

PADWORTH NEWSLETTER

June 2026



Padworth Newsletter

Welcome to the June 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 have ideas for summer breaks, all about Veolia and the Integrated Waste Management Facility in Padworth, spotlight on local businesses, and many interesting updates about what's happening in Padworth and the surrounding areas.

This month's newsletter cover features the Tea Rooms at Aldermaston Wharf, originally the Lock Keeper's House. Beside it stands the old wash house, once used by canal workers and now transformed into a small visitor centre and museum run by the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust. The canal was constructed to link the Rivers Kennet and Avon, creating a navigable route from Bristol to the Thames at Reading. Work began in 1794 and the entire project was completed by 1810. Today, the Kennet & Avon Canal stretches for 87 miles and includes 105 locks to manage the changing water levels along the route.

The canal was originally built for commercial transport at a time when roads were slow and often in poor condition. Ongoing wars also made sea transport between Bristol and London through the English Channel increasingly hazardous, making inland waterways a safer and more reliable option. Goods carried along the canal included coal, iron and agricultural produce.

Today, visitors can enjoy a fantastic selection of food, from hearty Boater's Breakfasts to delicious cakes that are definitely worth trying. The Tea Rooms are open Tuesday to Sunday 9:30am to 4:30pm



We would like to thank John Miller for his many years of service to Padworth Parish Council. He joined the Council in 2002, when Keith Gilbert was Parish Chairman. Although John has retired from the Parish Council, he remains an active member of Padworth Village Hall Committee.

John quickly became the Council's "go-to" person, with his invaluable local knowledge and willingness to help wherever needed. He has always been one of the first to volunteer at local events, including the Padworth Show and the Woolhampton Firework Display, to name just a few.

In the early years, John worked alongside David Evered to support the refurbishment of Padworth Village Hall in 2006. As part of his responsibilities on the Council, he also looked after the parish salt bins and footpaths. In 2018, he assisted with the breach in the River Kennet on the south side upstream from the weirs.

John was also heavily involved in managing the playground at the Village, one of the parish's most popular assets, ensuring that safety inspections and maintenance visits were arranged and carried out.

Thank you, John, for your dedication and service to the Parish Council and the wider community.

Spotlight on Local Businesses – Pura Pilates

Welcome to Pura Pilates, a boutique reformer Pilates studio offering small group classes for all ages, abilities, and fitness levels.

With just five people per class, you'll enjoy personalised attention, hands-on guidance, and a friendly, supportive environment as you begin your journey toward a *Pura Vida* lifestyle.

Inspired by the Costa Rican philosophy meaning “pure life,” Pura Pilates embodies positivity, simplicity, and gratitude. We invite you to reconnect with your body through mindful, low-impact movement designed to enhance posture, balance, strength, and mental clarity.

Start your journey with our Intro Offer and enjoy 20% off your first-class using code PURA20

New to Pilates? If you're just getting started, we recommend beginning with our Mindful Flow class - a gentle, foundational session focused on breath, alignment, and controlled movement. Move at your own pace as you build strength, stability, and body awareness, with optional progressions to gently increase intensity when you're ready. It's the perfect introduction to reformer Pilates in a calm, supportive setting.

Website: www.purapilates.studio

Instagram: [@purapilates.studio](https://www.instagram.com/purapilates.studio)

Location: Pura Pilates, Rectory Road, Padworth Common, Reading, RG7 4JD.



Celebrating Reading YMCA FC's 130th Birthday

Reading YMCA FC was officially formed in 1896 and is celebrating its 130th anniversary this year. Affiliated with the YMCA charity organisation, the club is proudly nicknamed “The Young Men”. Padworth has been our home since 2012, following a largely nomadic existence for much of the previous century. Since moving to the village, we have worked closely with Padworth Village Hall to steadily improve the pitch and facilities, creating a welcoming home for local football.

Today, the club runs two open-age teams (for players aged 16 and over), although we have also fielded junior teams at various times throughout our history. Our adult teams compete in the Thames Valley Premier League, which sits at Step 7 of the National League System, the first level of the official football pyramid. With the professional game beginning at Step 1, that means there are only six promotions to go!

Home matches are usually played on Saturday afternoons, with a 2.00pm kick-off, although there are occasionally evening fixtures at the start and end of the season.

Reading YMCA FC was a founder member of the Reading Saturday League, now known as the Thames Valley Premier League. The club has won the Premier Division title five times, just one short of the league record. We have also lifted the BTC Senior Cup on four occasions, most recently in the 2022/23 season, when the final was played at Reading FC's Select Car Leasing Stadium. The club is run entirely by volunteers, many of whom live locally. Our Chairman, Mark Lemm, is also a member of the Padworth Village Hall Committee.

Residents of Padworth are warmly invited to come along and support the team on matchdays. We offer a small bar, hot food, and covered seating and standing areas to ensure a comfortable experience whatever the weather. In recognition of our efforts, Reading YMCA FC won the Football in Berkshire Award for Best Matchday Experience in the 2023/24 season, beating a number of semi-professional clubs, a fantastic achievement for a community-run club.

Summer Escapes Beyond the Crowds

There is something particularly enjoyable about travelling just before or after the height of summer. June, early July and September often bring warm weather, long evenings and a gentler pace, allowing destinations to be experienced at their best. Restaurants feel more relaxed, coastal towns are quieter, and there is more time to enjoy a place properly rather than simply rushing between the sights.

For many people, the appeal lies in finding destinations that feel scenic, easy to explore and comfortably unhurried. Fortunately, Europe and parts of Africa offer no shortage of rewarding escapes during these months, whether you enjoy coastal scenery, food and wine, wildlife, or simply the pleasure of discovering somewhere new.

Portugal remains one of the most appealing options for a summer escape. While the Algarve is well known, northern Portugal offers a quieter and more authentic feel. Porto is ideal for a few days of relaxed exploring, with riverside cafés, historic streets and excellent food, while the nearby Douro Valley is perfect for slowing the pace altogether. Vineyard estates overlook rolling hills, river cruises drift through the countryside, and wine tastings often stretch into long lunches beneath shaded terraces.

Madeira is another excellent choice, particularly for those who enjoy walking and gardens. Known as the “Island of Eternal Spring”, it offers warm temperatures without extreme heat, even in mid-summer. Coastal paths and famous levada walks wind through forests, mountains and dramatic sea views, while Funchal combines botanical gardens, seafood restaurants and a relaxed harbour atmosphere that suits a slower style of travel perfectly.

Slovenia has also quietly become one of Europe’s most rewarding destinations for relaxed travel. Lake Bled may be the best known, but nearby Lake Bohinj feels altogether calmer, surrounded by alpine peaks, clear waters and gentle walking trails. The country’s compact size makes it easy to combine lakes, countryside and cities comfortably in one trip, and Ljubljana has a wonderfully relaxed atmosphere, with outdoor cafés lining the river and lively local markets.

For those who enjoy the journey as much as the destination, Switzerland remains hard to beat. Scenic rail routes such as the Glacier Express and Bernina Express pass through mountain landscapes, flower-filled valleys and traditional villages, turning travel itself into part of the holiday. Summer is an especially lovely time to visit, with lakeside promenades, clear mountain air and walking trails all easily accessible from many of the train routes.

Further south, some of the Greek islands still offer pockets of peace away from the busier resorts. Islands such as Naxos and Paros combine beautiful beaches with traditional villages, excellent local tavernas and a slower rhythm of life. Early evenings are often spent beside the harbour watching fishing boats return while enjoying freshly grilled seafood by the water.

For something a little different, Morocco offers a fascinating contrast of culture, scenery and relaxation, particularly in September when temperatures begin to soften. Marrakech is full of colour and atmosphere, from spice markets to peaceful riads hidden behind ancient walls, while the Atlas Mountains provide cooler air, dramatic landscapes and beautiful kasbah-style retreats. It is a destination that rewards slower travel, allowing time to enjoy long mint tea lunches, local craftsmanship and evenings beneath clear desert skies.

South Africa is also increasingly popular during these months, particularly for travellers looking to combine scenery, wildlife and wine. Around Cape Town, winter sunshine often brings crisp blue skies and quieter vineyards, while the nearby Winelands offer boutique hotels and exceptional food. Safari lodges in the Eastern Cape provide excellent wildlife viewing without needing to travel too far inland, making it possible to combine city, coast and safari in one memorable holiday.

Often, the most memorable holidays are not necessarily the busiest or the furthest away, but the ones that allow time to slow down a little. A scenic train ride through the Alps, a quiet lunch overlooking the sea, or an evening stroll through an old harbour town can stay in the memory far longer than a packed itinerary ever could. Travelling in June, early July or September simply creates more opportunity for those moments to happen naturally.

Laura Dean
The Travel Design Company





Managing your recycling and waste - Padworth's Integrated Waste Management Facility

Did you know that every year, the Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMF) in Padworth processes over 70,000 tonnes of household waste and recycling collected from West Berkshire residents? The IWMF is made up of multiple sites, including a Household Waste and Recycling Centre, a Materials Recovery Facility, and an In-Vessel Composting Facility. Over 200 people work across these sites in essential roles that ensure everything that can be recycled, is recycled.

Recycling materials

The Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) is where items from your green recycling bag, like plastic, food tins and drinks cans, are sorted. The items enter the MRF on conveyor belts to be fed through multiple separating machines and sorted by a dedicated team of hand pickers. This separates the items into material type (plastic, aluminium, and steel). At the end of the process, each material type is bulked into bales for onward processing at specialised facilities. For example, plastic bales go to UK-based processors to be made into plastic pellets, ready to be made into new products like plastic bottles. Paper and card, and glass bottles and jars, are collected and processed separately. This early separation by residents preserves the quality and maximises the value of the material for recycling.

Household Waste Recycling Centres

The Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Padworth receives 85,000 bookings each year. The HWRC allows residents to recycle a wide range of items that are not suitable for recycling at the kerbside, such as wood, coffee pods and electrical items.

Regenerating garden and food waste

Padworth's IWMF is also home to an In-Vessel Composting (IVC) facility. Over 18,500 tonnes of food and garden waste collected from West Berkshire households is taken to the Padworth IVC every year, which generates around 11,000 tonnes of compost for agricultural and horticultural use. Approximately 5,000 tonnes of this compost is given away to local farmers every year - a prime example of the circular economy in action.

Turning waste into energy

Any waste that cannot be recycled is sent to an Energy Recovery Facility, undergoing a process to capture heat and generate energy, powering thousands of homes and feeding into the National Grid. Only a very small proportion of general, un-recyclable household waste is sent to landfill (13 per cent) - this largely comprises bulky items.

Recycling challenges

West Berkshire residents play a large part in making sure that their household waste is successfully recycled, making good use of their two green recycling boxes and the green recycling bag. In doing so, residents are helping to fight climate change by preserving valuable resources and reducing CO2 emissions. While the ambition is to be able to recycle more materials, there are still some items which, at the current time, cannot be recycled. Anyone who is unsure about what can and cannot be recycled can check online at <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/rubbishandrecycling>

Dangers

It may come as a surprise that some items are dangerous when put in household or on-street litter bins. Items like batteries, vapes, and electrical items can cause fires in collection vehicles or treatment facilities, putting both the public and essential workers at risk.

Dispose of dangerous items responsibly by taking them to a dedicated recycling point, such as Padworth Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC).

Find out more

More information about recycling and waste - including how to book a slot to visit the HWRC, and what to do with batteries - can be found at www.westberks.gov.uk/rubbishandrecycling



Down on the Farm – More changes in the countryside

There are more changes going on in the countryside, which you may have noticed. We all know that it has been very dry recently and we are desperate for a good rainfall but some fields in the local area are looking golden in colour, which is not the result of drought but of a government policy change: certain fields that were growing cereal crops last year, such as barley, have been left as stubble over the autumn, winter and this spring to help conserve moisture and to prevent soil erosion as well as to help provide cover over the winter for birds, small mammals etc. If these fields then grow black grass and wild oats, the government will allow special dispensation to spray them earlier with Roundup to prevent these noxious weeds from seeding. That is what you are seeing now. Normally, this spraying does not take place until July and August. Other cultivations you may notice are due to the replacement and re-seeding of wild bird mixtures.

A further government change is the percentage allowance for environmental commitments. It is now a maximum of 25%, whereas previously it could have been up to 100%. It will mean another massive change in certain areas and how farms are managed.

I was hugely encouraged following a recent visit with my wife to the Berkshire Country Fayre near Newbury, which was run by Great Shefford Young Farmers Club. It really was an impressively run show, full of interest for everyone. Not only were there competitions for the members whose ages range from 10- 25 years old but trade stands and demonstrations to draw large crowds: sheep-hearing, dog-handling, stick-making, wood and metal working, flower arrangements and food preparations. The exhibition tent displaying the skills of the YFC members themselves was brilliant – such variety! All the exhibits were judged, marked and commented upon by the judges themselves which added greatly to the interest. It was a day well spent and we recommend it to you all next May.

On our own farm the news is variable. Our cash crop, the fodder beet, is growing very well in rows on the better land where the seed beds were perfect but on the tougher clay land where the seed beds were lumpy there has been little germination. It needs rain. It is a similar story for the wheat crop: it is not doing well on the poorer, stony land with the added stress of drought but on the stronger, better soil the crop is looking promising.

The war in the Middle East has affected the price of nitrogen fertilizer. It has tripled to over £1000 a ton. How do you budget for that?

From Our Agricultural Correspondent

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**.

May Jumble raised a wonderful £621.12 in aid of Alexander Devine Children's Hospice

June 6th in aid of St. John the Baptist, Padworth

July 4th in aid of Padworth Village Hall

August 1st in aid of The Wessex Cancer Trust



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.

WHATEVER THE WEATHER

I'm afraid gardening has had to take a back seat during May. I've been laid low by a mystery bug, even the doctors at Basingstoke Hospital, after many tests, don't know what I had. Happily, I'm much better now and able to get outside and walk, slowly, around the garden. I'm surprised at how much has changed, roses in flower, rhodies which I didn't think would flower, are, and the wildflowers have self sown everywhere. Rhodie Golden Torch down the drive is covered in flowers, while ten yards away, Horizon Monarch, has only three flowers, same conditions but so different. I was very relieved to find that my remaining seedlings in the greenhouse were ok, despite no watering or doors open.

I'm catching up on the Chelsea Flower Show which I recorded on the tele. It makes me smile to see how almost every garden has 'naturalistic' planting, i.e. wildflowers incorporated. This is something I had to accept when I started creating the garden here. At first I tried to keep them at bay but soon realised that they like it here and cultivated plants either struggled or refused to grow. Now it's 50/50 and I like it.

This June 4th it will be 50 years since we moved to Padworth and the garden, then a field, is now so full and I'm pleased with how it looks. There are a few small areas which are not quite right, so I still have work to do. They say gardens don't stand still and they're right.

I have managed to grow from seed some Himalayan Blue Poppies and they are now planted out and growing. As you know I have never managed to get them to flower, so here's hoping. I've been trying for at least ten years with no success. Fingers crossed.

There are now two rabbits and the repellent powder is keeping them off the flower beds. But they are making so many scrapes in the lawn. Now I'm definitely not a lawn fanatic, I like the daisies and buttercups growing there, but I don't like the scrapes. These two have zero interest in the juicy carrots in the trap. Annoyingly a Grey so and so has been caught four times and lectured before release. He's not visited for three days now so hopefully he's listened to me. Our hedgehog is tucking into his food nightly and keeping slugs under control.

Groan time. English twists.

Minute and minute should not be spelt the same.

I'm not content with this content.

I object to that object.

I used to read what I'd read again.

Excuse me but there's no excuse for this.

Did you know that if you wear a sunken canoe on your head? It's because it's capsized.

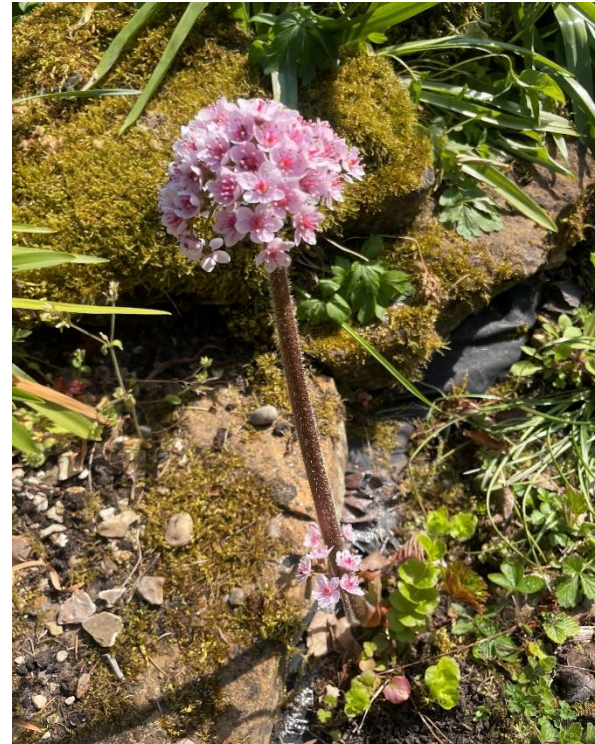
What do you call an alligator in a vest? An investigator.

Last night my wife and I watched two dvd's back-to-back. Luckily, I was the one facing the tele.

Someone asked me what the 9th letter of the alphabet was - it was a complete guess, but I was right.

Keep gardening.

Mike Warner.



Photos. Darmera, Indian Rhubarb or the Umbrella plant which sends up this tall stalk with a pink flower ball on top. When the flowers fade it grows large flat leaves. I really love it. Rhododendron Golden Torch.



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 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

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SQUIRRELS

AT 1st ALDERMASTON SCOUTS

ADVENTURE STARTS HERE!

FOR AGES 4-6

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- 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.

SUMMER FETE

ALL WELCOME!!

SATURDAY 11TH JULY 1pm to 4pm

ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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June 19, 20, 26, 27 *noda*

Doors open 7pm | Performance starts 7:45pm | Tickets £13
 www.mortimer-dramatic.org | 0118 230 1951 | St John's Hall, Mortimer

This QR code should take you to www.ticketsource.com/mds. If it takes you somewhere else please report this to us.
 This amateur production of BUILDING BLOCKS is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd on behalf of Samuel French, Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

A date for your diary!

Sunday 6th Sept

ALDERMASTON & WASING SHOW

Schedule of Classes

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
 AVAILABLE from 1st May on 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

Summer Music @ Aldermaston

Come and listen to some glorious music in a beautiful setting

2026 At St Mary's, Church Rd, Aldermaston, RG7 4HR

Friday June 5th, 7pm
 artist(s) t.b.c

Saturday June 6th, 7pm
 Guitarist - Lucas

Artist Information & Box Office: <https://aldermastonconcerts.org>

£20 Adult Ticket, £5 Children in full time education, under 12s free
 Both nights: £30 adult, £10 children, under 12s free
 includes a welcoming glass of fizz (or similar) and interval nibbles

All profits to St Mary's to help maintain this Grade I listed building

Mini Tarot Reading Evening

£20pp • 15 min reading • 7-10pm

Perfect taster to tarot. Book your slot now
Tuesday 16th June

THE BUTT INN

The Butt Inn
 Station Road
 Aldermaston
 RG7 4LA

Padworth Parish Council Meeting

5 May 2026

Padworth Village Hall

Present

Councillors: Rob Jones (Chair), Andy Williams, Andrew Griffin, Emily Robinson, Jonathan Johnson

Members of the Public: 0

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Rob Jones was duly elected Chair, and Jonathan Johnson was elected Vice Chair.

2. Co-option of Councillor

The Council noted the vacancy following the retirement of John Miller and recorded its thanks for his contribution and service.

Jacky Jones was proposed for co-option by Rob Jones and seconded by Emily Robinson. The proposal was carried unanimously.

3. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, signed and dated.

5. Annual Accounts, Risk Assessments and AGAR 2025/26

5.1 Internal Auditor Report

The Internal Auditor's report was reviewed. Several minor matters were noted for future action in line with the auditor's recommendations.

5.2 Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

The Annual Governance Statement was read, considered and approved. The statement was signed by the Chair and Clerk.

5.3 Accounting Statements 2025/26

The Accounting Statements and associated financial information for 2025/26 were reviewed and approved. The statements were signed by the Chair.

6. Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct and Complaints Procedure

The updated documents were reviewed. It was agreed that the Standing Orders and Risk Assessment would be formally updated and adopted at a later date.

7. District Councillor's Report

The report will be published on the Parish Council website.

8. Clerk's Report

Councillors discussed the low level of interest currently being earned on Council funds and considered whether alternative banking or investment arrangements may provide improved returns.

Action: Clerk to investigate alternative banking providers and interest rates.

9. Village Hall Matters

Field Boundary Issues

No formal progress has been made regarding the boundary dispute. Following a recent conversation with the landowner, it was noted that concerns remain regarding the boundary position.

A photograph from the 1960s appears to support the Parish Council and Village Hall Trustees' understanding of the boundary line. Mark Lemm has received a request from the landowner to meet, although no arrangements have yet been made.

The landowner has also raised questions regarding an additional boundary area. The Council and Trustees remain willing to seek a reasonable compromise and, if agreement is reached, would formalise the position through the Land Registry.

The possibility of reorientating the football pitch was discussed, although members considered this could create difficulties for other users of the recreation ground.

Charity Commission Report

The Charity Commission report was reviewed and approved. The Chair signed the report on behalf of the Village Hall Trustees.

10. Planning Matters

10.1 Decisions

25/02842/FUL – Exolum, Silver Lane, Padworth. Installation of slops facility, sampling stations, kiosk, pump, pipelines and associated works. **Approved.**

10.2 Awaiting Decisions

25/02133/FUL – Exolum PSD, Rectory Road. Installation of a 1.5MW ground-mounted solar PV array.

25/00933/FUL – Norbrek, Bath Road, Padworth. Proposed four terraced houses following demolition of existing bungalow and outbuildings. **Parish Council objected.**

26/00155/CERTE – Former Aldermaston Quarry Site, Padworth Lane. Nature reserve management without compliance with planning conditions. **Parish Council objected.**

25/01915/FULMAJ – Padworth Saw Mills, Rag Hill, Aldermaston. Retention of storage shed, gates, hard surfacing and boundary treatments.

Correspondence from Sophie Crawford of Aldermaston was discussed. While the matter has a greater direct impact on Aldermaston, members noted potential implications for surrounding roads and neighbouring parishes, including Padworth.

Action: Clerk to prepare and submit an objection via the planning portal.

26/00550/PASOL – Padworth Integrated Waste Management Facility. Application to determine whether prior approval is required for rooftop solar panels.

Mill Lane House

Members discussed ongoing matters relating to application **24/02625/HOUSE**. It was noted that residents continue to request updates and seek reassurance that West Berkshire Council is progressing the matter. Further clarification and updates would be welcomed.

11. Councillor Updates

A4 Bath Road Speed Limit Review

The latest review data does not indicate excessive speeding. However, concerns remain regarding vehicles driving through the chevron markings and the impact of the existing "No Right Turn" arrangement.

Padworth Lane Speeding

Ongoing concerns regarding speeding and traffic movements were discussed. District Councillor Boeck was asked to provide any updates regarding proposed passing places. Members also noted concerns about the impact on the existing pavement.

Bus Shelters

The Council discussed opportunities to improve local bus shelter provision, noting that grant funding may be available through West Berkshire Council. Potential locations, including near the Holiday Inn, were considered. Members also discussed pedestrian safety near the bus stop on the A4 towards Theale, where reports suggest people are walking alongside the dual carriageway due to the lack of a safe route. The possibility of a tarmac footpath was considered.

Action: Cllr Griffin to review existing bus shelters and report back.

Playground at The Fallows

The possibility of providing additional play equipment for children aged 5+ was discussed. Cllr Griffin reported that initial enquiries with suppliers had been undertaken. While costs are significant, equipment generally includes warranties of ten years or more.

Potential funding sources discussed included Greenham Trust, Englefield, Veolia and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding. Members agreed that the project remains at an early investigative stage.

The relative merits of wooden equipment, sensory additions and opportunities similar to those available at the Village Hall play area were considered. A range of budget options is being explored.

Actions:

Clerk to circulate further information and quotations.

Cllr Jones to discuss ROSPA matters at The Fallows with Jackie.

Cllr Griffin to arrange an inspection of the Village Hall play area and obtain advice on maintenance and repair works arising from the previous ROSPA report.

12. Next Meeting

13 July 2026

13. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at **8:23 pm**.

Aldermaston Parish Council – Notes of Meeting – 12 May 2026

Annual Meeting

This was our annual meeting so involved admin including electing a Chairman and Vice Chairman. There was unanimous support for no change, meaning that Sophie Crawford and Rob Smith will remain in position for another year. We also updated our policies and procedures in line with our Clerk's recommendations. Councillor responsibilities were re-jigged a little, the most notable change being Des Farnell becoming our representative on the Parish Hall Committee.

Planning

There was just one application which we felt no need to comment on.

Since April WBC had decided 4 applications, all in line with our recommendations:

2 discharges of conditions for Dixons Cottages, and Sascon's industrial building – **Approved**

Young's Industrial Estate's attempt to remove Conditions attached to an earlier consent **Refused**

We had an update on enforcement cases following a meeting with WBC. The **Reading Road travellers' site** is 'resource hungry' so other cases in our parish are progressing more slowly than we'd hoped. That said there was some positive news. WBC is getting **Easy Concrete** and the owner of the adjacent field to agree a plan of how to restore the site within a prescribed timescale. WBC has taken on board our view that the whole **Padworth Sawmills** site does not have B8 use, and the applicant has been asked to submit revised planning and transport statements. Another period of consultation will follow, so application 25/01915/FULMAJ will not be decided until July at the earliest.

Retrospective planning applications for **Corbyn** and the breaker's yard at **Wrays Farm** are pending.

RoSPA Report

The RoSPA report for the playground on the Rec was good. Minor remedial actions will be undertaken over the next few weeks. In addition, our Clerk will arrange for an inspection of trees on the Rec and elsewhere in the village to ensure that they remain safe.

Speeding in Aldermaston Wharf

This is a known speeding hot-spot but all efforts to get a permanent speed camera or additional TVP enforcement have been rejected. The only viable option is for residents to carry out their own Community Speed Watch (CSW) programme; the PC is happy to work with residents on CSW if there are volunteers. We will also investigate the option of using a SID at this location on a semi-permanent basis.

AWE LLC meeting

Held at the end of April. We had reassurance from Regulators that AWE is operating safely, and from AWE we heard about several large site development projects in the pipeline. Planning applications will be submitted later this year. Whilst necessary from a national defence and security perspective, these developments will impact our parish, particularly in terms of more construction traffic on our roads.

Finance

It was agreed to cover half the cost of a contract to maintain the churchyard grounds of St Mary's.

Next meeting

Tuesday 9 June – 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

All parishioners welcome

Sophie Crawford

Chairman

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

PADWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting

5th May 2025, 7.00pm

Padworth Village Hall

Councillors: Rob Jones (Chair), Andy Williams, Andrew Griffin, Emily Robinson, and Johnathan Johnson

Members of the public: 0

To receive apologies

John Miller, Tom Tucker and Dominic Boeck (District Councillor)

To approve minutes of the last meeting of the council

Signed and approved for records

To receive the Parish Council annual report

The Parish Council noted that the previous twelve months have been relatively uneventful overall, with no major incidents or significant issues arising within the parish. During the year, a number of maintenance and improvement works have been undertaken at the Village Hall, helping to maintain and improve facilities for residents and regular users.

The Parish Council has continued to support a range of local charities and community initiatives throughout the year, alongside overseeing the ongoing management and operation of the Village Hall and its associated grounds. Members acknowledged the continued importance of maintaining community facilities and supporting local organisations for the benefit of parish residents.

The council also recognised the ongoing work of councillors, volunteers and local groups who continue to contribute towards the upkeep and wellbeing of the parish community.

To receive the Village Hall annual report

The Annual Financial report was shared with councillors and approved.

To set the date for the next annual meeting

10th May 2027

To record the time meeting closed

19.20

Beenham Parish Council – Notes of Meeting - 11 May 2026

Public Forum

- The advertising board outside the Six Bells was mentioned for displaying offensive language. It was noted that the offensive word had been modified, but it was still obvious what it actually meant. It was also reported that the Six Bells is a pick-up/drop off point for the school bus and therefore the board is in full view of children. The PC undertook to request the Six Bells to remove it.
- It was reported that the pre-school was celebrating its 40th anniversary and that over this time some 1600 children had attended it.

CCTV system for Beenham School

The PC was waiting for a response from the school to its suggestion of a self-contained camera being installed to cover the gates and entrances to both the school and Community Room. It was suggested that some cost sharing could be agreed. To be discussed next month.

Vodka bottles

In response to the problem of large numbers of empty vodka bottles being dumped at the bottom of Beenham Hill, the PCSO has requested that they attend the next litter picking session with the WI.

Beenham SID (speed monitoring system)

This being sourced was discussed further after the shared unit was damaged whilst being operated in Beenham. Aldermaston PC has advised that it will no longer offer a shared unit as they cannot claim on their insurance due to the damage occurring outside their jurisdiction. The PC will seek to apply for a Member's Bid funding from our WBC District Councillor.

ROSPA Report

The PC will seek a quotation for carrying out the repairs recommended in the annual Rospa safety report for the play area on the recreation ground.

Flooding

WBC has said that it will carry out repairs to fix the flooding on both Clay Lane and Church Lane at a date to be decided by WBC.

Car parking issues

Parking issues near road junctions and the lack of parking facilities elsewhere were discussed. 5 locations have been identified as needing action.

Planning Matters

26/00710/HOUSE. New Hope, Picklepythe Lane. Erection of greenhouse. No objection.

26/00352/HOUSE. 1 Mulberry Cottages, The Green. Erection of single storey conservatory. Granted.

26/00343/HOUSE. Russetts, Webbs Lane. Two storey side extension. Granted.

Community Room

The issue with the hot water supply in the Community Room was raised. This is a shared water system with the school. Our DC will be asked to raise the matter with WBC.

Next meeting

- Monday 1 June - 7.00pm in the Community Room. All parishioners welcome.

Peter Hamblin

Parish Councillor

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

07919 916125 / clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk

CR Bookings: Paula Read Tel: 07793116937 Email: info@beenhampreschool.org

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

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

ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term in Collective Worship, we have been focusing on our school value of **justice**. We explored what it means to be just and fair, thinking about how laws help to guide us in making the right choices and ensuring fairness for everyone. We also reflected on themes such as British justice and marked occasions like St George's Day, linking these to the idea of justice for all.

We also encouraged children to think more deeply about fairness in the wider world, asking questions such as: *Does everyone have fair access to the things we sometimes take for granted?* This led to meaningful discussions about inequality and how we can respond to injustice to help make the world a fairer place.

Children learned about inspirational individuals who have worked to bring about justice and fairness, including Elizabeth Fry, Malala Yousafzai, and Thomas Barnardo. Their stories helped pupils to understand how compassion, courage and determination can make a real difference in the lives of others. The British Value we explored this term is **The Rule of Law**. Children have learned why rules are important, how they help to keep us safe, and why it is essential that everyone is treated fairly. We linked this closely to our own school rules - **Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe**, helping pupils to understand these expectations support a positive, fair and secure environment for everyone in our school community. Through all these experiences, our children are developing a strong sense of fairness, compassion and responsibility, helping them to become thoughtful and active members of society.

Our Infant classes had a fantastic trip to 4 Kingdoms, where they enjoyed a full day of exploration and discovery. They explored a range of habitats, took part in an insect hunt and even had the opportunity to meet some fascinating creatures, including stick insects and a giant snail. In the farm area, the children saw a wide variety of animals, including sheep (with twin lambs born that very morning), goats and their kids, chicks and chickens, ducklings, rabbits, guinea pigs, tortoises, terrapins, a bearded dragon and even an axolotl! The adventure continued with a ride on the little train, travelling through tunnels and past a mix of real animals and statues, followed by a tractor and trailer ride where we spotted more sheep, llamas and alpacas - great fun was had trying to tell the difference between them. After a busy morning, lunch was enjoyed outside in the sunshine before spending time in the play areas, making the most of the slides, climbing frames and giant bouncy pillows. The children showed great curiosity throughout the day and asked lots of thoughtful questions.

We will be holding our Summer Fete on Saturday 11 July on the school field, organised by our PTA team. There will be games, tombola, raffle, cakes and much more. All welcome, please come and join us for a great community afternoon.

Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor

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