. Even protected in the conservatory one of the bourganvillea looks as if it may have died. Unfortunately it's a white one. The familiar purple-pink ones seem hardier and promise better things to come.

City Boy

Well - here we are already, in "Blazing June"! That phrase actually makes me go a little bit misty-eyed as I remember my two-year secondment from London to the Dublin office. I have always had a penchant for red-heads - but I digress.....

I was so delighted to read Gary and Country Girl in the May issue! I had thought my missives were falling on stony ground but there does appear to be a passable level of literacy hereabouts, at least in certain quarters. Well done both of you! Thank you! Much appreciated feedback!

I have to say that Gary has been a stalwart during my early days in the new abode. He is always scrupulously punctual, particularly when presenting his bills. He's a bit of a rough diamond, but he and Edith are the salt of the earth and have hearts of gold (mixing mineralogical - metallurgical metaphors). Their son Jack is a cheeky little scamp but always makes a great job of cleaning the cars. However, I am less sure about his friend Timmy, who often accompanies him carrying a bucket. I presume he is the water carrier, but he always acts rather shiftily when I am around and seems very protective of his bucket which has a lid. He is certainly helping though, as Jack asks for his £10.00 for each job to be paid in pound coins and I see him giving some of the money to Timmy. At least one of my fleet of cars seems to be dirty every morning, so I am keeping Jack busy on a daily basis. I can only think that West Berkshire is in the path of prevailing Saharan winds.

In passing, but on the subject of obtaining pound coins (never mind finding high-class retail outlets), can anybody tell me the whereabouts of an actual bank, with people to whom one can talk, within 50 miles???!!!

As for Country Girl? How delightful to hear from you! I am currently looking for a new cleaner as I have had to sack the last one because I discovered that she was stealing from me on a regular basis. It was always the same scenario; every three weeks or so, Ludmilla, my Romanian friend who I met at a company bash in Bucharest 5 years ago, comes to stay for the weekend. Every time, after driving Ludmilla to Heathrow airport on the Monday afternoon to return to Romania to care for her aged mother, I would come home to find that yet another piece of silverware was missing. Clearly, my cleaner was taking advantage of my absence while chauffeuring Ludmilla to the airport. So, despite my cleaner's protestations of innocence, she had to go. Country Girl, with your eight fingers and two thumbs you would make short shrift of polishing the silverware. Please say you will take up the offer!

Sorry! One of the mobiles is going! It's a French arms dealer and the French are the absolutely the best at producing and selling arms. Who can forget the Exocet missiles they sold to the Argies, or the nuclear blast that destroyed Bikini Atoll? There are rich pickings to be had in this area and I love the challenge. Got to go! Lovely to speak to you all - I mean that so sincerely.

Ciao!

Looking after God's Acre

Eco-seminar with Dr George McGavin

God's Acre – the parish churchyard – can make a real contribution to the health and flourishing of our environment, if we choose to care for it sensitively and imaginatively. So said Dr George McGavin, author, entomologist and television presenter, when he visited Brimpton Village Hall at the invitation of the Benefice Eco-Church group.

In his sobering presentation, George McGavin described the extent of the danger faced not just by the wildlife in our gardens and churchyards, but by all of life as we know it. With the help of pictures and graphs, he showed the plight of our environment, and he called for radical action across the world to change the way in which our earth is managed.

Those who care for gardens and churchyards have not just an opportunity but a duty to be aware of the danger faced by wildlife, and to act accordingly. Too often, churchyards become “barren boneyards”, degraded by the use of pesticides and herbicides and unable to sustain the rich variety of plants, insects and birds that thrived there until only a few years ago. A lighter touch goes a long way to restoring these “gardens of earthly delights”.

Many thanks to Dr McGavin and to the Eco Church group who organised this stimulating event. The seminar covered a wide spectrum of issues affecting the environment, and the audience came away with much food for thought, and an appetite for more detailed exploration of the many topics he raised.

NATURE NOTES

So much goes on in the country at any time of the year, if you keep your eyes open, but May and June are the time when everything burgeons. This year it has done so more joyfully than ever, because of all the rain we have had. This means that ‘no mow may’ will have turned our lawns into real hay-meadows. If this has happened to you, leave them to grow into July; it will benefit ground creatures and butterflies, and you will have a good crop of hay for your (or neighbours’) rabbits!

I am constantly amazed that people go around with their walkie-talkies, or whatever, glued to their ears, completely unaware of all the spring bird song in the air around them – or indeed of anything that is surrounding them. They don't know the pleasure they're missing before it all disappears, like the skylark has from our area!

Church Services across the Villages

Douai Abbey Contact number 0118 971 5300

Weekdays		Sundays
6.20 am	Matins & lauds	as to the left
7.45 am	Mass	plus 10.30 am Mass
12.50 pm	Midday Office	but no Compline
6.00 pm	Vespers	
8.00 pm	Compline	

Douai Abbey Reflection Days – All Welcome !

Fri 2 – 4 June	Retreat: How can we pray?
Sat 10 June	Workshop: Transition into Dying
Sat 17 June	Way to the Kingdom with Bach cantatas
Fri 23 – 25 June	Retreat: God and Generosity

pastoral@douaiabbey.org.uk

St Mary's RC Church, Woolhampton

Contact number 0118 971 5350 9 am – 2 pm Tue – Fri

Brimpton Baptist Church – Contact number 0118 971 2059

Sunday: 11.00 am and 6.00 pm

Wednesday: 7.00 pm

Church of England Services for June (awb.org.uk)

St Mary the Virgin, Aldermaston

11 June 10:45 Holy Communion

18 June 10:45 Morning Praise

St Mary's, Beenham

4 June 09:15 Holy Communion

11 June 09:15 Informal Holy Communion

18 June 09:15 Morning Praise

St Peter's, Brimpton

11 June 09:15 Holy Communion

18 June 10:45 Morning Praise

25 June 09:15 Informal Holy Communion

St Matthew's, Midgham

4 June 09:15 BCP Communion

18 June 09:15 Holy Communion

25 June 17:00 Evensong

St Nicholas, Wasing

4 June 10:45 Informal Holy Communion

St Peter's, Woolhampton

4 June 10:45 Holy Communion

11 June 10:45 Holy Communion

25 June 10:45 Informal Holy Communion

Details correct at time of going to press.

Please check website awb.org.uk for up to date details.

Dear City Boy

Here's hoping you and Binky have a spiffing time getting totally slaughtered in London. Do remember the Henley Royal Regatta is coming up soon which is not a million miles away (especially in a Porsche). I think this would be right up your street as although I am a simple denizen (what actually is a denizen) I have experienced first hand the antics of the 'hoorays' at said Regatta. Do put it in your diary. Perhaps Binky and his cronies would care to accompany you. So don your striped blazers and boaters and create merry hell.

Maybe you should put some thought into why the locals stare moodily into their pints in your presence only to come alive after your departure!

I hope you enjoyed your maypole dance with the naive denizens (yes what are these) and managed to disentangle yourself in time to close the diamond deal. I expect the yokels enjoyed this even more than you did.

Just a thought but wondering as you are so rich if you would take over my modest investments at a lower management fee than I am currently charged. That way maybe I could exchange my simple life for the high life and maybe even buy myself a Porsche.

A bientot

Country Girl

CORONATION PLATES

Limited edition hand-made tin-glazed plates celebrating the Coronation of Charles III



Edition of 30; 16 cm diameter
£32 + postage
Ursula Waechter
Tel 07748082087



Edition of 100; 18.5 cm diameter
£38 + postage
Andrew Hazelden
Tel 07763810695



Repair Centre Plus for all your vehicle needs.

MOT, BRAKES, EXHAUST,
SUSPENSION, SERVICING
AIR CON, BATTERIES,
DIAGNOSTICS, WIPERS
VEHICLE SAFETY CHECK
ENGINE: REPAIR | TREATMENT
CHIPS, DENTS, PAINT,
SMART REPAIRS,
ALLOY WHEEL REFURB

Tel: 0118 971 2553

Repair Centre Plus

Unit 2, Woolhampton Service Station
Bath Road, Reading, RG7 5RT
NEXT TO BP PETROL STATION



NEW TYRES

Discounted Tyres
Trade Prices Tyres
Cheapest in the Area
Servicing / Brakes / Exhaust / AC
Hand Car Wash / Valeting Centre
24 hour Recovery Service

Tel: 0118 971 2553

Repair Centre Plus

Unit 1, Woolhampton Service Station
Bath Road, Reading, RG7 5RT
NEXT TO BP PETROL STATION

JPS Fuels

Local Independent Heating Oil Supplier

Contact us:

01635 777 080

sales@jpsfuels.co.uk www.jpsfuels.co.uk

A West Berkshire small business focused on bringing quality when and where you need it.



Scan the code with a
smartphone to order



Miles & Daughters Funeral Directors

Proudly serving the local community

Tadley

0118 214 4860

5 Old Forge Heath End Road
Baughurst RG26 5LX

**Call us for immediate
support, advice or to arrange
a home visit. We are here to
help 24 hours a day.**

- 24-hour service
- Bereavement advice
- Transparent pricing
- Private chapel of rest
- Floral tributes
- Memorial masonry
- Home visits
- Prepaid funeral plans

www.milesfunerals.com



Feed, Bedding, Toys and Accessories for all your
Pet, Livestock, Wildlife and Equine needs.

Just off the A4 in Beenham

Visit us in store at: Field Barn Farm, RG7 5LT

Call us on: 01189 714 556

WWW.GBTOTALEQUESTRIANLTD.COM



PUMP[®]

TECHNOLOGY LTD OF ALDERMASTON

ONE STOP
PUMP SHOP

SEWAGE & WASTEWATER PUMPING SYSTEMS

BORE HOLE & GARDEN PUMPS

PUMP CONTROL SYSTEMS

WATER BOOSTER SETS

and MUCH MORE!

MAINTENANCE

ENGINEERS (On Call)

FREE
ADVICE



WE
STOCK
SANIFLO!



Tel: 0118 9821 555

56 Youngs Industrial Est, Aldermaston RG7 4PW

www.pumptechnology.co.uk

Your *LOCAL* Sewage and
Wastewater Specialist



Douai Park

Sport Leisure Business



Douai Park Recreation Association (DPRA) is a charity. As well as a great sports location, we also provide function rooms for the local area, making this a great rural venue for social and business events.

Contact Steve Bates for further details
scb6642@gmail.com



<https://www.douaipark.org.uk/>

Bicycle care including free local collection and delivery

- Servicing of Road, MTB, Leisure and Electric bicycles
- Check & tune-up, Full Monty, strip & rebuild and custom build services
- Punctures, brakes, gear problems resolved and wheels trued
- Parts and spares supplied
- E-bike conversions



Meadvale-Bays Bicycle Services

Serving cyclists across West Berkshire

Call John on 07818 400440

john@meadvale-bays.com

www.meadvale-bays.com



Projection Mapping | Lighting | Water Screens | Flame Effects

EMF live
029 8093 3344
www.emftechnology.co.uk
info@emftechnology.co.uk

RAINBOW DOUBLE GLAZING LIMITED

Your truly local double
glazing company



1992-2023
31 successful years

Windows • Doors • Roofline • Conservatories
Entrance Porches • Garage Conversions
Orangeries • Rainbow Warm Roof Conversions



0800 026 46 42 or 0118 970 1770

www.rainbowdoubleglazing.co.uk

YOUR LOCAL ELECTRICIAN



- ✓ ALL DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL WORK
- ✓ NEW BUILDS & EXTENSIONS
- ✓ ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING POINTS
- ✓ LANDLORD & PROPERTY INSPECTIONS
- ✓ GARDEN OFFICE & HOT TUB POWER
- ✓ FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS
- ✓ NETWORK & TELEPHONE POINTS
- ✓ SMART DOORBELL & HEATING CONTROL

0800 955 1535

info@stanleyelectricalservices.com

www.stanleyelectricalservices.com

Duncan Agar

Property Maintenance



- Broken or leaking guttering
- Door and window repairs
- Painting and decorating
- General maintenance and household repairs

07787 552983

Duncan-agar1@btinternet.com

Pike Bros
Joinery & Cabinet Design

**Bespoke Joinery
in softwood and hardwood**

Windows - Doors - Kitchens

Tel: 9712664

OVEN SOLUTIONS

Put That Sparkle Back Into Your Oven

- + Biodegradable deep clean
- + Cleans ovens, hobs, extractors & BBQs
- + Repair service, replacement elements, seals & bulbs
- + Non-franchise established over 18 years
- + Child and pet friendly. No fumes
- + See our reviews via website



Peter Hudson 07733 253 563 Oven-Solutions.co.uk peterhudson934@gmail.com

M.J.Sly Memorials Ltd

www.mjsly.co.uk

46 Bishopswood Road,
Tadley, Hants. RG26 4HD

Open by appointment only

New memorials & Renovations

Call 01189 817350

email: info@mjsly.co.uk



BRAMM

TWK Electrical

Local & Reliable Father & Son
Service

18th Edition Part P Qualified

Over 40 Years Experience

No Job Too Small

& No Call Out Fee

Call Tony & Jed For

A Fast Response

01635 826314

078 66 33 99 11

twkelectrical.com

facebook.com/TWKElectrical



SKIN HEALTH



ANDRESA
AESTHETICS



Before

Lunchtime Laser Facelift

Smother, brighter, tighter skin with
the new 4D laser facelift

Beautiful, natural looking results

- A more youthful appearance without surgery
- Lifts and tightens
- Firmer, plumper skin
- Increased volume & smoothness, reduction in deep lines
- Clearer complexion
- Ongoing results for many months

1st treatment free*

*T's & C's apply see website



After



Andresa Aesthetics Exclusive Skin Health and Laser Clinic
Tel: 01635 800183 | info@andresa.co.uk | www.andresa.co.uk
Lower Wasing Barn, Wasing Lane, Nr Woolhampton RG7 4LY



E.A. Autos

- ✓ Cars & Light Commercials
- ✓ Tyres & Exhausts
- ✓ Cambelt & Clutch Replacement
- ✓ Air Conditioning Servicing
- ✓ Mechanical Repairs

- ✓ Diagnostic Checks
- ✓ MOT Repairs & Welding
- ✓ Comprehensive Brake Service
- ✓ Servicing on all Makes & Models
- ✓ Local Collection & Delivery Service

£10 OFF
On production of this voucher



MOTs - Class 4/5 & 6/7
MOT Testing
Station

**HALF PRICE MOT
WITH EVERY
MAJOR SERVICE**

Courtesy Vehicles
Available

0118 981 4999

www.eaautos.com
info@eaautos.net

Unit 21, Youngs Industrial Estate, Paices Hill, Aldermaston, RG7 4PW Mobile: 07919 275 424

PAUL.S.WALDEN

Painter & Decorator

For all your painting and
decorating requirements
City & Guilds Qualified
Interior & Exterior
25 Years Experience
All Work Guaranteed
Tel No: 07802 578934

MARIO'S PLUMBING LIMITED

THE LOCAL PLUMBER!
Gas & oil boiler replacements. Central
Heating. Bathroom installations. Hot water
cylinders. Power flushing. General
plumbing.

30 years experience

NO VAT

GAS SAFE registered
TELEPHONE: MARIO ON
07967 123819

AREA SWEEP

CHIMNEY SWEEP

A PROFESSIONAL CHIMNEY SWEEP SERVICE
CLEAN RELIABLE BRUSH AND VACUUM
FULLY INSURED MANY YEARS EXPERIENCE

AGA'S

RAYBURNS

JETMASTERS

ALL OPEN FIRES

WOODBURNERS

NEST REMOVALS

OIL FIRED BOILERS

SWEEPING CERTIFICATES ISSUED

CAPS AND COWLS SUPPLIED AND FITTED



CALL DARREN

01635 569195/07900398678

areasweep@btinternet.com



COUNTRYWAYS
HEATING & PROPERTY SERVICES

- Oil, Gas & LPG Boiler Servicing & Installation
- AGA Servicing & Electric conversions
- Underfloor heating
- Unvented pressurized systems installed
- Air Source
- New Build and renovation work

Contact the team for more information:

Jan
07918 081 395

Carl Steffan
07884 341 989

countrywaysheating@btinternet.com

114 Crown Road | Newbury
Berkshire | RG14 5NR

Seasoned
LOGS to your
WOODPILE

Cut and split to your fire size.

Full and Half loads
available

07836 223467

please call for more details

E.A. Laming
Flat roofing

**Guarantee on all high
performance felts
also Tiling and Lead
Repairs**

Phone 0118 9744701