PadworthNewsletter

No. 194 **August 2025** **Free**

How's the summer reading challenge coming along (p3)? And there's still time to work on the vegetable, flowers, handicrafts or whatever entry for the **Mortimer West End Annual Show** on 23 August (see p10); there's also the **Aldermaston & Wasing Show** on 7 September (p6).

If you are wondering what to do with your old mobile, laptop, tablet or desktop computer, these can now be recycled at the Veolia Padworth Waste Management Centre in Padworth Lane – see p10 for more information.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Mary & Sheila

Deadline for next issue: 25 August 2025

Dates for your DIARY

- **Saturday 2 August** Jumble Sale (p3)
- **Monday 4 August** Beenham PC (p8)
- **Wednesday 6 August** Ladies at Lunch (p2)
- **Tuesday 12 August** Aldermaston PC (p6)
- **Saturday 23 August** Mortimer West End Annual Show (p10)
- **Saturday 30 August** Tea Dance (p6)

- **Monday 1 September** Padworth PC (p2)
- **Saturday 6 September** Jumble Sale (p3)
- **Sunday 7 September** Aldermaston & Wasing Show (p6)
- **25, 26 & 27 September** Aldermaston Players (p5)

Padworth Newsletter *is available online at* **https://www.padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/newsletter**

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Padworth Parish Council – Notes of Meeting – 7 July 2025

District Councillor's report
DC Boeck gave apologies for absence. His report will be put on the PC website when received.

Village Hall matters

- *Front loos* - need some repair work. The Clerk to share details with Jacky Jones of potential contractor.
- *Kitchen* - depending on budget, refurbishment of the kitchen will come after loo and floor repairs.

Planning Matters

- 24/02625/HOUSE – Red Cottage, Mill Lane, RG7 4JU: Ground floor extension, new pitched porch, loft conversion, new dormers, internal alterations. Externally red brick to match existing, horizontal timber slats for flat roof dormers, to match existing, and areas of white render. **Objected**
- 25/01217/FUL - PSD Padworth Rectory, Rectory Road, RG7 4JD: installation of solar panel system. The PC has concerns about this application and the size of the site and impact upon the local area. However the reference number is not searchable on the planning consultee in tray. The Clerk will ascertain details.
- 25/00933/FUL - Norbrek, Bath Road, RG7 5HR: Proposed 4 terraced houses with ancillary parking and amenity space following demolition of existing bungalow and outbuildings. **Objected**

Decisions from West Berks

- 24/02773/CERTE - Padworth Park Farm, Padworth Lane, RG7 4HY: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use. The site is currently in use as a dwelling. **LAWFUL**
- 25/00825/PASOL - Exolum PSD Padworth Highwood, Rectory Road: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: installation of a 93.28 kWp solar photovoltaics array to the existing roofs on two storage warehouses. **Approved**
- 25/00541/HOUSE - Old Rectory Farm, Rectory Road, RG7 4JD: Replacement of a conservatory with a new single storey extension with roof lights. **Approved**

Churchyard
Cllr Miller had inspected the churchyard. The grass has been cut but there does not appear to be an agreement in place to maintain the hedges. An adjoining field is largely overgrown, causing the beech hedge to be obstructed by brambles. It is not a simple task to clear the brambles as the paddock is so overgrown. Cllr Miller to contact the landowner and a contractor to clear the paddock.

Padworth College
The footpath through the grounds has been trimmed.

Horse walk
Many years ago, a horse walk was created to avoid the narrow road from the livery stables to the cross roads. Pedestrians also use the walk to access the area safely. The horse walk is now heavily overgrown and cannot be used. A question was raised about whether the walk was required as the livery stables are now closed. However some councillors felt it was necessary for the safety of pedestrians.
NB: Since the PC meeting, some councillors have now cleared the Horse Walk making it useable again for rider s and walkers. It runs from Sopers Lane by the crossroad up to Jubilee Nursery entrance. Please use it as it's a lot safer than walking on the road!

Next Meeting

- **Monday 1 September** – 6.30pm in the Village Hall

All parishioners welcome

Alice Owen
Parish Clerk

♦ ♦ Padworth Parish Website ♦ ♦

www.padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

All correspondence should be addressed to the Parish Clerk: clerk@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Ladies at Lunch

Our July Ladies at Lunch raised £105 plus a donation of £55 to Riding for the disabled, Kingsclere Branch.

Our next lunch will be on

- **Wednesday 6 August** at 12.30pm at Sheila Jay's house

Sheila's address is Midway, Bath Road, Padworth. Please contact her on 0118 971 3367 if you wish to attend.
If you have any questions, please let me know. My email is caroline.givan@gmail.com or 07808 400843

Caroline Givan

Tea Rooms Aldermaston Wharf

Opening hours: **Tuesday – Sunday** **9.30am – 4pm**

07917 631730 **tearoomsaldermaston@gmail.com**

JUMBLE SALES

The Jumble Sale on Saturday 7 June raised **£323.33** for The Wessex Cancer Trust. Thanks to all who helped in any way and many thanks to all our supporters.

The next Jumble Sales will be on:

- **Saturday 2 August** – at 2 pm in aid of Riding for the Disabled, Kingsclere Branch
- **Saturday 6 September**– at 2pm in aid of Padworth Village Hall

We are always grateful for your unwanted donations which can be brought to the Hall on the morning of the Sale between **9.30am and 11.30am.**

PLEASE DO NOT "DROP OFF" DONATIONS AT THE HALL ON ANY OTHER DAYS. THEY WILL BE BINNED.

Jumble can be collected by ringing Hazel Ewart on 0118 971 3417 or 07876 073385 to arrange collection, or can be delivered to me by ringing one of the above numbers to arrange a time.

Hazel Ewart

Please check the Padworth Village Hall Facebook page for Jumble Sale updates.

The **Village Hall** website**: www.padworthvillagehall.co.uk**

Bookings: Jacky Jones - **jonesjacky966@gmail.com**

Summer Reading Challenge

West Berkshire Libraries will be challenging primary age children to read up **to six library books** and to collect **free incentives** from their local library for their achievements as they read - with medals and certificates for everyone who completes the challenge.

From 1 July, **children aged 4-11** years can visit a library to sign up for the **free Summer Reading Challenge**. The theme of this year's challenge is Story Garden, which is all about inspiring children's imaginations and exploring the connection between storytelling and nature, through the power of reading.

There will also be **a mini-challenge for pre-school children** and **one for grown-ups too!**

There are plenty of opportunities for adults to get involved by volunteering to help run the Summer Reading Challenge at their local library over the summer. Anyone who is interested should please visit **www.westberks.gov.uk/volunteer**

For additional activities, games, competitions and suggestions for further reading, visit:

https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

It is free to join and borrow books from West Berkshire Libraries for all people living, working, or studying in West Berkshire. Babies and young children can have their own library cards and borrow up to 15 books at a time. E-books and e-audiobooks are also available to borrow for free. See all details, including current library opening hours here **www.westberks.gov.uk/libraries**

Postal Voting

New rules for absent voting mean that postal votes will need to be renewed every 3 years.

In West Berkshire, there are currently 19,000 people whose vote is due for renewal by the **end of January 2026**. The Council's Elections Team will be contacting those people either by email or letter.

Find out more about how to update your postal vote at **www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote**

If you have any questions about your postal vote, you can call 01635 519464.

‘PADWORTH PAST’

For the past two months I have written about more intense subjects, so I thought I would lighten matters for August and recount some **animal-life episodes** - after all, they too form part of the varied history of our lovely village.

Back at the turn of the century, my husband and I were returning from a social function and as we approached Hatch Farm (by the A-Clump) **a strange animal** ran across the road in front of us - neither of us had seen anything like it before. It was of similar size to a fox but had a very long tail, totally smooth and hairless, which it carried very low behind it, virtually dragging along the ground. We did hear of another lady seeing something similar in her garden further along the Padworth Common road, but to this day do not know what it was.

Just before the crossroads at the top of Padworth Lane, **toads** would once a year in the spring cross from the Pipeline Agency to the pond on the other side of the road. This they used to do in vast numbers, with their mates on their backs and I can remember going up there with buckets helping many across before they were squashed by the traffic. From a distance the sight of them looked like a mini-avalanche!

In the years before the turn of the last century, it was not uncommon to see **ginger rabbits** in the field between the Village Hall and the Railway Line. Presumably an escaped or abandoned pet had mixed with the local population.

Another time, we had a visit from the local police - they had found a **pony** tied the Village Hall door and wanted somewhere to put it until they decided what to do with it. I said they could happily put it in our paddock as long as they took the key and were totally responsible for who picked it up. As it happened, it was a very sensible thing to do!

Staying on the subject of **horses**, I had a friend’s horse staying with me and it was grazing the paddock between Fisherman’s Lodge and the river. For some reason, it decided to go into the river and swim under the bridge to the field on the other side of Padworth Lane, despite having a full, heavy, waterproof rug on! The current there is very strong but luckily no harm was incurred.

Many years ago we were approached by the **Barn Owl Trust** who asked if we could release a young owl from one of our wooden barns. We were quite happy to take this on and duly stocked the freezer with a box of day-old frozen chicks. The owl came and initially we netted across the barn entrance. We duly fed her chicks every day until she was strong enough to fly. This she did quite happily and we were sad to see her go. A couple of days later I went to get the horse in from the field and found her lying exhausted in the field. My immediate reaction was to pick her up, and her immediate reaction was to peck me! We put her back on the beam in the barn for a few more days and fed her and then she was ready to go again. She did return regularly for quite some time to pick up the chicks we still put out for her. A thoroughly rewarding thing to have done.

On another occasion, my husband went to shut our **geese** in one evening and could not find them. He then heard excited noises coming from next door, only to find them gaily swimming around our neighbours’ swimming pool. He brought them home and then went back to clean up the pool (the neighbours were away) but as soon as he put the long-handled pool scoop under what the geese had left in the water, it all disintegrated into ‘pea soup’!. The only solution was to switch the pool-cleaning mode on, which he duly did. We told the neighbours on their return, which luckily they found quite funny.

Staying with birds, we had a **grey parakeet** flying around our yard one day, so put some corn in the back of the pick-up and it eagerly came down for the food. We were then able to catch it. Luckily we had an empty bird cage in the garage. My daughter had some friends who desperately wanted a pet bird, so all ended well and this escapee ended up with a lovely home.

Delia Potter

Aldermaston CE Primary School

As the school year draws to a close, we have been enjoying so many different and varied activities and trips. These include the KS1 visit to **Bournemouth**, to the beach and **Oceanarium**, Owls class pilgrimage to **St Nicholas Church**, Wasing, **Sports day** and **family picnic**, the end of year **church service**, the **Leavers’ Service** and a small group going to **Ufton Court**. These experiences help to embed the curriculum and link with a particular unit of work and are also great fun.

The KS2 summer production ‘**Grub’** was a great success, and the children all did so well, whether with speaking roles, singing or dancing. The **Music Assembly** featured children taking music lessons in school as well as Year 4 clarinet, percussion and rhythm from Wrens and a recorder concert from Robins class.

Our wonderful PTA Committee arranged a wonderful **Summer Fête** which has raised £4000 towards the refurbishment of the playground. Many thanks to everyone who came and supported this event and to all the volunteers on the day.

We were delighted to hear that the **road safety survey** that we sent out on behalf of the Parish Council received 72 responses, following the incident on Wasing Lane. Lines outside of the school have already been repainted and a scheme involving pedestrian guard rails and a safer crossing point has been approved and added to the Council’s programme of construction. They are hoping to complete the required work during the school holidays to minimise disruption.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable and restful summer break and sending all good wishes to our Year 6 leavers as they embark on their next steps at secondary school.

Cathy Jones
Foundation Governor

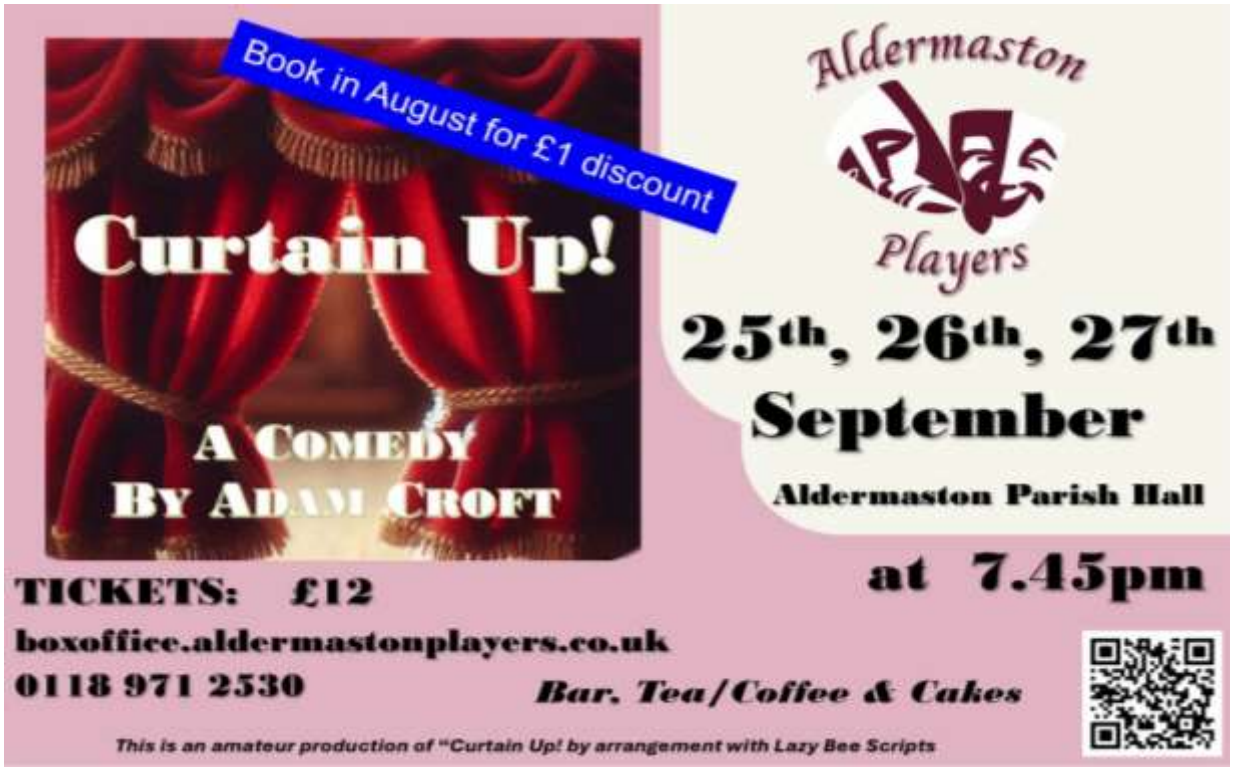
Rambles from the Common

Another month, another task for the **Padworth Common Volunteer Group** and another day taking out willow from the old gravel extraction site beside the track from the car park. I couldn't attend the task myself but visited the Common a few days later and saw that the last trees in the extraction site had been felled, cut up and stacked in a pile on the top of the bank. A fringe of oak and birch now surrounds an irregular hole in the ground from which the Wildlife Trust will remove the stumps with a mini-digger to create a new pond.

I compensated for missing the Padworth task by heading north later in the month to **Lardon Chase**, a chalk grassland on the hill overlooking Streatley. In order to keep its designation as a **Site of Special Scientific Interest** (SSSI) various invasive plants must be removed, so volunteers from **Conserve Reading on Wednesdays** (CRoW) and the **National Trust** joined forces for a joint working party, targetting spear thistle, ragwort and hawthorn. The spear thistles were removed with long-handled chisel hoes which cut through the thistle stalk just below its basal rosette; the cut thistles were left for collection later. **Ragworts** and small **hawthorns** were levered out of the ground, roots and all, using either lightweight "Lazy Dog" tools on the ragworts or heavier tree-poppers on the hawthorns; both types of tool work well, although a slightly damper and less sun-baked soil would have been a bonus. For the safety of the cattle that occasionally graze the site, the toxic ragworts and prickly hawthorns were all collected and chucked into a trailer for disposal elsewhere. Hopefully, now that the overshading invaders have been removed, the remaining low-growing plants like **wild marjoram**, **wild carrot** and **dwarf thistle** will appreciate the extra sunlight they receive. My thanks go to Sandra for leading the CRoW team and to Leo from the National Trust for providing all the tools (and the trailer).

And now I must explain why I missed the Padworth task. The previous day I had been out volunteering with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust for the annual hay cut in **Pamber Forest**, cutting the grass in a long linear meadow above an underground pipeline. The treeless meadow adds habitat diversity to the forest, so every year it is cut with scythes to remove the rank grasses and emergent tree saplings. Some of the day's volunteers chose to wield scythes whilst others, including me, followed them (at a safe distance) with hay rakes and pitchforks to gather and stack the cuttings. The gathering is easy: you stand still with a long-handled rake and drag lots of grass towards you. The stacking is tricky: you hoick up as much grass as you can onto a pitchfork and carry it to the nearest stacking point, then you collect some more grass and stack that, and so on. There were two outcomes from all this carrying and stacking. The first was the satisfaction of a job well done, albeit with legs too tired to go to Padworth Common the next morning. The second was a huge grass monster in the meadow, towering above a five-foot pitchfork, as the photo shows. Maybe something has burrowed inside the monster by now, waiting to jump out on an unsuspecting victim. If you go to the Forest and poke the monster with a stick, please let me know what happens, but only if you survive to tell the tale.

Peter Elliott
Padworth Common Volunteer Group



Aldermaston Parish Council – Notes of Meeting – 10 July 2025

Open Forum
Easy Concrete - their appeal has been dismissed, so we will not have the prospect of several vehicles exiting from the site on Paices Hill onto the A340. The PC will endeavour to reduce the impact of the site.

Planning
There were seven applications for review, three of which had already been determined by WBC, and three affecting Young's Industrial Estate. We were unable to make a decision on these applications, due to apparent lack of emergency plan, so we decided to object.

- The remaining application was from Sascron, in which they resubmitted their plans for a retrospective new building, which was refused last time by WBC. We are sympathetic to their cause and wish to help them. We didn't comment on the application.

As well as the three mentioned above, largely dealing with tree works, WBC has made five decisions.

- Construction of industrial units at Young's - Approved
- Burnt Pine, Reading Road: details for the construction of a replacement dwelling - Approved
- Blacks Lake: details of new units - Approved
- New scaffolding yard at Young's Industrial Estate – Approved. We will legally challenge it
- Appeal by Easy Concrete - Dismissed.

Miscellaneous matters

- There was discussion on traffic calming measures outside the school, following an injury to a child reported last month
- There have been horses on the cycle path; we rely on the general public to report further instances to us
- There has been a MITIE litter pick, courtesy of AWE, and their findings included evidence of anti-social behaviour
- We discussed an extension to the footpath in Church Road from the east of the Manor House grounds. The pavement there has become badly damaged by vegetation.

Parish Clerk
We agreed an extension to the Parish Clerk's hours, because of an increase in her amount of work.

The Rec
We agreed allocation of work on the Recreation Ground, following the RoSPA report.

Alison Faulkner
Alison Faulkner's departure for pastures new was noted, which means that August will be her last meeting.

Next meeting

- **Tuesday 12 August** - at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

As usual, your presence is welcomed!

Dave Shirt
0118 971 2549

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

WHATEVER THE WEATHER!

Some days when I go into the garden I think it's autumn, not because so many plants have leaves turning brown, but, because of all the leaves on the ground, I have had to get the leaf blower out. Me blowing leaves in July!!! What is going on? Well, because the beginning of the year was so wet, the trees were able to keep all their leaves; now it's so dry, they are shredding many so that those left can take up the reduced water supply. A mature oak needs from 50 to 100 gallons per day (190 to 370 litres in new speak). How it finds it in this garden I know not. We have had a little rain which was a blessing but we need a lot more. The next few weeks are not looking good and August is going to be hot again.

I have ordered some **Sedums** and **Delospernums** which are said to be drought tolerant. These I will plant, water for two weeks and then stop to see how they cope, especially if August is going to be hot.

One of the **rhodies**, Polar Nacht, has lots of buds which failed to open in the spring and are now dead. This surprises me as the conditions were good at flowering time. The **dahlias** and **day lilies** are really flowering well, which shows the benefit of having your own underground storage tank, i.e. corms and tubers.

I must start up the **lawn mower** to give it a little run as it hasn't been used for weeks.

I have managed to catch and release two young **rabbits** in the live trap. Carrots from Cobbs worked better than those from Sainsbury's, but the adults are too wise. They are making lots of scrapes and holes and I've had to buy more Grazers to spray on the plants which should protect them, but some are being chewed so I guess they are so hungry that they put up with the taste.

I have pruned both **wisterias** as July is a good time to tidy them up and remove the long shoots. The thing to remember is 7 and 2: in the seventh month, July, you cut back to 7 leaves per shoot, and in the second month, February, you cut back to 2 leaves.

The sunflower seeds are definitely the favourite over peanuts or the mixed seed for the **birds**. I guess because they can grab one and fly into the hedge to eat in safely. The **sparrow hawk** is back paying us one or two visits a week. Also back is the **heron** which has frightened the fish so much that they don't come for their evening meal. I like seeing the heron but am not happy he's scaring the fish. There is a **song thrush** coming to the mealworm feeder, though not seen one for months, and **green finches** are enjoying the sunflower seeds. The rowdy **jackdaws** have moved on and peace has returned. Two new **pheasants** have arrived, no sign of the others.

Groan Time

- My therapist said I have a fear of getting married, and asked if I knew my symptoms. I said I can't say I do
- Did you know that NASA has launched a rocket to say sorry to aliens? They are calling it Apollo G
- Why are Irish investors so successful? Because their capital is always Dublin
- What I if told you
  You the read first line wrong
  Same the with second
  And also the third.

Keep gardening!

Mike Warner

Down on the Farm - It's an early harvest and…

…….we're half way through already! Farmers in this part of England often refer to 1976 as the driest year that they can remember. Here are some facts from my 1976 diary:

- *We had one rain shower in April and one on June 1. Then there was no more rain until August 29 – harvest was completed on August 3.*

This year we have had higher temperatures and some rain but the extra heat has cancelled that out. We now harvest a far greater area with a much larger combine-harvester and with far fewer staff. If the dry weather continues, we might finish combining by the second week of August.

Yields so far have been interesting. The general guide-line is "the better the soil, the higher the yield". **Oil seed rape**, which we didn't grow this year, has yielded well above average while the **winter barley** has been below average. The **winter wheat** ripens earlier on the poorer, gravelly soils and, as expected, has been disappointing, with small, shrivelled grain and low weight. This wheat is used in the livestock and food industry. It has contained 12% moisture instead of the normal 16%, and the grain itself has been far too hot which creates problems in storage. Cooling the grain is essential but difficult to manage as the situation occurs so rarely.

The **milling wheat** is being harvested now and will be tested for suitability for the trade. Much of this is determined by the variety grown, which is specific for bread-making. The grain which is substandard is used in the biscuit trade.

On our farm, we grow **seed wheat** which is for planting this autumn. The rules and requirements are strict but the price bonus is well worth it. Firstly, while growing, it is inspected by qualified inspectors for purity and freedom from weeds etc. At harvest time, to prevent contamination, the grain store, combine, trailers and conveying equipment must be cleansed. Germination must reach the required minimum and moisture must be 15-16%. Sometimes the variety may lose popularity and demand may drop. However, there is another plus in that a late August/early September finish frees up the grain store for other uses.

Following all this dry weather there will be a shortage of **straw.** Many thousands of tons are baled and transported to the livestock farmers in Wales and the West Country. It will be expensive this year.

The hay from our environmental water meadows has been well made and sold direct from the field.

From Our Agricultural Correspondent

Beenham Parish Council – Notes of Meeting – 7 July 2025

Public Forum.
School bus parking dangerously on the corner of Stoneyfield - no response from WBC to date.

Councillors' areas of responsibility
As there is the potential for the vacancy on the PC to be filled soon, and as this has to be put on the agenda, it was decided to discuss these at the next meeting.

New library scheme
Our District Councillor was due to report back on the question of payment for stock of books. As he did not attend the meeting, this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Affordable Housing initiative
The PC is awaiting a response from WBC to identify all possible preferred sites. Our District Councillor will be asked to assist in this.

Merger of Local Councils
An explanation was given on the proposal for WBC to merge with South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse councils to create a new unitary authority under announced Government plans.

Community Room/School Hall security
It was reported that some hirers are not locking the doors and windows when leaving the premises It was suggested that a charge be made when this happens, possibly in the form of a non-returnable deposit. However, as new doors and locks are being fitted over the summer school closure and as it has been mentioned that the current locks may be unreliable, this will be monitored.

Rospa report on the play area on the Rec
The rope swing which was put up on a tree without permission should be removed on safety grounds. *(Post meeting note: it has now been removed.)* Quotes to be sought for other minor repairs and servicing of equipment.

Maps of the footpaths and walks around Beenham
These have been produced. It was suggested that they be pinned onto the two village Facebook pages if permission to do so is granted by the page owners.

Bench
It was reported that a parishioner has requested permission to erect a bench, similar to the one by the school on the grassed area of Stoneyfield. The PC does not own that land, but welcomes the suggestion. Permission will need to be sought from WBC, as it was for the one by the school.

Planning Matters
25/00933/FUL Norbek, Bath Road. 4 new terraced houses following demolition of existing bungalow. The PC will object to this application on the grounds of over development of the site and subsequent increase in traffic.

Next meeting

- **Monday 4 August** - at 7.00pm in the Community Room

All parishioners welcome.

Peter Hamblin
Parish Councillor

All correspondence to the PC should be addressed to the Parish Clerk, Lauren West: 07919 916125/clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk
Parish Council website: www.beenham-pc.gov.uk *Beenham Community Website:* https://www.beenhamonline.org/

Veolia Household Waste Recycling Centres - Padworth & Newtown

How to book an appointment

- There will be a limited number of appointments available during the day between **9am and 6pm**
- The quickest way to book an appointment is **online** but you can also book by contacting Customer Services on 01635 519080
- When you book your appointment you will need to provide your details and car registration number
- Eligible Hampshire residents with a blue permit are able to book an appointment to use Newtown Road recycling centre

Locations: Newtown Road Recycling Centre and Padworth Recycling Centre.

WBC News

Electrical re-use scheme launches at West Berkshire Recycling Centres

Don't throw it away - donate and recycle your electronics

West Berkshire Council, in partnership with Veolia, has teamed up with **Green Machine Computers** to launch an exciting new electrical reuse scheme at both Household Waste Recycling Centres in Newtown Road and **Padworth**.

Residents can now drop off used

- **mobile phones**
- **tablets**
- **laptops**
- **desktop computers**

at dedicated collection points at either site.

Once collected, Green Machine Computers will securely remove any data before passing reusable items to **The Tech Hub** in Hungerford. From there, they will be made available free of charge or at low cost to charities and people in need, ensuring technology reaches those who need it most. Any items that cannot be re-used will be responsibly recycled.

This new initiative makes it easier than ever for residents to give a second life to old electricals in a secure and environmentally responsible way while supporting the local community.

Cllr Stuart Gourley, Executive Member for Environment and Highways at WBC:

"*We're really pleased to introduce this fantastic new service to our residents. Repurposing your old devices is a win-win solution as once refurbished, the items could make a real difference to local schools, charities and families. It's a great way to be environmentally conscious while giving back to the community."*

David Matthews, General Manager at Veolia Padworth said:

"We pride ourselves on providing essential recycling and waste services for residents in West Berkshire.

"If disposed of incorrectly, electrical items like mobile phones, laptops, and tablets can cause fires in collection vehicles and at our sorting or treatment facilities. We are delighted to support this scheme to give residents a safe and easy option for redistributing these household items. By reclaiming these items for residents in need, the partnership will create long lasting impacts for the planet and the community."

Natalie King-Barnard from Green Machine Computers said:

"Making recycling easy is an important goal for our organisation. E-waste is the fastest-growing waste stream and a lot of it is being hoarded inside UK homes (average of 30 unused devices per household). By partnering with West Berkshire Council and Veolia, we're able to provide a secure and sustainable solution for the ethical disposal of people's devices. We're excited for this new initiative and believe it will provide a much-needed option for people to do more with their unwanted technology."

Before visiting the recycling centres don't forget to book an appointment and make sure your permit is up to date.

PREMIER GARDENS AND FENCING

Fencing ● Paths & Patios ● Driveways ● Decking ● Brickwalls ● Block Paving Turfing ● Shed Bases ● Sand & Gravel ● Driveway, Patio Cleaning & Repointing

Tel: 0118 971 4987 Mobile: 07833 642740
Website: www.premiergardens.biz

BURGHFIELD & MORTIMER VOLUNTEER Bureau

Drivers Wanted!

If you cannot get to your medical appointments we, at the Burghfield and Mortimer Volunteer Bureau, give our time and use our own private vehicles to get you to **Hospitals, GP Surgeries, Dentists and Opticians** in our area. We take you to your appointment from your home, wait for you and then return you home.

Have you recently retired? Have a car and enjoy meeting people and chatting? Looking for a way to give some of your time to your community? The Burghfield & Mortimer Volunteer Bureau needs **more drivers** and would welcome ***any*** of your time (daytime Mon-Fri). An allowance of 50p per mile is available to cover motoring expenses.

Contact us on 0118 983 1814 (Mon–Fri 9:30-11:30am) or email bureauvolunteer@gmail.com

CHURCH MATTERS

St John the Baptist, Padworth

Parking on left hand side of Padworth College Drive

Sunday 3 August	Evensong	6.30pm
Sunday 10 August	Parish Eucharist	9 am
Sunday 17 August	Evensong	6.30pm
Sunday 24 August	Parish Eucharist	9 am

St John's, Mortimer

The **Eucharist** is offered daily at 9.15 am & **Night Prayer** each weekday at 9 pm
The **Eucharist** is also each Sunday at 10am via Zoom

Zoom link for services **https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940**

Everyone is welcome to join with the clergy and to take part in these services.
Details are also available on the website: **www.mortimerbenefice.org.uk**

For more information contact the Benefice Office: 0118 933 3704 or email Lorna Jones lornajones48@gmail.com

For Aldermaston and Woolhampton Benefice, *go to* ***www.awb.org.uk***

LOCAL LIBRARIES

Opening Hours

Burghfield Common – 0118 983 3632

Monday	2-5pm
Wednesday	2-5pm
Thursday	10am-5pm
Friday	2.30-6pm
Saturday	10am-12.30pm

Mortimer – 0118 933 2882

Monday	1-5pm
Tuesday	9.30am-5pm
Friday	1-6pm
Saturday	10am-12.30pm

Pangbourne – 0118 984 4117

Monday	2-5pm
Tuesday	10.30am-6pm
Thursday	9.30am-12pm
Friday	10.30am-5pm
Saturday	10am-12.30pm

Theale – 0118 930 3207

Monday	1-5pm
Wednesday	10.30am-5pm
Thursday	2-6pm
Friday	10.30am-5pm
Saturday	10am-12.30pm

Thatcham – 01635 866049

Monday	9.30am-5pm
Tuesday	9.30am-5pm
Thursday	9.30am-5pm
Friday	9am-5.30pm
Saturday	10am-12.30pm

library@westberks.gov.uk www.westberks.gov.uk/libraries

MORTIMER WEST END & DISTRICT ANNUAL SHOW
AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY SATURDAY, 23rd AUGUST 2025
MORTIMER WEST END VILLAGE HALL RG7 2HZ

Entries: 8.30 am – 10.45 am
Judging: 10.45 am – 2.30 pm
Viewing: 2.30 pm – 4.00 pm
Prize Giving: 4.00 pm – 4.30 pm

Come and show us how green-fingered you are, and enter our competitions for prize-winning **vegetables**, **fruit** and **flowers**. Or show us your artistic side, and enter some **flower arrangements**, **handicrafts**, **photographs** or **art work**. You can also show off your **baking** skills and we have lots of fun **handicrafts for children** to try their hand at. (It's a great way to keep them busy during the long summer holidays!)

Schedules detailing all the different items you can enter will be available from late May:

- at Mortimer shops
- on the MWE & District Annual Show Facebook page - @mweshow
- on the Mortimer Village Partnership web site – mortimervillage.org.uk

Come and show off your talents
Come and admire the talents of others
Enjoy tea, coffee and a great selection of cakes
Enter the raffle
Come and have fun!

Aldermaston
Coffee Club

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

Join us in the conservatory area of Hilliers' café on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, any time from 10.00am – 11.30am.

Everyone is welcome – just come along. For further details contact Cynthia Newman 0118 971 3525.

Useful Numbers and Contact Information

Aldermaston CE Primary School:		971 3362	enquiries@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk
Chair of Governors	Charlotte Watchorn		CoG@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk
Aldermaston Parish Councillors:	Sophie Crawford(Ch)	971 2236	scrawford@aldermaston.co.uk
	Dave Shirt	971 2549	dshirt@aldermaston.co.uk
	Alison Faulkner	971 4686	afaulkner@aldermaston.co.uk
	Adam Shepherd-Price	07887 522610	adam@aldermaston.co.uk
	Rob Smith	971 0142	rsmith@aldermaston.co.uk
	Ed Tilsley		
	Angela Woodley	971 2803	awwodley@aldermaston.co.uk
Aster Communities			
Neighbourhood Officer	Rachael McCarthy	01264 405692	rachael.mccarthy@astercommunities.co.uk
ASB Officer	Sue Barton	01264 405583	sue.barton@astercommunities.co.uk
Beenham Parish Councillors:	Graham Bowsher (Ch)	07557 967575	g.bowsher@beenham-pc.gov.uk
	Graham Bragg	971 3688	g.bragg@beenham-pc.gov.uk
	Alex Cother	07764 637190	a.cother@beenham-pc.gov.uk
	Peter Hamblin	971 2959	p.hamblin@beenham-pc.gov.uk
	David Hancock	07471 148256	d.hancock@beenham-pc.gov.uk
	Peter McEwen	07717 718608	p.mcewen@beenham-pc.gov.uk
Benefice Office – Aldermaston	Revd Jane Manley	971 2891	awb.benefice@gmail.com
Benefice Office – Mortimer		933 3704	admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk
Churchwarden – Padworth Church	Elizabeth Porter	971 3136	
Environment Agency		0800 80 70 60	(24-hour number)
Ladies at Lunch	Caroline Givan	07808 400843	caroline.givan@gmail.com
Mobile Library		01635 519827	
Neighbourhood Watch			
Rectory Road	Mike Warner	970 0391	
The Fallows			
Network Rail	Gail Evans	01793 777471	gail.evans@networkrail.co.uk
Network Rail 24 hour Helpline		08457 114141	
NEWSLETTER	**Mary Dance**	**07713 680671**	**maryedance@hotmail.com**
	Sheila Evered	**933 1451**	**sheila_pusinelli@hotmail.com**
No 3 Bus route	Reading Buses	959 4000	www.reading-buses.co.uk
Parish Clerk *(Aldermaston)*	Abi Lewis		parishclerk@aldermaston.co.uk
Parish Clerk (*Beenham*)	Lauren West	07919 916125	clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk
Parish Clerk (*Padworth*)	Alice Owens	07896 321058	clerk@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
Padworth Parish Councillors	Robert Jones (Ch)	07475 744182	robert.jones@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Andrew Griffin	07473 803979	andrew.griffin@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Jonathan Johnson		jonathan.johnson@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
	John Miller	933 2966	john.miller@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Emily Robinson	07769 674460	emily.robinson@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Tommy Tucker	971 2180	tom.tucker@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Andy Williams		andy.williams@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
Padworth Common Advisory Committee:			
Chairman	Mike Warner	970 0391	
Police Neighbourhood Watch	Pangbourne team	101	
Veolia Environmental Service	Daytime	0203 567 2900	west.berkshire@veolia.co.uk
	Out-of-hours	08701 660 309	
Village Hall - *Bookings*	**Jacky Jones**	**07756 820263**	**jonesjacky966@gmail.com**
Village Hall Committee - *Chairman*	Rob Jones	07475 744182	
Volunteer Bureau		983 1814	
Website manager	Alice Owens		clerk@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website			**http://www.padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk**
West Berks Council		**01635 551111**	
Local Councillors			
Aldermaston, Padworth & Beenham	Dominic Boeck	971 0330	dominic.boeck@westberks.gov.uk
Bradfield	Ross MacKinnon		ross.mackinnon1@westberks.gov.uk
Burghfield & Mortimer	Nick Carter		nick.carter2@westberks.gov.uk
	Vicky Poole		Vicky.poole1@westberks.gov.uk
	Geoff Mayes	933 2536	geoffrey.mayes1@westberks.gov.uk
Planning Department		01635 519111	
Highways & Transport			
WBDC Customer Services		01635 519080	
Environmental Health		01635 519192	
Fly Tipping & Waste		01635 519080	
Emergencies (out-of-office hours)		01635 42161	

♦ ♦ Padworth Parish Website ♦ ♦

www.padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Please send your contributions to: **clerk@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk**

Jubilee Jets

SCHOOL Holiday CLUB

BOOK NOW!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
www.jubileedaycare.co.uk/jets
School Road, Padworth Common, RG7 4JA

SCAN ME