



PADWORTH NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

Introduction to Padworth Newsletter

Welcome to the new-style **Padworth Newsletter**. We warmly welcome contributions from the community, including photos, local news, "what's on" information, and recommendations you would like to share. Please feel free to email padworthnewsletter@yahoo.com by 25th of the month ready for publication 1st of the Month.

Going forward, the newsletter will be published on the **Padworth Village Hall website**, the **Padworth Parish website**, and local **Facebook pages** so that it is easily accessible to everyone.

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

We would also like to thank **Sheila and Mary** for their hard work in building this valuable community resource.

Jumble Sale Updates



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**.

March Jumble raised a wonderful £658.58 in aid of St. John the Baptist, Padworth
April Jumble Sale in aid of Padworth Village Hall
May Jumble Sale in aid of the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice
June in aid of St. John the Baptist, Padworth

1st Aldermaston Scouts – Pang Valley District

1st Aldermaston Scouts, part of the Pang Valley District, is all about helping young people learn valuable life skills while having fun, making friends, and enjoying adventure along the way. Our aim is to help young people grow in confidence and independence through a wide range of activities, challenges, and community involvement. Whether it's trying something new, working as a team, or exploring the outdoors, there is always something exciting happening.

We are proud to be a warm, welcoming group where everyone is encouraged to take part and get involved. Our main meetings take place in Aldermaston and Padworth, but we also enjoy getting involved with the wider local community whenever we can.

Our Sections

1st Aldermaston Scouts is made up of five different sections, each designed for a specific age group:

- **Squirrels:** Ages 4–6
- **Beavers:** Ages 6–8
- **Cubs:** Ages 8–10½
- **Scouts:** Ages 10½–14
- **Explorers:** Ages 14–18

Our fantastic team is made up entirely of dedicated volunteers who are fully trained and background checked. They work hard to create a safe, supportive environment where young people can learn, grow, and most importantly have fun.

These trips help young people build confidence, teamwork, and practical skills, while also creating memories they'll never forget. One recent highlight was a trip to **Winchester Science Centre**, where our group had exclusive evening access to the museum before settling down to spend the night surrounded by the amazing exhibits — an unforgettable experience for everyone involved!

Get Involved

If this sounds like something your child would enjoy, or if you would like to find out more about joining the adventure, we would love to hear from you.

Website: www.aldermastonscouts.org.uk

Email: grouplead@aldermastonscouts.org.uk

Come and join the adventure with **1st Aldermaston Scouts!**

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Written by Amelia Keightley, (1st Aldermaston Scout Volunteer)



Family Adventures for May Half Term

With May half term approaching, many families are looking forward to a week away together. Late spring is a lovely time to travel, the weather is warming, destinations are less crowded, and there are plenty of opportunities for outdoor adventures.

For families who love the outdoors, Scandinavia offers forests, lakes, and fjords to explore. Kayak through calm Norwegian fjords, spot birds along the shorelines, or cycle leafy trails under the long spring daylight.

Croatia combines history and coastline beautifully. Stay on Hvar and wander the cobbled streets of Stari Grad, swim in hidden coves, or hop between islands, discovering colourful harbours and secret beaches along the way.

Often overlooked, Portugal's Atlantic islands, Madeira and the Azores are perfect for adventurous families. Walk through lush volcanic valleys, feel the spray from waterfalls, explore tide pools, or try family-friendly canyoning. In the Azores, May is ideal for whale watching, while Madeira offers the famous levadas for scenic walks.

Greece continues to be a favourite, with islands offering warm sunshine, turquoise waters, and gentle hikes. Popular islands include Naxos, Paros, and Corfu. In Corfu, families can visit the UNESCO-listed Old Town, explore beaches, and see the Achilleion Palace, with plenty of opportunities for hiking, cycling, water sports, and enjoying local cuisine.

For families considering a longer journey, South Africa is unforgettable. Children can see penguins at Boulders Beach or enjoy a malaria-free safari in the Eastern Cape, where elephants, lions, and giraffes roam. The Garden Route links these highlights, with charming towns, boutique hotels, and stunning coastlines along the way.

All of these destinations are relatively easy to reach from the UK, whether by direct flight or a simple connection. Even places a little further afield, like South Africa, work surprisingly well for a week away, an overnight flight means you can rest on the journey and arrive ready to explore, and with little to no time difference, there's no real jet lag to contend with. Whether it's spotting wildlife, discovering hidden coves, feeling the sun on your face, or sharing a quiet sunset, the best part of a family holiday is simply being together.

Laura Dean
The Travel Design Company



Celebrate the 1970s!!

Aldermaston Parish Hall – 1970s Evening Saturday
13 June, from 7.30pm until late
Aldermaston Parish Hall is hosting a fund-raising event on 13 June, come and support us and have an evening of fun!

Ticket price - £25 if you book by 2 May.

Includes: 1970s music (DJ), 1970s style food, prize for best dressed outfits

Pay bar available, good value drinks including 1970s inspire!

For tickets email:

aldermastonparishhall@gmail.com

Or contact Karen on 07595 551137

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

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



WHATEVER THE WEATHER

I'm no expert, but my guess is that the combination of last year's hot, dry summer and this wet winter has led to such an excellent display of bulbs this spring. Every variety I have seems to have flowered its socks off.

I planted a white daffodil, *Thalia*, years ago, and it has never flowered since the first year—until now, when every plant is in bloom. Tulips, which can often be reluctant to reflower (remember to plant them at least 6 inches deep), are all either in bud or flowering well.

My chionodoxa (*Glory of the Snow*), planted at least 30 years ago, have spread from a small clump to an area around 10 yards wide. They are an excellent choice if you're looking for a reliable self-seeder.

I can't say the same for the rhododendrons, which are showing far fewer buds than in previous years—some none at all. They require good rainfall in June and July to produce buds for the following year, which, of course, they didn't receive. Strangely, *Christmas Cheer* (see photo) has been covered in flowers. Perhaps being near a water tap has helped—it started flowering in December and is still going strong.

Every spring I tell myself, "Don't sow so many seeds." Do I listen? Of course not! In fact, I get worse. This year I have 251 young plants and now have to find space for them all. I must be bonkers. I blame the internet—being able to browse endless seed catalogues online makes it far too easy to keep adding "just one more." In the old days, I only had one paper catalogue to choose from.

To make matters more challenging, I've filled newly cleared patches with direct sowings—poppies and sunflowers—and also planted quite a few tree lilies that were on offer (and naturally irresistible). That's even more space taken!

Haven't the magnolias been wonderful this year? Driving around, they really stand out in gardens. Mine are still quite small but are flowering well, especially one called *Susan*.

I got the mower out on the 13th—earlier than usual—which unfortunately meant cutting not just grass but also some self-seeded bluebells in the paths.

The recent warm weather has clearly brought out insects and larvae, as activity at the feeders has dropped off. I've had a single siskin—a winter visitor I haven't seen for several years—and the greenfinches are back. No doubt numbers will fall as nesting begins. I haven't seen the sparrowhawk for a couple of weeks, so perhaps she's nesting too.

My pheasant family fluctuates from ten one day to five the next. The mallard duck is sitting, and I'm being pestered nightly by muntjac deer, so I may need to start closing the gate earlier. The occasional rabbit is still about as well.

Groan Time.

What do you get if you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite.

What did the past give to the future? A Present.

What do lawyers wear in court? A Lawsuit.

What does a spy do when he's cold? He goes undercover.

What sounds like a sneeze and is made of leather? A shoe.

Keep gardening.

Mike Warner.



SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL BUSINESSES IN PADWORTH

Each month, we aim to raise awareness of local businesses in Padworth. If you would like your business to be featured, please send your information to padworthnewsletter@yahoo.com.

While we cannot guarantee every submission will be included, as a community newsletter, we do not advertise; instead, we focus on sharing positive news and local happenings. We therefore welcome editorial-style submissions—please feel free to send yours in.



'Swift Rider Training - learn to ride with us!

Hi we are Chris and Tanya, we are currently offering motorcycle training for all ages and abilities at Padworth Village Hall - so whether you are 16 or 60 feel free to get in touch with us to discover the joy of motorcycling!

Motorcycling can be great fun and is a highly satisfying skill to master, we can help you develop and learn to ride in a safe environment with an instructor at hand to guide you.

We can offer CBT and full license training in relaxed, friendly small groups which are aimed at giving you plenty of personal tuition and helping you learn to ride with the minimum of stress.

Get in touch with us on 07341 686701 or have a look at our website <https://swiftridertraining.co.uk/> for more information.

We hope to meet and get you on 2 wheels soon!

Down on the Farm – The New System

Welcome to our new readers and welcome back to our former readers - no change from me.

Spring is beginning to show its face with early leaves, grass growth, daffodils, birds building nests and many other welcome signs. The **winter** has been interesting: mild and dry in Nov and Dec then wet in Jan and Feb and nothing too cold, thank heavens. Hopefully this drier, warmer time will continue as there is a lot of work to do.

The **sheep** have finished eating the stubble turnips and have done a first-class job. We will now spray the residue grass, weeds etc and then spread fibrophos fertilizer and gypsum in readiness for the **fodder beet** seed. The land will be lightly cultivated to create a suitable tilth. Sowing is normally done in April.

Top dressing, i.e. the application of nitrogen fertilizer, to the winter crops has been completed but the grassland application is done a little later when the soil is warmer and growth active. Now is the time of year when our agronomist gets very busy as all the crops must be inspected and assessed for growth stages, cleanliness from weeds, proneness to disease and crop density. Drones are now used sometimes to carry out these assessments – a sign of the future – so the agronomist then sits in the office, reads the results and makes his or her recommendations. It saves a lot of time.

I've just been asked to write a summary for a local history group about the changes that I have witnessed during my lifetime in agriculture. Last month I wrote about the period of the Padworth Newsletter, i.e. the last 20 years, but to go back to the early post WW2 years is an interesting challenge. Some of the major changes are quite staggering: the mainstay of farming in and around Padworth was **dairying**, on almost every farm, but now we have just one left at Old Farm. **Grain-growing** has largely replaced **stock-keeping** and almost all farmyards are doing something extra to boost and sustain an income. **Draught horses** have been replaced by **tractors** and **forklift all-terrain vehicles**, so now all lifting and carrying is mechanised and **farm staff** levels have been drastically reduced. The latter fact has had a massive effect on village life - we have become very diverse communities with everyone going their differing ways. This makes it much harder to build a sense of community but we must nevertheless try and join together to enjoy local events.

Finally, the changes that came about when Britain joined the European community - the Common Market - in the early 1970s gave rise to a time of great hopes and expectation but as time passed, we perhaps became disillusioned with the overall management and planning, with the result that we came out in 2020. Governments have now decided that we must put emphasis on environmental issues and there are a number of schemes available to encourage farmers to participate. Those farming better productive land will take a very different view from those who have poor, less flexible farms. The land in and around Padworth probably fits somewhere in the middle of these two.

From Our Agricultural Correspondent



The Fate of Tull and Hawkins, Murder and Justice 1787 - Padworth

In the 1700s two men, Abraham Tull and William Hawkins, were born and baptised in Padworth and went on to live in neighbouring Ufton Nervet. In 1787, when they were 19 and 17 years old respectively, they waylaid an old labourer (William Billimore) believing he was carrying 11 shillings. They failed to find this money but did take his silver pocket watch. In the process of searching him they cruelly bludgeoned him to death with a lead-weighted club, for which crime they were later executed and hung in gibbet irons just within the Ufton parish on the Padworth Common boundary. It is said their bodies remained there for several years until Mrs. Brocas, a prominent landowner, ordered they be taken down and buried. This area is now known as Gibbet Piece. A leg piece of gibbet irons in Reading Museum is believed to be associated with this event.

Delia Potter

'PADWORTH PAST'

First mentioned in 956 AD, the name Padworth probably comes from its suffix 'worth' meaning homestead or enclosed space, under the ownership of one named Padda. Over time it has been known as Peadenwurthe (10th century), Pedewurth (12th century), Paedwewrd/Padworze (13th century) and Padesworth or Pappeworth (14th century).

The boundaries of Padworth generally follow the River Kennet to the north, Mortimer West End to the south, Burghfield to the east and Aldermaston to the west. Historical records indicate Padworth as covering approximately 1200 acres.

Grims Bank, in the Padworth Common/Padworth Gully area, is a section of historical linear earthwork consisting of a bank and ditch. It is significant in that it is north-west of the Roman town of Silchester and is thought to be part of the remains of a Dark Age defensive system for that settlement.

The River Kennet runs right through Padworth. As early as the mid-900s, three mills were mentioned. The Domesday Book (1086) records a fulling mill which was used to de-grease, clean and shrink woollen cloth, thus making it thicker and strong. In 1378, a fishing mill is recorded in Padworth on the Kennet. The course of the river will have changed slightly over the years with the natural formation of ox-bow lakes straightening out acute bends.

There were 19 households recorded in 1086 and according to William the Conqueror's Domesday Book, the village is listed under two owners.

Records show a church in Padworth in 1130, but it has of course been altered much since that time. In 1291 the property was valued at £4 6s. 8d. yearly and provided a pension for the Prior of Monk Sherborne in the neighbouring county of Hampshire.

Padworth was also significant in that it was part of the Great West Road from London to Bristol, a principal 17th century coaching route.

The Kennet & Avon Canal that runs through Padworth was navigable from the early 1700s.

 **ALDERMASTON HISTORY GROUP**

proud to have created and maintain
Aldermaston History Online
<https://aldermastonhistory.uk>



Meeting & Talk

Weds 15th April 2026, 7:30pm

Officers Mess, The Hinds Head Inn

a talk on

"The History of the River Kennet"

By Dr David Peacock

Free to members, non members £5

For more information on Aldermaston History Group Membership visit: <https://group.aldermastonhistory.uk>

ART LOVERS CAN EXPECT A WARM WELCOME AT HILLTOP STUDIO IN MAY

Following the success of last year's event, local artists Simon Pink and Kerry Webb will once again be opening Hilltop Studio for three weekends in May as part of the West Berkshire & North Hampshire Open Studios event. Located in Tilehurst, Hilltop Studio is only a short 20-minute car journey from Padworth.

The Open Studios programme for West Berks and North Hampshire has grown and developed since its inception over 30 years ago and now has over 100 exhibiting artists across a wide area, opening their doors to the public in May. It's always FREE to enter, there is no obligation to buy – artists taking part just like to see a friendly face and chat about what they do.

Being part of the Open Studios West Berkshire and North Hampshire initiative allows the public a unique opportunity to access artists' studios that are normally the artist's own private workspace. The Open Studios event can offer an unusual insight into the places and ways in which artists work.

Kerry has lived in close proximity to the Sulham parish border for most of her life, and the surrounding countryside has greatly influenced her art. Kerry is recognised for her depictions of local landmarks (in particular, Wilder's Folly), rural landscapes, and vivid seascapes in oils and acrylics.

Simon has become well-known for his large contemporary colourful paintings. Simon works directly onto the canvas, pulling ideas from his thoughts and emotional response to nature. The results are energising images with hints of nature's forms and textures, a mix of excitement and calm.

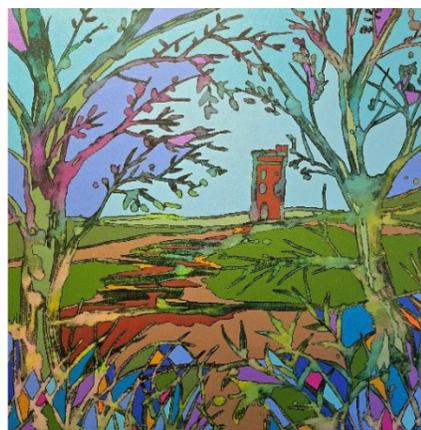
Hilltop is a working studio, Simon and Kerry will be painting there every weekend throughout the Open Studios event and would love to talk to you about their creative processes and show you what they're currently working on. Original paintings, prints, cards, and gifts will be available to buy direct from the artists.

Hilltop will be open from 11am - 5pm Saturday & Sunday 9th-10th, 16th-17th, 23rd-24th May and Bank Holiday Monday 25th May. The studio is located at: 15B Berkshire Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, West Berkshire, RG31 5JJ. Further details are available at: www.open-studios.org.uk/entry-2026/hilltop-studio

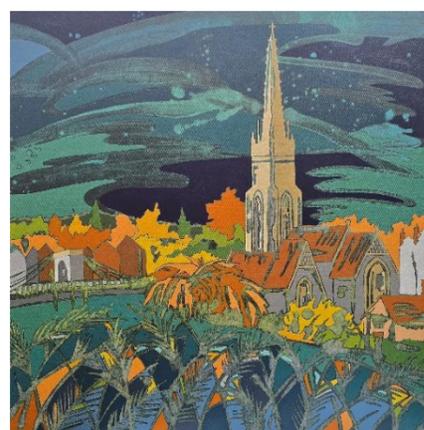
Simon and Kerry look forward to welcoming you to Hilltop Studio.



Kerry Webb - Frosty morning at the Folly



Simon Pink - Wilders Folly from Sulham



Simon Pink - All Saints Church - Marlow At Dusk



Kerry Webb - Aurora over the Folly

Beenham Parish Council – Notes of Meeting - 2 March 2026

Public forum

- After 4 litter picks since 2nd January, a further 27 vodka bottles had been found, with some being smashed
- Olivia Bailey has taken up the phone signal issue in village and the concern around the switch intended by BT. A parishioner will attend a meeting with Vodafone on 13 March in the village
- Concerns around Gigaclear fibre being installed throughout the village - the signal is now very poor, leading to reduced speed in downloading
- Issues were raised regarding parking on corners and cars nearly being hit
- any parishioners with concerns should report directly to WBC
- CCTV on school premises - Quotes had been received for installation of this. To be discussed further at next meeting.

Footpaths and road issues

- Any parking issues should be raised directly to WBC
- Potholes have been raised with WBC
- Road layout issues regarding entering the A4 have been raised with WBC; advice regarding current layout will be placed on the notice boards in the village
- SID has been damaged and unable to be repaired; quote provided to purchase new SID. Further options to be discussed at the next meeting

Next meeting

- Monday 13 April - at 7.00 pm in the Community Room

All parishioners welcome

Lauren West, Parish Clerk

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

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

Rambles from the Common

The **Padworth Common Conservation Volunteers** have started to form a new **scrape** on the south side of Padworth Common. The high-water table this winter meant that the scrape instantly filled up with water! The idea of the scrapes is to remove the fertile soil that has built up on top of the natural gravels. In former times our lowland heaths would have been a hive of industrial and agricultural activities as Commoners removed gravels and sands, cut gorse for bedding and fodder, peat for burning, birch twigs for besom brooms and cleared scrub to provide better grazing for their livestock. All of this activity stopped when World War I started and never really got going again as the focus of agricultural activity moved to larger fields on more fertile soils and gravel extraction focused on larger-scale extraction sites.

This meant that our open **heathland** gradually scrubbed over and developed into low biodiversity secondary open woodland dominated by **silver birch** and **Molinia grass**, and ever deeper soil. Why does this matter? Well, southern England contains 20% of all of the world's resource of lowland heath. This makes them England's "Amazon" in their world importance.

Their innate low fertility which led to them being abandoned is the very thing that makes them special. The very thin, impoverished acidic soil means that more aggressive plants such as many grass species, docks, nettles etc struggle and give way to more specialist plants such as **heathers - Callunas and Ericas, mosses, lichens**, etc. Even these specialists are slow to cover the hostile ground, leaving plenty of bare patches. These bare patches heat up in the sunshine as their exposed gravels act as natural storage radiators. This creates ideal conditions for many solitary **bees** and **wasps** (NB not the black and yellow stingy ones that you are familiar with), **tiger beetles**, and **butterflies**. The shortage of dense trees and shrubs to nest in means that many heathland birds nest on or very near to the ground. This makes them very susceptible to disturbance, which is why it is so important that you keep to the paths and keep your dog on a short lead - thank you 😊.

Despite the name of the group, this winter we have spread our wings and carried out vital heathland work on nearby Decoy Heath, and this summer we will be heading north east to the beautiful Moor Copse.

Grahame Hawker

For May's Newsletter we are looking to share your favourite walks, we have some lovely accessible countryside that is worth visiting.

Any recommendations please email
padworthnewsletter@yahoo.com



Benyon Wood

Padworth Parish Council – Meeting Summary (9 March 2026)

Full meeting notes are available on the Padworth Parish Council website.

District Councillor's Report

West Berkshire Council has received Exceptional Financial Support to help balance its budget short term, though long-term pressures (e.g. social care) remain. A local government review consultation closes 26 March; WBC's size and efficiency are under consideration.

Village Hall

Recent refurbishment works (floor and front toilets) were noted. Efforts are ongoing to increase daytime hall hires—residents are encouraged to promote the venue.

Field Damage

Police will not pursue action due to a boundary dispute. The matter will be handled legally. There is willingness from involved parties to install a proper boundary fence and consider mediation.

Planning

Padworth Saw Mills (Rag Hill): Concerns raised about HGV traffic and road safety. The application will be decided by the planning committee.

Former Aldermaston Quarry: Site now naturally regenerating as a bird reserve, though planning compliance issues remain and are being handled legally.

Road Safety

Concerns raised about A4 Bath Road (misuse of chevron area and recent accident). Updates on a review are awaited. Ongoing concerns also about speeding on Padworth Lane.

Parish Newsletter

A new digital-only newsletter is launching, with content shared via email and Facebook.

Contributions are welcome. Publication is planned monthly (submit by 25th). The move online saves around £2,000 annually.

Padworth Show

Due to limited organisers and logistical challenges, the 2026 show may not go ahead. A revised, more family-focused event is being considered for 2027.

Mill Lane

Concerns raised about littering, antisocial behaviour, and recent land changes. The situation is under review.

Website

Plans to modernise the parish website are being explored to improve usability and integration with the newsletter.

Planning Enforcement & Local Sites

Updates noted regarding the Reading Road site and Aldermaston Manor. Broader concerns remain about enforcement and land use changes.

Rural Crime

Recent break-ins reported (including village hall sheds). Residents are advised to remain vigilant and review security.

Community Matters

Parochial Charity: Low awareness—efforts needed to promote available support.

Padworth Church: Maintenance ongoing; request for financial support under consideration.

Tree near Kennet: Fallen tree issue under investigation due to unclear ownership.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 5 May, 7pm, Village Hall – all welcome.



Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 5th May, 7pm

Padworth Village Hall

If you would like to learn more about Padworth Parish Council or become a committee member please feel free to come along.

Padworth
Village
Hall



Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 12th May

At 6.30pm

If you would like to learn more about the village hall or become a committee member please feel free to come along.

Padworth Village Hall

Padworth Village Hall has recently undergone a refurbishment of the main hall and toilets, making a huge difference to the building. If you are looking for a venue to host a party, training session, or meeting, please feel free to visit our website for more information. It is a fantastic community asset and an affordable option for a range of events.

<https://padworthvillagehall.co.uk/>



Aldermaston Parish Council – Notes of Meeting - 10 March 2026

Aldermaston Park

We were pleased to welcome AWE who came to talk about its purchase of Aldermaston Park and the temporary use of its carpark for construction workers. From AWE's perspective the parking scheme is a success with 200 vehicles now parking at the site. However, we also heard from a local resident who said the extra traffic on Church Road is noisy and starts from 6am. Noise of the transfer mini-bus accelerating up Paices Hill was also mentioned. Suggestions to combat these problems were made including the use of electric mini-buses and buses driving to/from AWE via Red Lane. AWE said they would consider both and looked forward to further discussion with residents at April's Annual Parish Meeting.

Planning

- Discharge of Condition application from Young's Estate – No Objection
- New community meeting spaces at the Chapel on Chapel Lane - these new amenities may be welcome but may also impact road safety particularly at Chapel Lane's junctions with Reading Road and Welshman's Road. APC will ask WBC to consider lowering speed limits and moving the speed limit transition on Welshman's eastwards. No Objection
- Application from Young's Estate to remove 3 Conditions attached to a previous consent. We consider the Landscaping and External Lighting Conditions necessary to prevent possible harm to nearby open countryside and dwellings. Objected

It was noted that WBC had cancelled its March Eastern Area Planning Committee meeting at short notice following the withdrawal of the Padworth Sawmills application from the agenda. WBC had been recommending approval against our recommendation. APC does not agree that the site automatically benefits from site-wide B8 use and worry about the site's inadequate access. We will continue to make our case.

Local Government Reorganisation

Councillors agreed to WBC's request to participate in the Government Consultation on Local Government Reorganisations. The Consultation seeks views on three options put forward for the reorganisation of Oxford councils, two of which would incorporate WBC into a new Ridgeway Council. Of these we agree with WBC that the most beneficial to us would be the two unitary authorities proposal. APC will complete the survey to reflect this view.

Parish Council

We were delighted to co-opt Des Farndell to the PC. Des is a village resident, former civil servant and previously acted as our PC Clerk, so brings a lot of useful experience to the role.

Annual Parish Meeting

- Tuesday 14 April - at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

The usual community groups will attend, and we have guest speakers from AWE who will present and take questions. All those in the community are invited. The meeting will start at 7:30pm but the PC will welcome people from 7:00pm with the offer of a drink and opportunity to mingle.

Next PC meeting

- Tuesday 14 April - following on from the APM

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

Sophie Crawford
Chairman

ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term in Collective Worship we are focusing on our school value of Trust. Together we have been learning what Trust means, who are our trusted adults, and reflecting on the story of Peter walking on water and the story of Abraham. In class, adults are giving children plenty of opportunities to learn from our Superhero friend, the Reflector Owl, who checks, corrects and improves, and reflects and responds. The British value we are exploring this term is Democracy.

Since January we have been celebrating our weekly Class Champions – a child in each class nominated by their teacher for showing sustained effort, a positive attitude and excellent conduct. This award celebrates those who demonstrate kindness, strong learning behaviours and who live out our School Rules of being Ready, Respectful and Safe every day. The certificates are presented during Friday Collective Worship, allowing us to celebrate these fantastic role models.

During Children's Mental Health Week 2026, the whole school took part in a range of activities designed to support emotional wellbeing and encourage open conversations about mental health. The activities included daily emotional check-ins, daily mindfulness and age-appropriate sessions about looking after your mental health.

We continue to enjoy a busy programme of sporting activities, both in school and externally, including X Country, Speed Stacking, Archery, FA Skills, Cricket Skills, Dodgeball, QuadKids and Multiskills. Something for everyone to take part in and to learn a new skill.

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor



Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 28th April
7:30pm

Join in and find out more about
your local village hall and what goes on there.

All welcome



Pop in your diary
Sunday 6th Sept
Aldermaston & Wasing Show

Schedule of Classes coming soon
Re-vamped classes for clarity and today's world.
Get your schedule early so you can plan your veg & flower growing and practice your crafts
Watch this space or checkout facebook or our website
<https://awshow.org.uk>

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP ON THE DAY?
We are always looking for volunteers to help run this traditional village fete, you would be most welcome whether you can spare the whole day or just an hour or two.
Come along and be part of the show's history in this its 84th year.

Contact: secretary@awshow.org.uk

Useful Contacts and Numbers

Aldermaston CE Primary School 0118971 3362 enquiries@aldermaston.w-berks.sch.uk

Chair of Governors – Cathy Jones

Aldermaston Parish Councillors

- Sophie Crawford(Ch) 0118 971 2236 scrawford@aldermaston.co.uk
- Dave Shirt 0118971 2549 dshirt@aldermaston.co.uk
- Alison Faulkner 01189714686 afaulkner@aldermaston.co.uk
- Rob Smith 01189710142 rsmith@aldermaston.co.uk
- Ed Tilsley ed.tilsley@gmail.com

- Angela Woodley 01189712803 awoodley@aldermaston.co.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

- 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