

Padworth Newsletter

No. 195

September 2025

Free

We are so lucky to have four talented local people who voluntarily and regularly contribute to the Newsletter: **Padworth Past** (p3), **Rambles from the Common** (p4), **Whatever the Weather** (p6) and **Down on the Farm** (p7). They all manage to find something interesting to say each month, although *Groan Time* can sometimes really cause, well, a groan!

Things to note this month: the wonderful **Tea Rooms Aldermaston Wharf** will be closed between 18-22 September (p2) for a well-deserved break; the new **rubbish collection regime** comes into force on 22 September (p9); free **food caddy bags** are available throughout September (p9) from libraries; and there are some new Induction Courses for **Home Start Volunteers** (p10) which might appeal to some of you. Otherwise, there are several interesting events taking place this month to suit a variety of tastes. Have a good browse!

Mary & Sheila

Deadline for next issue: 25 September 2025

Dates for your DIARY

- **Monday 1 September** Padworth PC (p2); Beenham PC (p8)
- **Wednesday 3 September** Ladies at Lunch (p2)
- **Saturday 6 September** Jumble Sale (p2); Silchester Country Fayre (p7)
- **Sunday 7 September** Aldermaston & Wasing Show (p1)
- **Tuesday 9 September** Aldermaston PC (p5)
- **Saturday 13/Sunday 14** Heritage Open Days Aldermaston (p4)
- **Tuesday 16 September** Invitation to Alpha Course taster (p14)
- **Saturday 20 September** Barn Dance (p4); Pour My Bluff (p7)
- **Monday 22 September** **Change in Rubbish Collection Cycles (p9)**
- **Thursday 25 September** **Macmillan Coffee Morning (p5)**
- **25, 26 & 27 September** Aldermaston Players (p14)

- **Saturday 4 October** Jumble Sale (p2)
- **Saturday 4/Sunday 5 October** Free Soil give-away weekend (p9)



MORE INFORMATION ONLINE 
[HTTPS://AWSHOW.ORG.UK](https://awshow.org.uk)

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY
Craft Stalls, Arena Events, Dog Championship, Coconut Shy, Crockery Smash, Classic Cars, Archery, Egg Throwing, Brass Band, Food stalls, Gun dogs, Community Groups, Tea & Cakes, Bar & much more

Competition classes for all ages
Competition Schedules are available online

HELP NEEDED, PLEASE!
For Duck Derby races & Side shows on the day. Training will be given. If interested please contact secretary@awshow.org.uk

Sponsor Ducks in the Duck Derby!
The Final—1st : £250 2nd: £150 3rd : £75
Heat Winners: £40
10 ducks from each heat to final 
Tickets £2 online at: DUCKDERBY.AWSHOW.ORG.UK

TOMBOLA doorstep collections, after 5pm on Thu 28th Aug & Fri 29th Aug

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

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Padworth Parish Council

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

JUMBLE SALES

The Jumble Sale on Saturday 2 August raised a fabulous **£620.45** for the Kingsclere branch of Riding for the Disabled. They were so grateful and send their thanks to all who helped. Must be best ever!



The next Jumble Sales will be on:

- **Saturday 6 September** – at 2pm in aid of Padworth Village Hall
- **Saturday 4 October** - at 2pm in aid of St. John the Baptist, Padworth
- **Saturday 1 November** - at 2pm in aid of Save the Children, local branch.

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

Ladies at Lunch

Our July Ladies at Lunch raised £112 which we donated to the Foodbank.

Our next lunch will be on

- **Wednesday 3 September** 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**

But we will be **CLOSED** for a well-earned 'Tea Break' between

- **Thursday 18th to Monday 22nd September**

The Tea Rooms will re-open as usual on **Tuesday 23rd September**.

07917 631730

tearoomsaldermaston@gmail.com



'PADWORTH PAST'

This month I would like to tell you a little about one of our very old houses, namely **Padworth House**, which you will probably know better as **Padworth College**.

Padworth House sits on the top of the hill, adjacent to the church and overlooking the River Kennet valley. The earliest mention of habitation here dates back to around 925 and the site is mentioned in the Domesday Book 1086. However, the earliest recorded building was a Tudor house in the late 15th century with large wooden beams and a red-clay tiled roof. Part of this building is incorporated into the current house and in particular many of the old heavy beams still remain.

In 1348 the **Black Death** caused the people of Padworth to disperse from the focal part of the village which centered around the church, having killed many of their menfolk. It is said many houses around the church were burned to try to halt the plague.

The present Padworth House was built in **1769** for local inhabitant **Christopher Griffiths**, and featured much ornamental plasterwork in the entrance hall. By succession, Christopher Williams Darby-Griffiths inherited the Estate and is known as the 'last Squire of Padworth'. Sadly, he shot himself in the house in 1932 as, according to an inquest, he was afraid of going blind. This family had owned Padworth House for over 200 years.

In 1933 the Estate consisted of about 900 acres and was advertised for sale by Winkworths as:

A Residential, Agricultural and Sporting Estate, with Stabling for 10 horses, Coach-Houses and Agricultural Buildings plus two Orchards. Properties included in the Estate were Home Farm (249 acres), Woods (342 acres), Lodge Farm (196 acres), Padworth Mill, Padworth Lodge (now Fisherman's Lodge), Hatch Farm (62 acres), Rag Hill Smallholding (26 acres), Fir Tree Cottage., Hare & Hounds Hotel, Round Oak (PH), The Croft, The White House, Yew Tree Cottage, Bramble Cottage, Bath Road Cottages (East and West), Gardeners Cottage (near Orchards), Upper Lodge, Birch Cottage, Nursery Cottage, Block Cottages (4),

Warren Cottages (2), Saunders Cottage + 4 acres, Keepers Cottage (in woods), Wheelers Shanty at Pound Green (less than half an acre) and Padworth Common Sporting Rights over 73 acres.

Some of these properties were obviously occupied by employees of the Estate, but others were rented out. The grounds included a fishing lake and a boating lake in Padworth Park, the boats being kept in Padworth Lodge.

This sale also included a grand collection of 18th century English furniture, as well as Georgian silver, a cellar of vintage wines, oil paintings and contents of the Estate yard.

A brick-vaulted drain, large enough to accommodate a man (presumably to facilitate cleaning), runs down the Park from Padworth House to the Lower Lodge. A turbine in Belchers Meadow pumped water from the River Kennet up to the house and it is believed the fishing lake may well have served as an emergency overflow in this connection.

Numerous grand social functions took place in Padworth House over the years, and hence many people were employed both by the Estate and in the trades associated with the entertaining.

In WW2 the house was temporarily used for war purposes but in 1944 it was sold with just 12 acres remaining, by Nicholas Auctioneers of Reading and became a private house.

Padworth College was founded in **1963** by Oxford academic Peter Fison as England's first **6th Form College** for young ladies from all over the world. In later years it has also included young men. Sadly, Padworth College closed its doors for the last time this summer. Who knows what the next chapter in the history of this impressive house will be!

Delia Potter

(With grateful thanks to Mr. Charles Freer, Retiring Proprietor of Padworth House, for allowing me access to some of the above information.)

Aldermaston CE Primary School

At the end of the summer term, we said goodbye to our Head teacher **Mrs Higgs** and Deputy **Mr Gunn**, thanking them for their years of service and commitment to the school and wished them every happiness and success for the future.

I am delighted to confirm that our new Head teacher is **Miss Sophie Mosher** who will join the school from 1st September. She brings a broad range of leadership experiences from diverse school settings. Over the past few years Miss Mosher has developed skills in inclusive practice, school improvement, curriculum leadership and pastoral care. She sums up her leadership as value-led, relational and focuses on developing the whole child – an approach that closely mirrors Aldermaston's own commitment to 'Nurture, Grow & Thrive'.

Our new Deputy Head is **Mrs Katherine Makepeace** who is already well known to our school community. She has worked at the school since 2012 and in recent years has been a key part of our senior leadership team in her role as SENCo, driving school improvement and developing good practice.

The staff look forward to welcoming back the pupils in early September and have planned a rich and varied curriculum to educate, inform and inspire the children's learning and development. More news next month.

*Cathy Jones
Foundation Governor*

Rambles from the Common

Well, I managed to join the **Padworth Common Volunteer Group** this month, after missing the previous task, and found that a day of **bracken bashing** on the heathland of the North Common had been scheduled. However, when the group reached the target area we found that there wasn't much bracken, and moreover it was only two feet tall; various conservation groups have been bashing it for ten years or so and at last it seems to be retreating. Nevertheless, there was enough to keep us busy for the morning, so two of us cut down a rather sparse stand with scythes and the others carefully pulled up the individual stems with gloved hands - bracken stems can split, leaving sharp edges that can cause very nasty cuts. By late morning the bracken had been pulled or cut and piled up beside the nearest path, where it won't enrich the soil as it decomposes, so the heathers and bedstraws of the Common will enjoy the rest of the summer without the bracken stealing their sunlight. Of course, some bracken will return next year, but so will the volunteer group to bash it again.



There was a very different type of **bracken bashing** just across the county boundary in Upper Inhams Copse, courtesy of the **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust**. Dense swathes of six-foot tall bracken had colonised a hillside where all the brash and side-branches of some felled Scots pines had been piled up higgledy-piggledy after the trunks had been taken away. Cutting bracken whilst walking downhill with dead branches trying to trip you is a far cry from the gentle plains of Padworth Common, but eventually we cleared a most impressive area. The bracken had to go because it was hampering the regrowth of native deciduous trees like **birch** and **rowan**, so even though the task was tiring we all felt very virtuous.

Finally, I was pleased to receive an email from **Conserve Reading on Wednesdays**, aka CROW, calling for volunteers to clear **wild parsnip** from the **butterfly glade** in Paices Wood Country Park in Aldermaston. Although it was another task just cutting down vegetation, at least it wasn't bracken, and I'm lead to believe that a change is as good as a rest, but try telling that to my aching muscles. Like bracken though, wild parsnip can fight back; you can get a rash and blisters if its sap gets splashed onto skin that is then exposed to sunlight, so we all wore gloves, long trousers and long-sleeved shirts despite the heat. The photo shows an unripe seedhead; it's a quirk of nature that something so innocent in appearance can be so dangerous.

Peter Elliott
Padworth Common Volunteer Group

AH ALDERMASTON HISTORY GROUP

H

heritage open days Aldermaston

Saturday 13th September 11:00 to 17:00
Sunday 14th September noon to 17:00



St Mary the Virgin Church

Thanks to the PCC, this is a chance to take a leisurely wander around this beautiful local building and learn about the art and artists.

Members of the History Group will be on hand to talk about the church and the architecture of Aldermaston.

ARCHITECTURE

More information on event and locations : <https://group.aldermastonhistory.uk>



BEECH HILL

Barn Dance

DANCING TO THE KICK SHINS BAND

<p>Tickets £15 head Dinner included Cash bar Live music</p>	<p>The Memorial Hall Saturday 20th September 7-10pm</p>
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Tickets available to purchase by scanning QR code
 Or contact: Melissa@owston.net
 Raising funds for St Mary's Church



Aldermaston Parish Council – Notes of Meeting – 12 August 2025

No Open Forum

Planning

- Various tree works at The Red House, The Street - **No Objection**
- Resubmitted plans for the conversion of 1-2 Dixons Cottages into a single dwelling in Church Road - **No Objection**
- Retrospective plans for the converting of Corbyn in Soke Road into in effect offices for Neals, the packaging company – **Objection** as we feel their application is disingenuous, and doesn't reflect the true status of the residential building.
- Unit A at Young's industrial estate - **Objection** due to the DPZ, despite the Parish Clerk having received a letter from the land agent. This was the subject of our judicial review
- Application for the conversion of the redundant farm building in Fisherman's Lane – **No Objection**, although we will insist on the same conditions as last time.

Recent WBC decisions

- Tree works at Brook House, The Pottery, and 33 The Street – **No Objection**
- Planning Permission for the demolition of an outbuilding at Burnt Pine, Reading Road - **not required**
- Erection of a replacement building at Cedar Lodge, Soke Road - **Approved**
- Application for a garden/summer house at 26 Maida's Way – **Refused**
- Non-material amendment to the Application for the industrial estate at Blacks Lake - **Approved**

The Rec

We decided not to change the "kissing gate" at the Rec,

although signs for disabled access in the pub car park will be requested.

Other matters

- *Railings outside the school* - WBC have decided to move them slightly. This will be done during the October half-term.
- *Vegetation* has been cut down on the pavement near the Church at our request.
- *Cross-border Liaison Committee* We decided to join this proposed committee at the request of Baughurst PC
- The Parish Clerk gave an update on the hours spent on budget reporting, which she hopes will reduce as she becomes more familiar with the process.
- There was a request for *CIL funding*, being the purchase of a Tithe Map by the Aldermaston History Group

District Councillor

In his report, Dominic Boeck commented on the members' bid process which could raise £5,000 for the local community.

Alison Faulkner

The Chairman expressed admiration for the long service of Councillor Alison Faulkner, who was attending the meeting for the last time because she is moving to pastures new.

Next meeting

- **Tuesday 9 September** - 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



WEST BERKSHIRE COMMITTEE

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT



*Thursday 25
September*

*Victory Room,
Bucklebury
RG7 6PR*

10.30AM - 1.00PM

COFFEE AND CAKE
LOTS OF WONDERFUL STALLS
GRAND RAFFLE

THERE ARE NEARLY 3.5 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE UK
LIVING WITH CANCER
MACMILLAN AIMS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR ALL
AFFECTED BY CANCER – WHATEVER IT TAKES

Organised by West Berkshire Macmillan Committee in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (201177)



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.

WHATEVER THE WEATHER!



My weatherman brother, who is 90 this week, and still does a daily forecast on Midlands Radio, tells me it is going to rain this coming week, thanks to **Storm Erin**. You can imagine how I'm crossing everything that this is so. Despite all my watering can efforts, so many plants are suffering, and I've lost a few young **hydrangeas** and **rhodies**, very sad. As Thames Water have written to me to say we have all got to have Smart Meters fitted by law, I will have to think carefully what I grow as using cans and sprinklers will no doubt cost me a fortune. I visited dear old Shropshire last week and was very jealous of the green lawns; ours are dead.

I daren't plant out my many young plants grown from **seeds and cuttings** and which should have been planted out months ago. I'm having to re-pot many as they've out grown their first pots. Maybe some can go out next week.

I mentioned last month that plants with **bulbs, corms or tubers** are doing well with their own water storage 'tanks'. The **gladioli** are now flowering really well and I have been picking them and bringing indoors, something I never do, but the heat has been burning them up, so a rule ignored in this weather. I'm surprised at how well the **ornamental grasses** are doing as they don't have 'tanks'. One I am growing for the first time this year is *Miscanthus malepartus*. It has amazing seed heads, 8 inches long, purple with white stripes, which open up into large splayed displays. I will definitely be keeping seeds and growing more.

I have to admit to yet again failing to grow **Himalayan blue poppies**. I bought 8 plug plants in spring and they've been growing well with my very careful care. But! One by one they've perished, the last one this week. They just can't take the heat. I am hoping for better success with my **Sea Squill**, *Urginea Maritima*, which I planted as a bulb three years ago. It has never flowered, but this year it has a 3 foot tall flower spike. I hope I'm not tempting fate but all looks well. I guess it needed the heat. One plant you would think would love the heat is the **Australian Palm**, *Cordyline Australia*, but it is dropping so many leaves. I say leaves but they are more like swords, 3 foot long and thin. It is over 50 years old and looks in good health.

The **cyclamen hederifolium** are flowering all over the place and that's about a month early here.

I told you that the adult **rabbits** were too wise to go into the live trap after the carrots, but four have visited it and I've rehomed them. Two to go and we should be rabbit free for the first time in years. I was so pleased when I went to shut the gate a week ago, as I passed where I had put some scraps out for Charlie Fox and there was a new **Mrs Tiggywinkle**. I do hope this one keeps away from sick rabbits, not that I've seen any recently. Having shut the gate I was walking back when I saw a **Pipistrelle bat**, not seen one for months. Then there was Charlie tucking into his food. Good night that.



The attached photo was taken by me on the 11th August at 6.30 am. It was the most amazing cloud formation I have ever seen. My brother tells me it is **alto-cumulus perliquidus** and is caused by instability at 10,000 to 15,000 feet. If there was greater instability then the cloud would have turrets and be called **alto-cumulus floccus**, and that means thunderstorms are on their way.

Groan Time.

- How do you greet a cop? Police-d to see you
- Why did the coffee call the police? Because it got mugged
- Why did the police arrest the celery? Because it was charged with stalking
- Why did the robber wear blue gloves? Because he didn't want to be caught red handed
- What happened when a wig was stolen? Police combed the area
- Who is that famous detective in the garden? Sherlock Gnomes

Keep Gardening!

Mike Warner

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.

Down on the Farm – Harvest completed

The **cereal harvest** is all done for another year, not in record time, but with a few bonuses to compensate for the much lower yields due to the drought: we did not need to hire in an extra combine harvester because with the endless spell of dry hot weather our own large machine coped comfortably with the area and conditions. We were able to wait in the mornings until the dew had evaporated, normally by 11am, and go on late into the night before the dew came down again, around 11pm to midnight. It was a huge credit to all our staff who were prepared to work these uncivilised hours, not only the combine driver but the grain-cart drivers, always two, sometimes three, plus the grain-store supervisor. Well done, everyone!

The other huge bonus, a saving in terms of time and money, was the total absence of **artificial drying**. All the grain was harvested at 16% moisture or less. We insert cooling towers into the large heaps of grain to reduce the temperature of the grain, which is a little difficult when the outside temperature is near 30°C! The seed corn for planting is being collected now.

The **fodder beet** will be next to harvest, around the end of September. The beet crop itself is very deep-rooted so once established can survive dry conditions and thrive. Interestingly, this year we are growing the crop on two rather differing soil types: on the **gravel soil** the plants are smaller but the germination was better initially, though now they are looking very limp and suffering, like our garden vegetables, whereas the plants on the **heavier clay soil** look healthy and full of growth. It will be interesting to see which area produces the most yield. If we have a good 48 hours of rain,

it would benefit both soil types and crops hugely!

You may be wondering why the **maize harvest** is already underway, so early. Although we ourselves have no maize crop this year as sadly the dairy farmer we supplied has closed his herd, the maize crops grown around here have suffered hugely drought-wise and have ripened prematurely. The quantity is actually getting less by the day so an early harvest is essential.

As soon as the harvest was completed and the straw and bales cleared, it was time to direct-drill the stubble with **turnips** for the sheep in wintertime. Time is of the essence here: the sooner the seeds are planted the better, but they need moisture to germinate. We are not getting it, are we? This scenario is so typical of the agricultural industry. We never know what nature is going to deal us, let alone the Government. Our industry is changing and I am not sure it is for the better!

Finally, we are well on with the necessary preparation for autumn cultivations with the **cereal planting** due to commence around mid-September. The enormous power of a modern-day tractor and the robust equipment it tows means that the soil, however dry, almost, can be broken down and a seed bed prepared. But it is expensive on fuel and the wearing of parts. In the old days, we just had to wait for it to rain!

From Our Agricultural Correspondent



MARKET STALLS

TEA TENT & BAR

DOG SHOW

CLASSIC VEHICLES

11am - 4pm

Silchester

★ ★ **COUNTRY FAYRE** ★ ★

SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

SILCHESTER PLAYING FIELD, RG7 2NJ

AN AFTERNOON FULL OF FUN
IN AID OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN SILCHESTER

Silchester
Country Fayre

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mvp

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St John's Hall, Mortimer

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IN ASSOCIATION WITH
LAITHWAITES

*Booking Fee applies

Beenham Parish Council – Notes of Meeting – 4 August 2025

Public Forum

- *Proposed 20 mph speed limit* adjacent to the school: WBC say they are studying the impact of the Theale 20 mph scheme and hope to form a policy after the study
- *Eastbound slip road junction* of Bath Road and Beenham:



After receiving a letter from a parishioner about the safety of this junction, WBC have advised that they consider that the Eastbound slip road scheme "to be the most suitable arrangement given the existing highway conditions. For the purposes of clarity, southbound road users travelling from Beenham Hill and wishing to join the A4 Bath Road heading eastwards are required to give way to eastbound road users already on the A4 Bath Road, as indicated by the existing road markings and traffic signs at this location."

Councillor Responsibilities

After the vacancies left by D Hinkes' move away, the following responsibilities were allocated:

- Police Liaison - Alex Cother
- PC representative on Victory Hall Committee - Peter Hamblin
- Roads and Footpaths - a parishioner volunteered to take on this role on behalf of and reporting to the PC

Internal Auditor Report

It was agreed to put more focus into the 4 areas which the report recommended.

Others matters

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/>

- *School bus drop off point* in Stoneyfield: this has reverted back to its original location
- *Aldermaston Wharf parking*: WBC is putting together a Parking Planning scheme which will include Mallard Way

Planning Matters

- 25/01497/HOUSE: 5 Back Lane, Beenham. Single storey/side and rear extensions. **No objection.**
- 24/02808/FULMAJ. Grundon: Application has been **Granted**. Grundon have asked the PC why they asked to see a master plan for the development of this site. It was reported in May that, as there have been several separate applications for small developments to this site, the PC wanted to see a master plan in the context of 'creeping development' on a site that encroaches upon the AONB.

Other Matters

- *Climate Action Plan*: It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting
- *Parking on pavements/footpaths* adjacent to the school/Picklepythe Lane: This has been raised by the BVH Committee as being dangerous for the disabled, motobility scooter users, parents with child buggies etc as access is being blocked. The PC has previously asked parishioners to not park on pavements in Back Lane for the same reasons and extend this to include the same near the school
- *Repairs/Maintenance of playground and equipment*: The quote from AES to repair and service equipment in line with the recent Rospa report was accepted

Next meeting

- **Monday 1 September** – 7pm in the Community Room

All parishioners welcome.

Peter Hamblin
 Parish Councillor





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Waste and recycling give-away events for a greener West Berkshire

West Berkshire residents can look forward to not one, but **two** fantastic **free** giveaways this autumn to help reduce waste and protect our environment.

1. Compostable food waste caddy liners



From

1-30 September 2025,

Residents can pick up a free roll of compostable food waste caddy liners from the following places during regular opening hours:

- All West Berkshire Council Libraries
- The Council Office reception at Market Street in Newbury
- Tilehurst Parish Council

This offer is only open to West Berkshire residents and is available while stocks last. We ask that you only take one roll per household to give as many residents the opportunity to collect a free roll. Proof of address or your West Berkshire library card is required.

2. Soil conditioner give-away - 4-5 October

In partnership with Veolia, WBC's environmental partner, we're offering **FREE** locally produced soil conditioner for the seventh time at **Padworth Integrated Waste Management**

Facility (RG7 4JF) between

- **10am - 4pm on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 October.**

For the giveaway weekend, no appointment is needed - just bring proof of address to confirm you are a West Berkshire resident and your own bags or boxes to easily carry and load the soil conditioner into your car - the soil conditioner will be loose, no direct loading into vehicles for health and safety reasons. Residents can still use the **household waste recycling centre** as normal but must still **book an appointment**.

This is a free event, and some queues are likely during peak times. Please arrive after 10:00am to avoid congestion; we'll restock throughout the day so there's plenty to go around. Please be patient when you arrive as we aim to allow as many people as possible to collect the soil conditioner. Also, let's be fair - we ask residents to take a reasonable amount so everyone can benefit to enjoy this fantastic offer.

Please note there will be vehicle restrictions in place. Vehicles listed as 'prohibited' in the **Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) user guide** will not be allowed to collect the free soil conditioner. No commercial vehicles will be admitted; this is for householders only. Residents must take necessary precautions for carrying the soil conditioner safely to their vehicle. The event organisers accept no liability for any injuries or damage that may be sustained by residents loading their vehicles.



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

"We are very pleased to be able to offer two free give-aways between September and October for our local community."

"Despite the availability of food waste recycling, we are still finding that around 22% of the contents of black bins is food waste. Making full use of the food waste service is one of the most effective ways residents can increase capacity in their black bins and reduce the amount of waste sent for energy recovery. It also helps to reduce pests and unpleasant smells associated with food waste being left in general rubbish bins. Food waste collections will continue to be weekly."

"With the move to three-weekly waste collections starting on 22 September, it's more important than ever to recycle food waste and take advantage of the services available to help manage household waste efficiently."

Dave Matthews, General Manager at Veolia West Berkshire, said:

"The soil conditioner giveaway is an excellent example of the circular economy in action, with food and green waste collected from households being converted into soil conditioner for the community at our local In-Vessel Composting Facility in Padworth."

"The soil conditioner is peat-free, meaning peatlands that store carbon dioxide are not impacted as part of its production, which helps combat climate change and protect important environments. Residents can have a positive impact on local soil health and biodiversity by using this free soil conditioner in their gardens and allotments throughout West Berkshire."

New Volunteer Induction Courses Starting This Autumn



We're delighted to announce that we will be running **two brand new volunteer induction courses** here at Home-Start West Berkshire!

It's been some time since our last volunteer training – in fact, due to low numbers, we haven't been able to run a course since February this year. That's why we're so excited to welcome new people who want to make a difference to local families.

Our volunteers are at the heart of everything we do, and the work we do makes a difference.

Upcoming Course Dates

Monday Course

- 22 September 2025 – 9:30am–12:30pm
- 29 September 2025 – 9:30am–12:30pm
- 6 October 2025 – 9:30am–12:30pm
- 13 October 2025 – 9:30am–12:30pm
- 20 October 2025 – 10:30am–12:30pm

Friday Course

- 26 September 2025 – 9:30am–12:30pm
- 3 October 2025 – 9:30am–12:30pm
- 10 October 2025 – 9:30am–12:30pm
- 17 October 2025 – 9:30am–12:30pm
- 24 October 2025 – 10:30am–12:30pm

If you or someone you know would like to get involved and become a Home-Start volunteer, please keep an eye on our website and social media channels for more details – or get in touch with our team directly to register your interest.

<https://home-startwestberks.org.uk/>

A yellow poster for the 'Duck Derby 2025' at the Aldermaston & Wasing Show. The poster features a central illustration of a duck. Text on the poster includes: '£2 per Duck', 'Duck No:' followed by a blank space, 'Aldermaston & Wasing Show', 'Duck Derby 2025', '£40 to Winner of each Heat', 'Top 10 Ducks go into the Final', 'Donations to 2 charities: NEWBURY SOUP KITCHEN - Charity No. 1179298, WEST BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL (Berkshire Healthcare Charity - Charity No. 1049733)', 'Duck Derby to be held at The Old Mill, Aldermaston', 'Sunday 7th September 2025 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.', 'Promoter: J.Arlott, The Old Mill, Aldermaston, Berks RG7 4LD', 'Regd. under the Lotteries and Amusements Act 1972 with West Berkshire Council, No. 832', 'Tickets sponsored by Pump Technology', and a 'Final Winners' table: 'First £250', 'Second £150', 'Third £75'. There is also a small logo of a water wheel.

A poster for 'SPECTACLE of LIGHT' at Welford Park. The poster features a central illustration of a large, illuminated building at night. Text on the poster includes: 'SPECTACLE of LIGHT', 'WELFORD PARK', 'The Breathtaking After-dark Experience is Back!', '17 October – 9 November 2025', 'BOOK EARLY & SAVE!', 'DOG FRIENDLY' (with a paw print icon), '...The whole family absolutely loved it...', and 'Book tickets online WelfordPark.co.uk'. There is also a QR code in the bottom right corner.

CHURCH MATTERS

St John the Baptist, Padworth

Parking on left hand side of Padworth College Drive

Sunday 7 September	Evensong	6.30pm
Sunday 14 September	Parish Eucharist	9 am
Sunday 21 September	Evensong	6.30pm
Sunday 28 September	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

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Tel: 0118 971 4987 Mobile: 07833 642740

Website: www.premiergardens.biz



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

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

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.

Useful Numbers and Contact Information

Aldermaston CE Primary School: Chair of Governors		971 3362	enquiries@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk
Aldermaston Parish Councillors:	Charlotte Watchorn	971 2236	CoG@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk
	Sophie Crawford(Ch)	971 2549	scrawford@aldermaston.co.uk
	Dave Shirt	971 4686	dshirt@aldermaston.co.uk
	Alison Faulkner	07887 522610	afaulkner@aldermaston.co.uk
	Adam Shepherd-Price	971 0142	adam@aldermaston.co.uk
	Ed Tilsley		rsmith@aldermaston.co.uk
	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
	Revd Jane Manley	971 2891	awb.benefice@gmail.com
Benefice Office – Aldermaston		933 3704	admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk
Benefice Office – Mortimer	Elizabeth Porter	971 3136	
Churchwarden – Padworth Church		0800 80 70 60	(24-hour number)
Environment Agency	Caroline Givan	07808 400843	caroline.givan@gmail.com
Ladies at Lunch		01635 519827	
Mobile Library			
Neighbourhood Watch			
Rectory Road	Mike Warner	970 0391	
The Fallows			
Network Rail			
Network Rail 24 hour Helpline	Gail Evans	01793 777471	gail.evans@networkrail.co.uk
<u>NEWSLETTER</u>		08457 114141	
	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 (<i>Aldermaston</i>)	Abi Lewis		parishclerk@aldermaston.co.uk
Parish Clerk (<i>Beenham</i>)	Lauren West	07919 916125	clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk
Parish Clerk (<i>Padworth</i>)	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 - <i>Chairman</i>	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			
<i>Aldermaston, Padworth & Beenham</i>	Dominic Boeck	971 0330	dominic.boeck@westberks.gov.uk
<i>Bradfield</i>	Ross MacKinnon		ross.mackinnon1@westberks.gov.uk
<i>Burghfield & Mortimer</i>	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



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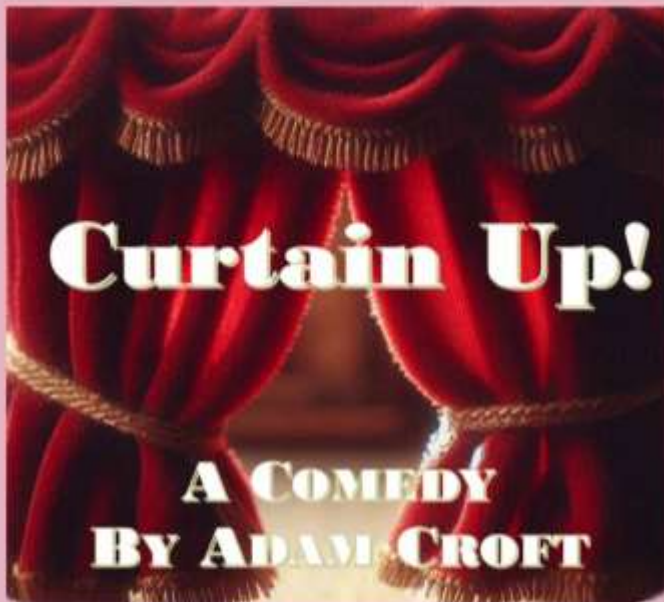
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Alpha



Curtain Up!

**A COMEDY
BY ADAM CROFT**

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boxoffice.aldermastonplayers.co.uk

0118 971 2530

Aldermaston



Players

**25th, 26th, 27th
September**

Aldermaston Parish Hall

at 7.45pm



This is an amateur production of "Curtain Up!" by arrangement with Lazy Bee Scripts