

PADWORTH NEWSLETTER

September 2026



Padworth Newsletter

Welcome to the September edition of the Padworth Newsletter.

As always, we are grateful to everyone in the community who takes the time to share news, photos, events, and recommendations, your contributions are what make this newsletter such a valuable and enjoyable read. A special thank you to our regular contributors for your continued support and enthusiasm.

We warmly welcome new submissions, so please do send in anything you would like to share by emailing padworthnewsletter@yahoo.com by the 25th of the month for publication on the 1st. The newsletter continues to be available on the Padworth Village Hall website, the Padworth Parish website, and local Facebook pages to ensure it is accessible to all. It can be downloaded and read at your leisure.

If you would prefer to receive a copy directly by email, please contact padworthnewsletter@yahoo.com to be added to the distribution list.

This month, we shine a spotlight on **SK's Kitchen**, discover the beauty of **Padworth Common – a local gem for wildlife and people**, with insights from the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT), and bring you the latest updates on what's happening in Padworth and the surrounding areas.

After receiving the article about Padworth Common from BBOWT, I happened to be out on a walk and spotted one of the volunteers carrying out a reptile survey. It was fascinating to see first-hand the work being undertaken and to learn just how much wildlife we have right on our doorstep.

Hope you enjoy this edition!



Solar Eclipse

On 12 August, we were treated to a memorable solar eclipse, with clear skies providing perfect conditions for watching the event. Several families gathered at the Padworth Village Hall playground to enjoy the spectacle. A special shout-out to the Deakins family for sharing their wonderful photos with us, and for sharing their eclipse glasses! It was amazing to see just how much of a difference the glasses made and how clearly the solar glasses enabled us see the eclipse safely.



Jumble Sale News and future dates

We are always grateful for your unwanted donations, which can be brought to Padworth Village Hall on the morning of the sale between **9:30am and 11:30am**. All jumble sales are held on the first Saturday of each month. Please note that we cannot accept furniture.

Please do not drop off donations at the hall on any other days. Items left outside these times will be disposed of.

Jumble can also be collected by calling **Hazel Ewart on 07876 073385** to arrange a collection, or you may arrange a time to deliver items by calling the same number.

The sale **starts at 2:00pm**, and there is a **small donation requested on entry, 50 pence**.

- August Jumble raised a wonderful £521.75 in aid of The Wessex Cancer Trust
- September 6th in aid of St. John the Baptist, Padworth
- October 3rd in aid of Prospect House Hospice
- November – No Jumble Sale
- December 5th in aid of Padworth Village Hall



WEST BERKS FOOD BANK

See www.westberks.foodbank.org.uk for full details of requests. Collection from Tesco Burghfield, Co-Op Mortimer or 07955 626621. Urgently needed: UHT milk, long life fruit juice, tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned carrots/peas/sweetcorn, egg noodle nests, cereal bars, fruit squash, toothpaste, nappies size 6/7.



Spotlight on Local Businesses – SK's Kitchen

This month, we are shining the spotlight on **SK's Kitchen**, featuring the delicious Indian dining experiences offered by Sanghmitra. Read on to discover more about her kitchen diners and enjoy a taste of India right here in Padworth.

About Sanghmitra

"My love of food probably comes from both my parents: my mother had a real interest in cooking, while my father simply loved feeding people. But I really began cooking seriously when I moved to the United States for higher education.

I started with the Bengali food I had grown up with, then explored other North Indian cuisines. Marrying into a South Indian family opened up a completely different culinary tradition, which I learnt from my mother-in-law and family. Over the years my cooking has travelled much further, including international influences, although it has always remained vegetarian.

While living in Ireland, I met other expats who shared my enthusiasm for food. I started a cooking club where we learnt from one another, and later hosted supper clubs and taught classes in regional Indian vegetarian cooking.

That same idea is at the heart of SK's Kitchen: making Indian food accessible and sharing the kind of regional, homestyle cooking actually found in Indian kitchens rather than typical restaurant fare. I don't feel bound by one region or tradition and enjoy developing my own style.

Most of all, I want guests to experience something of an Indian home table — shared food, conversation and the pleasure of feeding people well. In our culture, guests are important. Seeing them leave happy and content makes me happy too".

September offer

Exclusive offer to Padworth Newsletter. You can enjoy **10% off** any September dates at **SK's Kitchen**.

For more information you can contact Sanghmitra on email serenityponduk@gmail.com



SK's Kitchen

An evening of regional Indian homestyle cooking around a shared table

Following our wonderful August supper clubs...

SEPTEMBER DATES
11 • 12 • 18 • 19 September

Later September dates fully booked

£50 per person

For future supper club dates & bookings:
serenityponduk@gmail.com

6 guests • BYOB • Vegetarian • Ages 16+ • Group bookings welcome



SK's Kitchen Menu

Also from

SERENITY POND STUDIO

Botanical & nature-inspired art
 From photograph to artwork.

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Hosted in a beautiful private rural West Berkshire home and garden setting

Beautiful Padworth Common – a local gem for wildlife and people

England holds more than 20% of the world's total area of lowland heath, but around 85% of our heathland has been lost in the last 150 years, due to planting of conifers, conversion to agriculture, house building etc; and much of what is left has been degraded by lack of management.

Much of our heathland was created by early humans clearing trees, grazing livestock, cutting birch and gorse, and extracting sands and gravels. Over the last 100 years this low intensity agricultural and industrial use has stopped and, through a process known as natural succession, birch, pines and gorse have grown up, shading the ground and building up leaf-litter. This has meant that what was a hot, sunny, nutrient-poor ecosystem has become a cold, nutrient-rich environment that is totally unsuitable for most of our heathland specialist wildlife.

This natural succession was also beginning to happen on Padworth Common before Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) took on the management on behalf of West Berkshire Council. BBOWT has begun management to restore the heathland by removing the birch and pine saplings, controlling the purple moor grass and bracken, and removing the accumulating leaf litter and soil.

Much of this work is carried out by contractors in the winter to avoid disturbing the Common's precious ground-nesting birds. This work includes clearing gorse and birch, and creating scrapes to remove the accumulated debris back to the nutrient-poor mineral layer, which in turn controls the invasive grass, birch, bracken and gorse. This creates a hot habitat in which heather, reptiles, ground-nesting bees and wasps, and ground nesting birds can thrive.

For more delicate tasks, volunteers such as the Padworth Common Conservation Volunteers, West Berkshire Countryside Society Volunteers and Green Gym work on the common all year-round using hand tools. If you would like to help with this, please contact BBOWT via volunteering@bbowt.org.uk.

All this fantastic work ensures that the Common continues to provide a safe home for species such as grayling butterflies, emperor moths, nightjars, tree pipits, stonechats, woodlarks, tiger beetles, adders, grass snakes and common lizards.

The beautiful heathland of Padworth Common is a magical place to visit, both for locals and visitors alike. To ensure that it remains a vibrant ecosystem for generations to come it is essential that those visiting the reserve take great care not to damage its delicate habitats. Always remember that you are a guest in some other creature's home!

Some of the Common's most precious inhabitants are its ground nesting birds such as the nightjars. Clearly by nesting on the ground these species are especially sensitive to disturbance. It is for this reason that visitors are asked to keep dogs on a lead especially in the nesting season, from 1 March to 31 July.

The other great threat to heathland is fire. It is, therefore, essential that visitors do not use barbecues or light campfires, and take care not to discard cigarette butts or glass bottles.

Padworth Common is surrounded by Padworth Gully, Burnt Common, the Englefield woods and Wokefield Common, forming an important natural landscape; and together with areas such as Tadley Common, Silchester Common, Bucklebury Common, Greenham and Crookham Commons forms a landscape of national importance along the plateau gravels deposited at the end of the last Ice Age. Why not get out and enjoy your local area.

Grahame Hawker, volunteer for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)



Stonechat
Credit Adam Jones



Heather
Credit Ross Hoddinott
2020Vision



Common Lizard
Tom Hibbert

Kennet Wood Turners – Keeping the Craft of Woodturning Alive in Padworth

Kennet Wood Turners has been part of the local community for almost 30 years, having been founded in October 1997 when a group of like-minded woodturners came together to share their interest in the craft. The Club continues to welcome woodturners of all abilities and meets regularly at Padworth Village Hall.

The Club holds its main meeting on the second Tuesday of each month, starting at 7.30pm and finishing at around 10.00pm. Most evenings feature a demonstration from an invited guest or one of the Club's members, covering different woodturning techniques, projects and skills. The Village Hall's facilities work particularly well for these demonstrations, with the presenter able to project close-up video of their work onto two large screens, allowing everyone in the hall to follow the techniques being demonstrated.

On the fourth Saturday of each month, from 10.00am to 1.00pm, the Club holds an informal workshop at the hall. Several lathes are available for members to practise their skills, try new techniques and work on projects, while sharing ideas, tips and advice with fellow turners. The next workshop will be held on Saturday 26th September, with a Christmas theme. Members will be making Christmas trees, hanging decorations and snowmen ready for the run-up to Christmas. The session will also provide an opportunity to practise ahead of the Club's competition in November. Refreshments are served during the morning, providing an opportunity to chat and get to know other members.

There are several experienced senior members who are happy to provide additional support and guidance to less experienced turners, offering a welcoming place to learn, ask questions and build confidence. Held in members' sheds or garages on Saturdays, these informal workshops are a great opportunity for anyone new to woodturning, or for those looking to develop their existing skills in a relaxed and supportive environment.

The Club also has a small shop selling useful woodturning supplies, including sandpaper, finishing products, other consumables and pen-making kits.

Kennet Wood Turners aims to promote and nurture the art of woodturning, provide a forum for members to exchange ideas and techniques, and organise regular meetings, demonstrations, workshops, competitions and exhibitions of members' work.

The Club will also be at the Newbury Show on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September 2026, where members will be selling a selection of items they have created and will be available to meet visitors, share information about the Club and talk about the art of woodturning.

New members are always welcome, whether you are an experienced woodturner or simply have an interest in learning more about this fascinating and creative craft.

For further information, visit the Kennet Valley Woodturners website or search for Kennet Valley Woodturners on Facebook.



Family Ski Holidays: Finding the Mountain Experience That's Right for You

By Laura Dean, The Travel Design Company

There is something special about a family ski holiday. It combines fresh mountain air, outdoor adventure and precious time together away from everyday routines. Whether it is a child discovering their first turns, teenagers exploring a new mountain or parents returning to a favourite winter pastime, skiing creates memories that often last long after the snow has disappeared.

Choosing where to go, however, is not always straightforward. The famous Alpine resorts of France and Switzerland are popular for good reason, with spectacular scenery, excellent skiing and beautiful villages, but they can also be among the most expensive options, particularly during the busy February half-term period.

Fortunately, there are many wonderful alternatives, each offering something different. Some families may be looking for gentle slopes and excellent ski schools, while others want challenging terrain, traditional villages or a wider winter adventure beyond skiing itself.

For beautiful villages and Alpine charm: Austria

Austria remains one of Europe's most appealing ski destinations, combining excellent skiing with some of the most picturesque mountain villages in the Alps. While resorts such as St Anton and Kitzbühel attract visitors from around the world, smaller resorts often offer a more relaxed and family-friendly experience.

Alpbach is a wonderful example. With traditional wooden chalets, a pretty village centre and a welcoming atmosphere, it offers the kind of authentic Alpine experience many families are looking for. The slopes are well suited to beginners and intermediate skiers, while the wider ski area provides enough variety for those wanting to explore further.

For families with mixed abilities, Saalbach-Hinterglemm offers a larger ski area with gentle learning zones alongside more challenging pistes. Combined with excellent food, warm hospitality and a strong skiing tradition, Austria remains a reliable favourite for families returning year after year.

For gentle slopes and winter adventures: Norway

Norway offers a different style of ski holiday, where winter is about much more than downhill skiing. Its resorts are known for wide slopes, beautiful landscapes and a relaxed atmosphere that makes them particularly appealing for families.

Trysil is one of Norway's most family-friendly ski destinations, with excellent facilities, good ski schools and plenty of terrain for different abilities. It is especially suited to children and those building confidence on skis, while still offering enough variety for more experienced skiers.

Away from the slopes, families can enjoy dog sledding, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, with the chance to experience the magic of the northern lights. It is a destination where the winter landscape becomes part of the holiday itself.



For a world-class mountain experience: Whistler

For families looking further afield, Whistler Blackcomb remains one of the world's most famous ski destinations. Set amongst the dramatic peaks of British Columbia, it offers an enormous variety of skiing, excellent facilities and a lively village atmosphere.

Although Canada may seem like a more expensive option, Whistler can compare favourably with some of the most prestigious Alpine resorts, particularly when considering the overall experience. Beginners have dedicated areas to develop confidence, while advanced skiers can explore some of North America's finest terrain.

The pedestrian-friendly village, restaurants and activities away from the slopes also make Whistler a good choice for families where everyone may want something slightly different from their holiday.

For value and a quieter Alpine escape: Slovenia

For families looking for something less familiar, Slovenia offers beautiful mountain scenery, welcoming resorts and excellent value. Often overlooked in favour of its better-known Alpine neighbours, it provides a more peaceful alternative while still delivering a memorable winter experience.

Kranjska Gora is particularly suited to families, with manageable slopes for beginners and intermediate skiers, a traditional village atmosphere and the spectacular backdrop of the Julian Alps.

One of Slovenia's greatest advantages is the variety it offers beyond skiing. A visit can easily include the beauty of Lake Bled, the historic streets of Ljubljana or exploring the surrounding countryside, making it a destination that feels like much more than a week on the slopes.

Finding the right fit

A successful family ski holiday is not necessarily about choosing the biggest resort or the highest mountain. The best destinations are those that suit the people travelling, with good ski schools for children, enough variety for experienced skiers and plenty to enjoy away from the pistes.

Some of the best memories are often made after the skis have been put away: sharing a meal in a mountain restaurant, exploring a snowy village, enjoying a hot chocolate after a morning outside or simply spending time together in a beautiful setting.

From the traditional villages of Austria to the gentle landscapes of Norway, the dramatic mountains of Whistler and the hidden charm of Slovenia, there are many different ways to enjoy a February ski escape.

‘PADWORTH PAST’

As the weather is very much to the fore at the moment, I would like this month to tell you a little about historical weather events that have affected Padworth.

On 25th June 1762, a huge hailstorm swept over Padworth and neighbouring villages. It desecrated 700 acres of oats, beans, peas and hops with an estimated loss of over £1,000. The incident caused so much concern that Royal Letters of Patent were issued by King George III, exhorting Parish Authorities throughout England and Wales to organise collections for the sufferers. Bernard Brocas of Beaurepaire, Bramley (whose family was closely linked to the Cowdrays of Padworth), Christopher Griffiths of Padworth, Charles Perkins of Ufton, Ralph Congreve of Aldermaston, James Morgan of Mortimer and Henry Lannoy Hunter of Beech Hill, all received compensation.

On 18th January 1881, there was a violent snowstorm with the snow penetrating Padworth Church roof, thus breaking down the plaster work and exposing the Oak Cradle Roof.

In June 1971, extensive flooding occurred in Padworth Lane as a result of heavy rainfall upstream exceeding channel capacity and the road was impassable to all but large or agricultural vehicles.

Fifty years ago in 1976, a long, hot, summer drought was experienced nationally and Padworth was deeply affected, with parched soils, shrivelled crop yields and a hose-pipe ban. A fire broke out on Padworth Common (thought to be from a discarded cigarette end) which crossed the road onto Hatch Farm. There were 11 fire engines in Rectory Road spraying foam to about a foot in depth. (I understand our Whatever the Weather correspondent assisted in this matter). Local farmer, Mr. Dan Purser, from Old Farm in School Lane was asked to plough across the land at Hatch Farm to make a fire break. Hatch Farm Cottage lost its garden shed in this fire.

The Great Storm of 1987 saw winds of over 100mph. and like many other places across Berkshire, multiple trees were flattened in Padworth.

1989 was an interesting year for sunshine and neighbouring Mortimer Common recorded a total of 321 hours during May of that year, equivalent to an average of 10 hours per day.

In late October 2008, we experienced very early snowfall, the first for about 100 years. We then had a Big Freeze in January 2010 and although it brought problems, Mother Nature did throw up some interesting sights: see icicles on barn at Lodge Farm, Padworth Lane.

The low-lying meadows adjacent to the River Kennet are subject to flooding in periods of heavy rainfall and the picture opposite showing tree trunk reflections in the flood water is another example of this.

Delia Potter



Down on the Farm – A Strange Month!

Normally, August on the farm is one of the busiest times of the year, with harvest in full flow. All changed this year though as we completed the grain harvest by the last week in July. Looking at the aerial photographs on the news, it is impossible to tell which are stubble fields and which are grasslands as they all look similar - golden brown. The harvested grain fields will now be cultivated and prepared for next year's cropping a month earlier. We are able to do just that thanks to the development of heavy robust machinery that will penetrate the hard dry soil. The fact that most of the heavier soils are showing many large deep cracks aids this process. We are also able to do some sub-soiling, mole ploughing and deeper cultivations where they are required. Maximum tractor power for these tasks is essential. All the cultivation equipment has replaceable wearing points made especially of hardened steel so they wear back according to the texture and moisture of the soil.

Of course, we are all now waiting for a decent amount of rain for whatever we are planning to grow. It is especially needed for the oil seed rape and fodder beet growers, who need to be sowing now. Fortunately, the cereal crop planting does not take place until the middle of September when hopefully conditions will have improved. Finally, on the arable scene, the price of wheat has increased by £20-£30 per ton based mainly on the poor yields of the harvest. Our own harvest results were about 30% lower, which seems to be reflected in the national results. Yields down, price up -yields up, price down. That's what we seem to live by!

This is our final year of 5 in the government scheme which allows us to leave land fallow, i.e. to rest for the sake of improving the wildlife, soil and drainage. Next year, the area will be capped at 25% compared with this year's total of 100%.

There are serious questions to be asked now about the grassland which looks as if it is all dead. We around the Thames Valley have never experienced such a prolonged period of drought with such high temperatures, so it would be foolish of me to say the grassland will recover after some substantial rain, although past experience shows that it does! However, the forage and feed for the coming winter is very dependent upon how much autumn grass and grazing can be produced. We need a mild dry time after the rain so that the cattle and sheep can benefit from being outside in the fields until November, possibly December. Wishful thinking?

The countryside is certainly taking on a new look with this lack of moisture: the roadside verges are all brown, the vegetation and hedgerows are all wilting and the amount of leaves falling from the trees is huge. Their means of survival makes it seem more like October. With the hosepipe ban lasting until Christmas, the number of cherished shrubs and plants that will not survive is devastating. The irrigation systems on vegetable-producing farms are now at full stretch and the produce is unlikely to be its usual high quality.

Next time I write I hope to give you some good news!

From Our Agricultural Correspondent

WHATEVER. THE. WEATHER

I'm trying very hard not to moan, anyway I think I've run out of those that I could put on paper. It's not just the weather, it's all the damage. 50 years making and one summer in the destroying. That's an exaggeration I know, but a lot of plants look dead, scratching the bark shows a faint bit of green, so I will wait and see. Already I'm dreading 2027, as I've read that as El Niño is the hottest on record next year will see records broken all over the world.

One set of trees that have surprised me are my conifers. All those needles and yet they are still very green. The Lawson Cypress have shed a few small twigs, but the Thuya's, Cedars, Yew, Pines and my large Sequoia are showing no ill effects. The Metasequoia glyptostroboides is the only one I have had to water as it was starting to show some brown, I had to grow one of these for the latin name alone, it is the Dawn Redwood. The loved and hated Leylandii isn't bothered at all. This one I also had to grow for memories. I was working for Lord Bradford in 1960 when a tree blew down in his arboretum on his Leyland Estate on the Shropshire Welsh border. Experts said it was a new species, a cross between Cupressus Macrocarpa and Nootkatensis, which had been seen once before in the early 1900's, but not studied. This cross cannot occur naturally in the wild, as they grow 400 miles apart, but in an arboretum close together, yes. Lord B thought it would make an excellent forest tree as it grows quickly. He got me and two others to take many cuttings and grow them on back in his tree nursery in Shropshire. The trees proved to be too knotty for timber so we turned them into hedges. Lord B was the first to sell them commercially.

We've actually had about two hours of rain, but as the ground is so hard it doesn't soak in but evaporates. This has been compared to 1976 but as we only moved here that year I wasn't worried. The 'garden' was a field with a few trees.

I've started planting out a few young plants, saxifragies and sedums, as they can cope and I want them to develop good roots before the winter. Other seedlings I've planted in my trial bed next to the greenhouse, being all together it will be much easier to water and they will develop roots better than in pots.

I've had to top up my ponds, you are allowed to, and I have put on waders so I can get in and remove the large amounts of algae.

The lawns are brown, I never water them, but growing well there are the small yellow flowers of the Hawkbits, where do they find water?

After months of ignoring them the rabbits are showing an interest in the carrots in the live traps. The combination of brown grass and repellent powder has forced them to try their luck, but not until they'd eaten all my Cosmos, dug around the plants I'd watered. Maybe they were after fresh roots. This month I have caught 6, 3 this morning!!! All now exploring pastures new. The pheasants are making dust baths in the flower beds, covering plants with soil and dust, grrrr.



Hawkbit



Eucomis

Groan Time.

What do you call a train filled with bubble gum ? A Chew Chew train.

Did you hear about the sensitive burglar? He couldn't stop taking things personally.

My friend Tony asked me to spell his name backwards. I said YNOT.

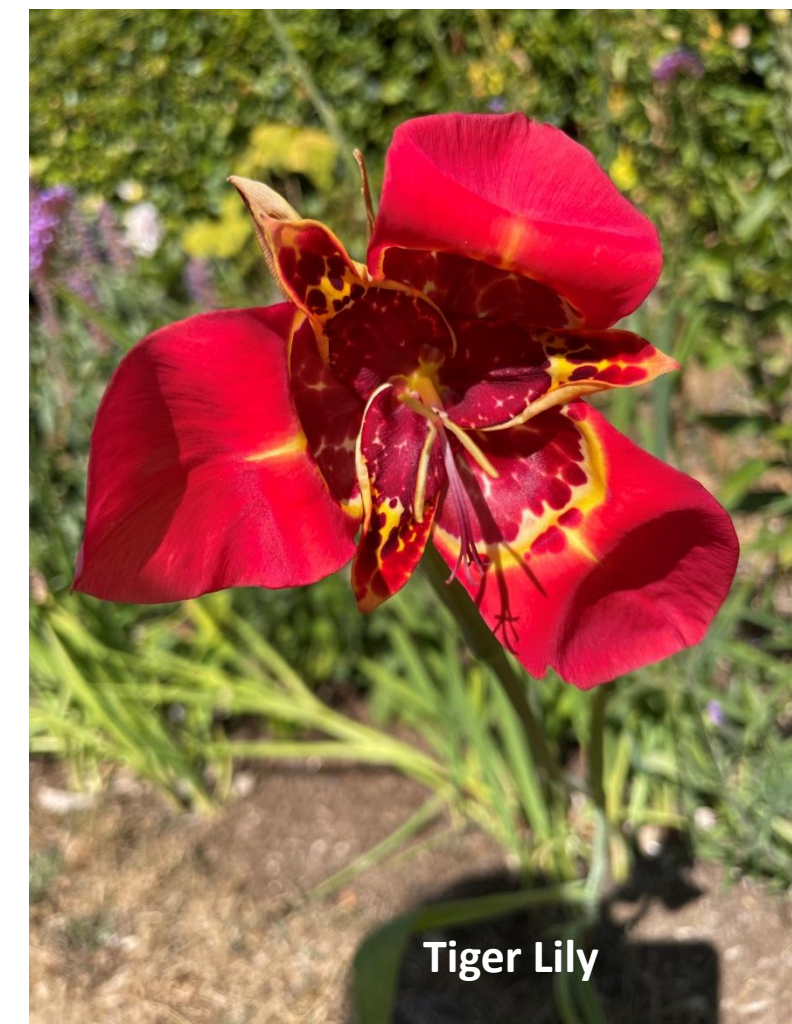
My Mum was a radiologist, she met my Dad when he came in for an X-ray. I often wondered what she saw in him.

Do you know what kind of underwear Lawyers wear? Briefs.

What do you call a lady who burns all her bills? Bernadette.

Keep rain dancing, it's working.

Mike Warner.



Tiger Lily

Aldermaston Players

DON'T GET YOUR VICARS IN A TWIST

By Ann Gawthorpe and Lesley Bown

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

Aldermaston Parish Hall

at 7.45 p.m.

£1 discount before end of August

TICKETS: £12
 boxoffice.aldermastonplayers.co.uk
 0118 971 2530

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

Bar takes cash & CR cards

ALDERMASTON & WASING SHOW

EST.1943

SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2026

AT THE OLD MILL, ALDERMASTON

**A great day out for all the family.
 Celebrating community, craft, and local life**

FIND OUT ALL ABOUT IT ON OUR WEBSITE
<https://awshow.org.uk>

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 TOMBOLA & LOTS MORE

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

FIREWORK DISPLAY

SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2026

Padwoth Village Hall RG7 4HY

5pm - 8pm
 Tickets available soon

Tuesday Bereavement Group

Coffee Morning

When: 10-12, every Tuesday
Where: Thatcham Garden Centre (at back of café)

Drop in session
 Chat to people who understand
 Share experiences

E-mail contact: edtb456@gmail.com

Scouts Aldermaston

SQUIRRELS

AT 1st ALDERMASTON SCOUTS

ADVENTURE STARTS HERE!

FOR AGES 4-6

GIVE YOUR CHILD THE CHANCE TO:

- MAKE NEW FRIENDS
- EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS
- GET CREATIVE
- LEARN NEW SKILLS THROUGH FUN ACTIVITIES

JOIN THE NEWEST AND YOUNGEST SECTION OF SCOUTS!
 Squirrels is all about fun, discovery, and building confidence from an early age.

1st ALDERMASTON SCOUTS

Meetings held at Padworth YMCA, Wednesdays 5pm-6pm (term time only)

WANT TO JOIN? TO JOIN PLEASE COMPLETE OUR WAITLIST BY SCANNING THE QR CODE

SKILLS FOR LIFE START HERE.

MARKET STALLS

TEA TENT & BAR

Silchester COUNTRY FAYRE

DOG SHOW

CLASSIC VEHICLES

11am - 4pm

SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

SILCHESTER PLAYING FIELD, RG7 2NJ

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

Silchester Country Fayre



It has been a very busy 4 months April to July for the Bureau with our volunteer office ladies receiving 504 requests from clients for transport to their medical appointments. The office has also received and processed 31 new clients from around the surrounding 12 parishes at the end of July. We had 382 clients registered.

If you or you know of anyone having difficulty in getting to their medical appointment, please phone the office 0118 983 1814 between 9-30-11-30 Mon-Fri. You can also leave a message on the 24/7 answer phone and it will be picked up the next day.

Our friendly volunteer drivers have transported 424 Client's to their appointments including all the local doctor's surgery's, optician's dentist and surrounding hospitals including, all Oxford Hospitals, Great Western Swindon, Townlands Henley, Frimley Park, St. Barts London.

We have been actively recruiting for new drivers with stands at the Burghfield May Fair and Mortimers Transport Through Ages. If you or know of anyone with a few hours to spare who would like to give something back to the community, please check out our website for more detailed information bmvb.org

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1350692733280498?locale=en_GB



Padworth Village Hall Volunteers Wanted

If you have spare time and would like to join the Village Hall Committee or have a couple of spare hours each month to help out we would love to hear from you. Please email info@padworthvillagehall.co.uk for more information



One-Day Workshop: Creating Characters: Saturday 28th November

We're excited to open up the last few spaces on our upcoming one-day workshop to all our amazing MDS Patrons! There's just a handful of spaces left, so if you're interested in acting in theatre, and want to learn more about creating characters on stage, then have a read below and grab your ticket before the workshop sells out.

Step into the spotlight with Creating Characters, an exciting one-day workshop led by the brilliant Sarah Osborne on Saturday 28th November at St John's Hall, Mortimer.

Perfect for all actors and anyone keen to stretch their performance skills, this practical and energising session will help you build confidence, unlock new ways into character, and develop tools you can take straight into rehearsals and auditions.

Running from 10am to 4pm with lunch included, the workshop will be led by Sarah Osborne, an experienced and inspirational drama practitioner, director and writer who has been working within arts, training and education (both mainstream and outside of school) for 29 years. In addition to her freelance work, she is artistic director of Yew Tree Arts and Yew Tree Youth Theatre. She is director of NODA Theatre Summer School and project manager of Wakefield LitFest a project for 14 – 19-year-olds that inspires and empowers the next generation of playwrights.

Her work in the arts focuses on creating quality theatre with and for community casts, it encompasses a vast range of productions of established plays in addition to the devising, writing and direction of innovative new works many of which are ensemble based. At the heart of all of her productions is the search for truth, integrity and creativity.

We have just 15 places left (at the time of writing this email) and we are offering spaces to this one-day workshop for just £35, must be over 18 years old.

Don't miss this chance to learn from an inspiring teacher, explore your creativity, and bring your characters vividly to life.

You can email the committee directly, at committee@mortimer-dramatic.org

Aldermaston Parish Council – Notes of Meeting 1 August 2026

Planning matters

New car wash at Hilliers Garden Centre: Objected, citing concerns about noise affecting neighbouring homes, operating hours, signage, lighting, drainage and emergency planning. The PC will submit its objections and request appropriate conditions should WBC be minded to approve the application.

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

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

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

Highways and public transport

7:45am bus service APC expressed concern about the proposed withdrawal of this service from Aldermaston Wharf from September. The PC is worried about the impact on vulnerable and isolated residents, given the loss of other rural services in recent years. APC will respond to WBC.

Aldermaston cycleway Residents have reported damaged bridges on this. The PC will ask WBC to address these urgently, particularly ahead of the new school term.

Paices Hill

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

WBC's scoping consultation on its new Local Plan

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

AWE site development

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

Next meeting

Tuesday 8 September at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. All parishioners welcome.

Sophie Crawford, Chairman

For details visit <https://aldermaston-pc.gov.uk/>

ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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

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

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

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor



Beenham Parish Council – Notes of meeting - 3 August 2026

Dieter Hinke

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

Public Forum

Church Lane: It was reported that the edges to Church Lane had been cut back but a great deal of debris had been left. It was agreed to ask WBC to clear this up.

Junction with Bath Road. The dangers of this was brought up again and the WBC response to a complaint was explained. It was agreed that a meeting with WBC was necessary in order to escalate the matter further.

The Rec: It was noted that the lime trees alongside the recreation ground were now obstructing the path. It was agreed to take photographs to identify the work needed to resolve the issue.

Thames Water extended work

A report was given on the discussions that have taken place between the PC and TW's contractors regarding road closures and particularly the disputed use of the play area in Stoneyfield which is being used to store plant equipment and waste spoil. Although we have been assured that the area will be fully refurbished after the work has been completed, this does not resolve the issue of a recreation area being removed from use by parishioners. As a result, the PC will communicate its concerns to M Group/Thames Water and WBC and the need for restitution to be provided over the period that the facility cannot be used. As a reminder, this land is owned by the PC and no request was made to authorise this use by either WBC or Thames Water.

Affordable Housing initiative

There was no further update on this.

Planning Matters

There were no new Planning applications.

Planning decisions.

26/01100/CERTP Jayswood ,Clay Lane. Fitting of PV panels. Granted.

26/01066/CERTP 3 The Strouds. Application for Lawful Development Certificate. Refused.

Children's Play Area on the Rec

The quote for maintenance of this was discussed. After a site visit it was agreed that not all the issues identified in the quote indicated significant risk. It was decided that we would meet with the contractor to clarify the work needed with that in mind. It was also agreed that the PC should have a contingency put in place in its annual budget for ongoing maintenance costs.

Speed Indicator Device (SID)

It was agreed to ask neighbouring Parish Councils what their own solutions were and whether we can share the use of them.

Grants

It was agreed to provide grants totalling £1300 to the Parish Church (PCC) for the maintenance of the church grounds and acquisition of the necessary power tools.

Next meeting

Monday 7 September - in the Community Room at 7.00pm

All parishioners welcome.

Peter Hamblin, Parish Councillor

All correspondence to the PC should be addressed to the Parish Clerk, Lauren West:

Tel: 07919 916125 Email: clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk

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

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



ALDERMASTON COFFEE CLUB

1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month any time from 10.00am – 11.30am

Join us in the café at Hilliers

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

Everyone is welcome – just come along

For further details contact Cynthia Newman

cmnewman2021@outlook.com 0118 9713 525

Tea Rooms Aldermaston Wharf

Over the Easter weekend, the **Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race** will be taking place, with one of the stages passing through Aldermaston Wharf.

While watching and cheering on the teams, why not take the opportunity to visit the Tea Rooms for some tasty refreshments?

Opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday 9.30am – 4pm

tearoomsaldermaston@gmail.com





heritage open days

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



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



Find my past



ALDERMASTON HISTORY GROUP

St Mary the Virgin Church Aldermaston

Church Road, RG7 4HR

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

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

Useful Contacts and Numbers

Aldermaston CE Primary School Chair of Governors – Cathy Jones	0118971 3362	enquiries@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk
Aldermaston Parish Councillors		
• Sophie Crawford(Ch)	07739 905389	scrawford@aldermaston-pc.gov.uk
• Dave Shirt	07739 763646	dshirt@aldermaston-pc.gov.uk
• Mark Carter	07971 600240	mcarter@aldermaston-pc.gov.uk
• Rob Smith (Vice Ch)	07789 878546	rsmith@aldermaston-pc.gov.uk
• Adam Shephard-Price	07887 522610	adam@aldermaston-pc.gov.uk
• Ed Tilsley	07980 940 667	etilsley@aldermaston-pc.gov.uk
• Des Farndell	07999954349	dfarndell@aldermaston-pc.gov.uk
Aster Communities		
Neighbourhood Officer - Rachael McCarthy	01264405692	rachael.mccarthy@astercommunities.co.uk
ASB Officer – Sue Barton	01264405583	sue.barton@astercommunities.co.uk
Beenham Parish Councillors		
• Graham Bowsher (CH)	07557 967 575	g.bowsher@beenham-pc.gov.uk
• Graham Bragg	0118 971 3688	g.bragg@beenham-pc.gov.uk
• Alex Cother		a.cother@beenham-pc.gov.uk
• Peter Hamblin		p.hamblin@beenham-pc.gov.uk
• David Hancock		
• Peter McEwen	07717 718 608	p.mcewen@beenham-pc.gov.uk
Benefice Office – Aldermaston	01189 712891	jmanley.awb@gmail.com
Benefice Office – Mortimer	01189 333 704	admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk
Churchwarden – Padworth - Elizabeth Porter	01189 713136	
Environment Agency (24hr)	0800 807060	
Ladies at Lunch – Caroline Givan	07808 400843	caroline.givan@gmail.com
Mobile Library	01635519827	
Neighbourhood Watch		
Neighbourhood Watch Police	101	
• Rectory Road – Mike Warner	01189700391	
Network Rail 24 hr Helpline	08457 114141	
Newsletter		padworthnewsletter@yahoo.com

Padworth Common Advisory Committee & Padworth Parochial Charity		
• Mike Warner	01189700391	
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
• Emily Robinson	07769 674460	emily.robinson@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
• Tommy Tucker		tom.tucker@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
• Andy Williams		andy.williams@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
Parish Clerk (Aldermaston) – Abi Lewis		parishclerk@aldermaston.co.uk
Parish Clerk (Beenham) – Lauren West		clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk
Parish Clerk (Padworth) – Ellie Brewer		clerk@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
Reading Buses (No. 3 Bus)		www.reading-buses.co.uk
Veolia Environmental Service - Daytime	0203 5672900	west.berks@veolia.co.uk
Padworth Village Hall Bookings – Jacky Jones	07756 820263	info@padworthvillagehall.co.uk
Padworth Village Hall Committee Chair Rob Jones		rob.j.jones@btinternet.com
Padworth Parish Website		www.padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
Padworth Parish Website enquiries		clerk@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
Volunteer Bureau	0118983 1814	
West Berks Councillors		
• Aldermaston, Padworth & Beenham		Dominic.boeck@westberks.gov.uk
• Bradfield		Ross.mackinnon1@westberks.gov.uk
• Burghfield & Mortimer		Nick.Carter2@westberks.gov.uk
• Burghfield & Mortimer		Vicky.Poole1@westberks.gov.uk
• Burghfield & Mortimer		geoffrey.mayes1@westberks.gov.uk
West Berkshire Council contact number	01635 551111	customerservices@westberks.gov.uk
Planning Department	01635 519111	
Environmental Health	01635 519192	
Fly Tipping & Waste	01635 519080	
West Berkshire Libraries		www.westberks.gov/libraries library@westberks.gov.uk

Burghfield Common Library

0118 983 3632

Opening Hours

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

Mortimer Library

0118 933 2882

Opening Hours

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

Pangbourne Library

0118 984 4117

Opening Hours

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

Theale Library

0118 930 3207

Opening Hours

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

Thatcham Library

01635 866049

Opening Hours

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