PADWORTH NEWSLETTER

October 2026



Padworth Newsletter

Welcome to the October 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 **The Butt Inn, updates on Padworth Firework Extravaganza** and bring you the latest updates on what's happening in Padworth and the surrounding areas.

Hope you enjoy this edition!



Padworth Firework Extravaganza Returns!

Over the past three years, the Friends of Woolhampton Primary School PTA have brought the community together for a spectacular Firework Extravaganza at Padworth Village Hall, and what a success it has been!

The event has been warmly supported by families from Woolhampton and other local primary schools, as well as the wider community. With a funfair, a fantastic selection of food vendors and a bar run by the Village Hall Committee, there has been plenty to keep everyone entertained before the fireworks display.

For the Friends of Woolhampton Primary School, the event is a major fundraiser, raising vital funds for a new minibus. It has become the school's most successful fundraising event, thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of Laura Dean and the PTA team.

Putting on an event of this size takes a huge amount of preparation and organisation behind the scenes. From planning and setting up to helping on the night and clearing away afterwards, the event relies on a large team of volunteers. The PTA would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who gives up their time to help, your support really does make the event possible.

The PTA would also like to express their sincere thanks to this year's sponsors, Veolia, Lex Marquee and Bradfield College. Their generous support has been invaluable, and without it, the event would not have been able to take place.

Adding to the atmosphere was Julian from Kennet Radio, who kept everyone entertained with music requests and announcements throughout the evening. The event is not only an important fundraiser, but also a wonderful opportunity for local families and friends to get together, catch up and enjoy a great community evening.

Save the Date!
The Firework Extravaganza returns to Padworth Village Hall on Saturday 7 November 2026 and prices have been frozen from last year!

Why not use the QR code and book your tickets, and come along to support the Friends of Woolhampton Primary School PTA.

The organisers are also mindful that fireworks can be unsettling for some animals. If you have pets, please consider keeping them safely indoors during the event and take any other precautions that may help them feel secure.

We look forward to seeing you there for another fantastic community evening!



Spotlight on Local Businesses

The Butt Inn

Nestled in the heart of Aldermaston Wharf, close to the Kennet and Avon Canal, The Butt Inn is a traditional country pub with a fascinating history, and a few stories that may send a shiver down your spine!

The current pub building dates back to the 1920s and is said to take its name from the ancient archery “butts”, practice targets or shooting ranges, which were once located in the fields opposite the building.

Over the years, the inn has served locals, visitors and travellers passing along the nearby canal, becoming a familiar part of the local community.

A Pub with a Story to Tell
Alongside its traditional character and welcoming atmosphere, The Butt Inn has developed a reputation for being a little more unusual than your average country pub. There have been longstanding local tales of unexplained happenings and possible paranormal activity within the building.

Among the stories are reports of unexplained bangs and slamming doors, footsteps when nobody else is around and, perhaps most intriguingly, beer taps apparently turning on by themselves!

Whether you believe in ghosts or simply put these occurrences down to more earthly explanations, they certainly add an extra layer of character to the pub.

The supposed spirit is generally described as more mischievous than menacing, with the reported incidents tending to startle rather than frighten. Some have even speculated that the ghost could be that of a former landlord or a particularly thirsty former customer who simply wasn't ready to leave!



STEAK FRITES MONDAYS
The start of the week has just got better here with us. We’re offering our perfectly cooked steak frites & garlic butter for £15 every Monday. Available from 5pm



Of course, there is no definitive explanation for these stories, and much of the pub's paranormal reputation has been passed down through local anecdotes and tales. But that's perhaps part of the fun, particularly if you're enjoying a drink there after dark!

With its historic setting, traditional pub atmosphere and intriguing tales of the unexplained, The Butt Inn is certainly a local establishment with plenty of character and a story or two to tell.

Today, The Butt Inn continues to welcome locals and visitors alike, offering a well-stocked bar as well as lunch and dinner. The pub also hosts a variety of events throughout the year, providing another reason to pay a visit. Details of upcoming events, menus and other information are regularly announced on The Butt Inn's website and social media pages, so keep an eye out for what's coming up.

With its historic setting, traditional pub atmosphere and intriguing tales of the unexplained, The Butt Inn is certainly a local establishment with plenty of character and a story or two to tell.

A Pillar of the Community – A Big Shout-Out to Val

Many people in Padworth will know **Val**, a familiar face in our community who has been selling her home-grown fruit and vegetables for many years. At the age of 87, Val shows no sign of slowing down, and her energy and determination are truly inspiring!

A couple of years ago, Val's great-granddaughter, Willow, was diagnosed with **Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA)** at eight months old, a rare genetic condition that affects muscle strength and movement. SMA is an inherited condition, meaning that a child can develop it when both parents carry a particular gene change.

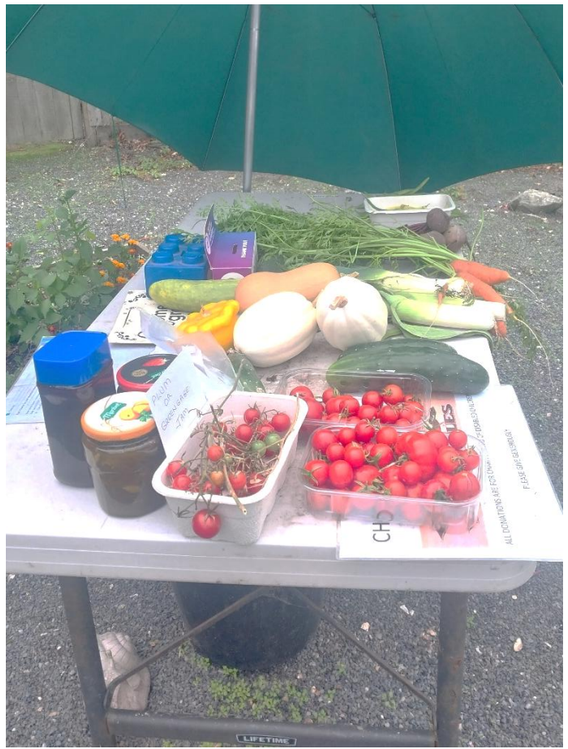
SMA has recently received considerable attention following the diagnosis of former *Little Mix* singer Jesy Nelson's twin daughters. Jesy has been campaigning for babies to be screened for SMA at birth, helping to raise awareness of the importance of early diagnosis and treatment. Newborn screening for SMA is due to begin in England from October 2026, with the rollout extending across England and the remaining screening laboratories coming on board by October 2027.

Val has been doing her own bit to support the cause. Last year, she raised an amazing £700 for charity through the sale of her vegetables. Unfortunately, this year the hot weather, together with the ongoing closure of Reading Road, has had a real impact, and donations have been dramatically reduced.

But that hasn't stopped Val! She remains optimistic and is determined to keep growing and selling her produce to raise money for the charity and, just as importantly, to help raise awareness of SMA.

So, next time you are on the Reading Road, by Tadling Angling, please stop by and take a look at what Val has grown, buy some lovely fresh produce and make a donation**.** Every little bit helps.

Val has been part of Padworth life for many years. Long-standing residents may also remember her from when she ran the shop and Post Office on Reading Road, Padworth Common, alongside her husband, many years ago.





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**.

September Jumble raised a wonderful £587.28 in aid of Padworth Village Hall.
October 3rd in aid of Prospect House Hospice
November – No Jumble Sale
December 5th in aid of St. John the Baptist Church, Padworth
January 2nd 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.

October Half Term: Beyond the Usual Autumn Escape

By Laura Dean, The Travel Design Company

October half term can be an awkward week for travel. Summer has well and truly ended in the UK, but the search for somewhere warm can quickly lead to the same familiar destinations. For those looking for something a little different, however, October is an excellent time to explore further afield. Across Europe, Africa, Asia and the Indian Ocean, the changing seasons bring opportunities for wildlife, culture, adventure and, in some places, wonderfully warm weather.

For families, the half term holiday can be a chance to do something that feels rather more memorable than simply finding some autumn sunshine. A journey can combine time to relax with experiences that bring a destination to life, whether that means exploring ancient temples, travelling through dramatic landscapes, spotting wildlife or simply discovering somewhere new together.

Northern Vietnam is one of the destinations that comes into its own during the autumn months. The cooler, drier conditions in the north make October a particularly appealing time to explore, and the region offers a remarkable combination of scenery and culture. Hanoi provides a lively introduction, with narrow streets, markets and excellent food, before journeys further north reveal a very different landscape. The limestone karsts of Ninh Binh and Ha Long Bay are perhaps the most recognisable sights, but travelling beyond the usual routes can reveal quieter valleys, rice terraces and villages where traditional ways of life continue. You can explore by bicycle, boat and on foot, with plenty of opportunities to try local food and meet people along the way. Vietnam is also a destination where the journey between places can be as interesting as the destinations themselves.

For those looking for wildlife and a real sense of adventure, Costa Rica remains difficult to beat. October is part of the country's green season, which means tropical rain is possible, but it also brings lush forests, fewer visitors and an extraordinary amount of wildlife. The Caribbean coast can be particularly rewarding, with opportunities to explore rainforest, beaches and waterways while looking for sloths, monkeys, toucans and other wildlife. A journey can combine the Caribbean coast with the country's volcanic landscapes and cloud forests, or focus on the southern Pacific for wildlife and wilderness. October is also an important time for sea turtles in parts of the country, making it possible to combine a holiday with experiences that give you a much closer understanding of the natural world.

For something closer to home, Iceland offers a completely different kind of October adventure. The days are shorter and the nights are beginning to darken, bringing with them the possibility of seeing the Northern Lights. At the same time, the summer crowds have eased and the country's extraordinary landscapes take on a wilder feel. Waterfalls, black-sand beaches, volcanic landscapes and glaciers can all be incorporated into a self-drive or private journey, allowing you to travel at your own pace. There is something particularly appealing about Iceland in autumn: dramatic landscapes during the day followed by cosy evenings somewhere warm, with everyone keeping an eye on the sky after dark in case the Aurora appears.







Egypt is a great option if you want culture and history alongside warm weather. Cairo is fascinating at this time of year, with the cooler temperatures making it more comfortable to explore the city's extraordinary sights. The Pyramids remain an obvious highlight, but there are many ways to experience them beyond simply arriving, taking a photograph and leaving again. The Egyptian Museum, the markets and historic neighbourhoods of Cairo can be combined with a journey further south to Luxor and the Nile, where temples, tombs and ancient landscapes bring thousands of years of history to life. For children, seeing these places in person can make history feel considerably more immediate than it ever could in a classroom.

For those looking further east, Bangkok and Northern Thailand offer a fascinating combination of food, temples, markets and landscapes. Bangkok is energetic and colourful, but it can also be surprisingly rewarding with children when the focus is on exploring rather than ticking off attractions. Street food, longtail boats, temples and markets all become part of the experience, before travelling north for a slower pace and a very different side of Thailand.

The north offers mountains, forests and smaller communities, with opportunities to experience a quieter side of the country. Combining Bangkok with Northern Thailand creates a journey with plenty of contrast, moving from the energy of the city to the slower rhythm of the countryside.

One of the pleasures of travelling during October half term is that the holiday does not have to revolve around finding the hottest beach. It can be an opportunity to see a different side of the world at a time when many destinations are at their most interesting.

A night beneath the stars, searching for the Northern Lights in Iceland, travelling through the landscapes of northern Vietnam, watching wildlife emerge from the rainforest in Costa Rica, seeing Southern Right whales from the cliffs of Hermanus or sitting quietly on safari in the Eastern Cape can create the sort of memories that stay with you long after the week back at school has been forgotten.

Aldermaston & Wasing Show 2026

Fantastic late-summer sunshine helped draw crowds to the 83rd Aldermaston & Wasing Show at The Old Mill on Sunday, as visitors enjoyed an afternoon packed with entertainment, community spirit and the highest number of competition entries in recent history.

Despite one of the hottest and driest growing seasons in recent memory, more than 400 entries filled the Produce Tent, surpassing previous records and providing judges with an impressive display of flowers, vegetables, cookery, crafts, photography and children's exhibits. The show's 104 competition classes once again formed the heart of the event.

From early morning, volunteers worked across the showground preparing stalls, attractions and the main arena before the gates opened to a steady stream of visitors.

The atmosphere came alive with performances from Tadley Concert Brass, while the energetic dancers of Breaking Barriers and the Silver Swans delighted spectators throughout the afternoon. Visitors also enjoyed displays and support from local organisations including the Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service, Thames Valley Police, Aldermaston Primary PTA and 1st Aldermaston Scouts.

A special highlight of this year's show was the recognition of four newly appointed Life Members: Chris Newman, Peter Oldridge, Fay Vanstone, and Dave Shirt honoured for their many years of dedication and service to the show's success and continuity. Their presentations, by Di Arlott, in the main arena were warmly received by the crowd.

As always, the popular Duck Derby, children's races and traditional egg-throwing competition drew enthusiastic participation, with spectators lining the stream and arena to cheer on competitors of all ages.

The show once again demonstrated its unique ability to bring generations together, with young families, long-time exhibitors and local residents sharing in a day that celebrated local talent, creativity and the very best of community life.



Organisers hope the event will raise valuable funds for this year's chosen charities, Tadley Elderly Day Care and PALS, while continuing the show's proud tradition of supporting local causes.

"A wonderful afternoon of sunshine, community spirit and record participation made this one of our most successful shows yet," said organisers. Show Chairman, Clive Vare, said "From first-time exhibitors, like myself, to long-standing supporters, it was fantastic to see so many people coming together and helping to keep this special traditional event thriving."

As stalls packed away and the final raffle prizes were collected, the 83rd Aldermaston & Wasing Show closed on another memorable chapter, leaving organisers, exhibitors and visitors already looking forward to next year.

ALDERMASTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Autumn term is well under way, and our new pupils have settled in very well. The children have returned full of stories and memories from the summer holidays and are full of enthusiasm and curiosity for learning. One of the key priorities for the start of the new year is keeping children safe and ensuring all staff are confident in their safeguarding responsibilities. All governors complete safeguarding training annually too.

Our new phonics, spelling and reading programmes have been introduced across the school. This work has been supported by the Local Authority and an English specialist as part of our work to strengthen the teaching of reading and English across all classes.

The year 6 pupils are being selected for their leadership roles, and the new House Captains will update each Friday in Collective Worship on the house points achieved that week. A reminder that we have four houses – Achard (blue), Congreve (green), Forster (red) and Keyser (yellow).

The key themes of Curiosity, Compassion and Courage will be visible across all areas of school life and have helped the children on the return to school to think about their hopes for the year ahead and how their own choices can help our school community to flourish.

Lastly, we will be holding an Open Morning on Tuesday 10 November 9.15-10.15am for prospective families looking to join us. Whether your child is due to start school in September 2027 or considering joining us in another year group, we would love to welcome you. Come along and discover what makes Aldermaston CE Primary School such a special place to learn, grow and belong.
Cathy Jones, Foundation Governor

Below is taken from the Council Report for August 2026

Shared by Cllr Dominic Boeck, Aldermaston Ward

Heat Pump Grants

Households that use heating oil or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) may be able to get extra support to switch to a heat pump.

On 21 July, the government's Boiler Upgrade Scheme grant increased from £7,500 to £9,000 for eligible off-gas grid properties replacing heating oil or LPG with an air source or ground source heat pump. The grant helps reduce the upfront cost of installing a low-carbon heating system.

Residents are eligible if:

- they own the property
- it is not connected to the gas grid
- they currently use heating oil or LPG
- the property is in England or Wales.

Residents can get a quote from a Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) installer.
They can also use the government's heat pump checker tool to see whether a heat pump could be suitable for their home.

Apply for the Boiler Upgrade Scheme: What you can get - GOV.UK
https://www.gov.uk/apply-boiler-upgrade-scheme



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

Opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday
9.30am – 4pm

tearoomsaldermaston@gmail.com

'PADWORTH PAST'

We are relatively unusual in that, unlike many other place in the UK, we are the only village with the name Padworth. Padworth was originally settled by the Anglo Saxons.

The first mention of Padworth (Paedenwurthe) appears in AD 956 when a King Edwy granted land to one named Edric/Eadric. Then the first official record of Padworth appears in the1086 Domesday Book when the land is recorded as being held by William de Eu. Padworth in this publication is spelt as Petered. Interestingly, there is no 'w' in Latin and 'd' is the probable equivalent of 'th' - we can therefore see how Padworth might have come about.

There is another theory that it is named after one of the Angle-Saxon leaders who settled in the area, Padda, hence Padda's farm evolved into Padworth.

Remains of ancient earthworks, dating back to Roman times, appear in Padworth and the surrounding area, with the local name of Grim's Ditch/Grim's Bank. These ditches were formed to protect the Roman-Britons from Anglo-Saxon invasion, particularly with the close proximity of the Roman town of Calleva Atribatum at Silchester. The remains east of Padworth Gully and on the Ufton boundary are now Scheduled Monuments. Grim would appear to be an alias of the pagan god Woden who is assumed to have constructed massive earthworks.

The River Kennet which runs through Padworth is recorded historically with various names - Cunnit, Kunnit and Cynetye. 'Cun' is a Celtic word for hound, which could relate to 'water dog' and therefore 'river of otters'.

The main Bath Road through Padworth is not Roman and there was no important town of Reading at that time. Silchester was the main town on the road system. Reading came into existence somewhere around the late 800s when the main public highway east-west was established, which forms part of the Padworth boundary. However, the exact route will have varied somewhat over the years.

The first known road through Padworth is a Roman one connecting Bath to Silchester. Then in 1714 a turnpike route came about, heavily trafficked by horse-drawn coaches. A 'turnpike' road was simply a fee-paying route and in Padworth there was a house that has been demolished on what is now the Halfway Garage, where this fee would have been paid.

The earliest railway through Padworth was the Berks and Hants Railway in 1847, constructed by the Great Western Railway, under the direction of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, which connected Reading to Hungerford. This included the Padworth level crossing which crossed the track at Towney Lock. Aldermaston railway station also came into being at this time. Then on the weekend of 21-22 May 1892, GWR completed their conversion and the line became standard gauge.

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'Hard to Believe!'

In 1655 Thomas Brightwell purchased Home Farm for £1,000 and in 1659 his son, John, secured Padworth Mill for £515. Also in 1655, Padworth Manor House with 174 acres and free fishing rights on the River Kennet was sold to Mr Thomas Brightwell from London for £2,070.

Delia Potter

DOWN ON THE FARM – RAIN CHANGED THE COUNTRYSIDE

It is wonderful to witness the change in our countryside from parched yellow and brown to emerging green. We had around 20 mm (8 inches) of rainfall recently - our annual rainfall is around 70 mm (28 inches). The grassland is recovering and rapidly growing which will hugely help the livestock feed situation.

September is usually a hectic time for arable farms: completing the harvest, doing the cultivations, planting the oilseed rape and the early-sown wheat. Good management and long hours are required. This year has been very different. Completing the harvest in early August has given us time to carry out certain cultivations that sometimes have to be put to one side. **Headlands** is the area around the perimeter of each field about 20-30m wide where the tractors and machines turn around. These areas are often badly compacted - a large tractor and grain drill can weigh around 28-30 tons. Compaction leads to poor drainage and vastly reduced yield for the following crop. This month we had time to deep cultivate these offending headlands. I'm sure we will witness a marked improvement in the crops next harvest.

We had a special meeting and demonstration at our Mortimer farm featuring the benefit of **good soil and land drainage**. The soil scientist went into detail about not over cultivating soil, encouraging aeration and worm population but adding that land drainage maintenance is vital to avoid compaction, which can also be helped by reducing tyre pressures on the tractors. Thames Water who worked hard to improve the quality of our water were present and added advice about cover crops and ways to avoid pollution and erosion of our ditches, streams and rivers. It was an interesting evening attended by 40 farmers.

The **Newbury Agricultural Show** was very well attended with plenty to see for everyone. A new innovation was a working demonstration of silage-making, held in the main ring. But first there was a parade of early tractors and machinery of 60 years ago, a mower, a Tedder forage harvester and a trailer, wonderfully restored and working. Using straw instead of the grass, the huge machines of today demonstrated the benefits of sheer output with machines capable of clearing 100 hectares of cut grass in a day. These machines are now usually owned and run by agricultural contractors. The JCB dancing diggers were quite a highlight and brought everyone to the main ringside - a fascinating spectacle.

A little bit more rain please!
From Our Agricultural Correspondent



There was an impressive selection of agriculture machinery at the Newbury Show. The John Deere above was 830 horsepower. What a monster!





Please see below a communication from Connecting Communities in Berkshire (CCB) regarding the rising cost of heating oil and the growing impact this is having on rural households across Berkshire.

The information includes useful advice and support for households that may be struggling with increasing heating costs.

Rural families need more targeted support against rising heating oil prices

Rural families living in Berkshire need urgent targeted financial support to help mitigate the rising cost of heating oil.

The price of domestic fuel – including heating oil and liquified petroleum gas, which are essential resources for many rural families whose homes are not connected to the gas grid – have risen significantly since the beginning of the year.

Households saw the price of heating oil more than double in the immediate aftermath of the US-led strikes on Iran, which caused turmoil among the global oil market.

Now, as the government pledges further financial support to families ahead of the coming winter season, Connecting Communities in Berkshire (CCB) is joining calls for any new help to be extended to homes reliant on alternative fuel sources.

Last week, Ofgem announced the energy price cap would be increasing by four per cent from October, meaning the average family will likely pay around £60 more each year for their gas and electricity.

However, the price of a single litre of heating oil, which is not covered by Ofgem's price cap, stood at 94p* on Wednesday 2 September 2026 – approximately 82 per cent higher than on the same day last year.

It means 1,000 litres of heating oil, which is the standard delivery offered by most suppliers, would now set the average rural family back by almost £940.

Tim Parry, CCB's CEO said: "We are facing a rural cost of living crisis for energy, and it's one that is having a very real and measurable impact on many households in Berkshire.

"With the approach of colder weather, there is now a pressing need for the government to make meaningful decisions and reassure rural people that they have not been forgotten.

"As a proud member of the ACRE Network, which exists to speak and act on behalf of all rural communities, we are joining the wider call for more targeted financial support to be offered to households that have no choice but to use heating oil or LPG to stay warm.

"Living off the gas grid is already a challenge – with fuel needing to be purchased in advance and in bulk, before then being physically delivered to each address – and the sustained volatility of the heating oil market since March has only added to the stress, worry and anxiety felt by all off-grid energy users."

Action with Communities in Rural England, the national umbrella organisation for the ACRE Network, has already written to ministers with several policy proposals that, if implemented, could provide families with some limited breathing room.

One suggested action is the immediate removal of the five per cent VAT currently added to all heating oil purchases.

At current prices, the move would save the average rural family around £45 per 1,000 litre purchase.

Corinne Pluchino, Chief Executive, Action with Communities in Rural England, said: "We are grateful that our network of 37 member charities is backing our call to get more targeted support for those off the gas grid delivered in time for winter.

"We remain keen to work with the government on any initiatives that can help these rural families keep energy costs down, and hope that a positive announcement will be made very soon, and before the real cold weather sets in."

For further information on CCB visit www.ccberks.org.uk and to find out more about the work of ACRE, visit www.acre.org.uk.

*Source: www.boilerjuice.com [correct as of 2 September 2026]

Notes to editors:
For further information, or to enquire about follow-up interviews and possible photo opportunities, please contact Shaun Dix, Senior Communications Officer, at s.dix@acre.org.uk.

Action with Communities in Rural England is the national charity for rural communities.

Founded in 1987, ACRE works to create thriving, inclusive and sustainable rural communities, all of which are economically active and with access to key local services.

The charity is also the national body for the ACRE Network, which is comprised of 37 member charities that work in rural areas across England. Together, they campaign for change, enable local action and unlock support for people most in need.

Further information about the work of ACRE can be found online at www.acre.org.uk.

CCB
Connecting Communities in Berkshire
Helping Berkshire communities thrive

Padworth Parish Council Meeting - 7 September 2026, 7.00pm at Padworth Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Andy Williams, Andrew Griffin and Emily Robinson
Members of the public: None

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Rob Jones, Johnathan Johnson and Jacky Jones.
In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Cllr Williams agreed to chair the meeting.

2. **Declarations of Interest**
No declarations of interest or requests for dispensations were received.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by Cllr Williams.

4. **District Councillor's Report**
It was noted that the District Councillor's report would be published on the Parish Council website.

5. **Clerk's Report**
The Clerk reported that PKF Littlejohn was reviewing the Council's accounts and had raised one query regarding the reduction in the precept variance compared with 2024/25.
The Council discussed newsletter costs of £3,430.32.
Invoices totalling £36.00 had been received for July and August for the Council's domain and website hosting, which will continue as a monthly cost.
Action: Clerk to make payment of the relevant invoices.

6. **Village Hall Matters**
There was no update as Cllrs Jones were not present.

7. **Planning Matters**
7.1 Decisions
26/00783/CERTE – Oakland House, Silver Lane, Padworth, RG7 4QR: Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of the site as a children's home – Approved.
7.2 Awaiting Decisions
25/01915/FULMAJ – Padworth Saw Mills, Rag Hill, Aldermaston, RG7 4NU: Part-retrospective application for retention and extension of storage, access, hard surfacing and boundary treatments – Parish Council objected.
26/01059/LBC & 26/01058/HOUSE – Yew Tree Cottage, Mays Lane, Padworth Common, RG7 4QP: New windows, internal alterations and new patio doors.
26/01624/HOUSE – 28 Fallows Road, Padworth, RG7 4GX: New glazing and roof to existing conservatory and internal alterations.

8. **Playground Provision at The Fallows**
Cllr Griffin presented a number of playground options for consideration.
It was agreed that the options should be shared with the local Scout group and that children should be invited to give their views, as the intended users of the facility.
The Council acknowledged the work undertaken by Cllr Griffin and agreed that community input would help determine the preferred equipment.
It was noted that West Berkshire Council had not requested the Parish Council to adopt the existing playground at The Fallows and that both the land and equipment remained under its ownership. The Council discussed whether additional equipment could be installed at the site.
Initial estimates indicated that new equipment could cost approximately £15,000–£20,000.

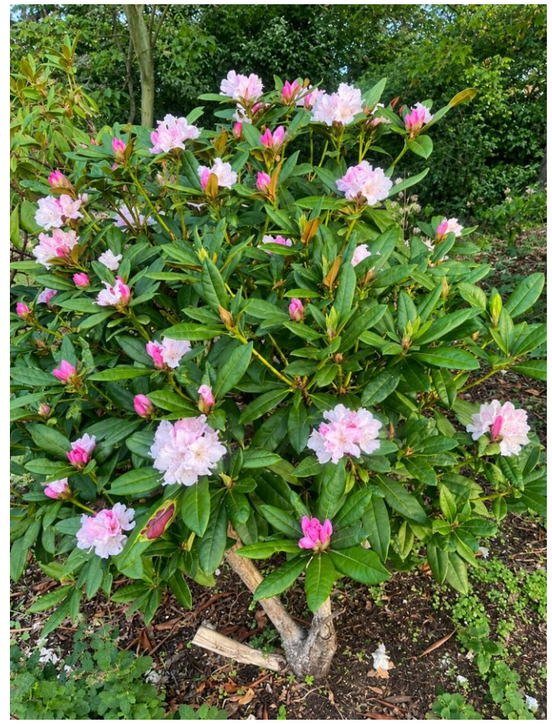
9. **Councillors' Updates**
Travellers' Site – Mill Lane
The Council discussed the latest position. The most recent update from Cllr Jones was that a traffic officer was due to inspect the site.
It was noted that the site falls within Aldermaston Parish and that there was limited action the Parish Council could take at this stage. Residents remained frustrated by the situation.
Joint Council Meeting – 15 September, Cllr Williams offered to attend the forthcoming Joint Council Meeting.
Action: Clerk to notify the Aldermaston Parish Council Clerk that Cllr Williams will attend.
Playground – RoSPA Report
The Council discussed the recommendations from the RoSPA inspection, including corrosion, works required to the zip wire and issues with the basket swing.
The Council agreed that the most urgent repairs should be prioritised. A previous quotation of £4,203 plus VAT had been received for works to the existing zip wire and associated equipment.
The Council considered the cost of replacement equipment against repairing the existing equipment and agreed that repair and ongoing maintenance would be the more cost-effective option.
The need for regular servicing and maintenance was also discussed, including whether a Councillor should take specific responsibility for playground matters.
Action: Cllr Griffin to obtain a formal quotation for the required playground works.
Tree – Rectory Road
The Council noted that the tree previously reported to the Clerk had been pushed back from the road. No further action was required at this time.

10**. Date of Next Meeting -** The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 9 November 2026.

11. **Meeting Close** - The meeting closed at 7.54pm.

WHATEVER. THE. WEATHER

Mike will be back with us next month! In the meantime, he wanted to share this photo of his "Christmas" rhododendron. It has decided to flower three months early, whatever next? Whatever the weather!!





HARVEST IN THE BENEFICE

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER AT ST. JOHN'S, PADWORTH
5.45 pm Tea and Cake 6.30 pm Harvest Songs of Praise
SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER AT. ST. MARY'S, MORTIMER
10 am Sung Eucharist at St. Mary's, Mortimer
12.15 pm for 12.30 pm Harvest Lunch at St. John's, Mortimer
Please sign the list at the back of the church, telephone 9333704 or email admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk
SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER AT ST. SAVIOUR'S, MWE
5.45 p.m. Tea and Cake 6.30 p.m. Harvest Thanksgiving

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 10 a.m. to

1.00 p.m. The Christmas Bazaar is a key community event for fundraising, fellowship & fun. Donations We are looking for donations for stalls: handicrafts, bottles, toiletries, sweets, conserves, chocolate, items for the home & garden stall, raffle prizes etc. Cakes can be delivered the evening before/on the day. Donations of time & assistance are also very welcome. Thank you. Churchwarden

THE CHURCH ORGAN AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH, MORTIMER

The pcc has decided that we need to purchase an automated hymn player for when a church organist is not available to play at services. The organ at St John's has a built-in device which allows an automated hymn player to be installed. The hymn player is called 'The Choirmaster' and is provided by Viscount Classical Organs Ltd., which company built the organ. It comes pre-loaded with over 700 hymns & would also allow the recording of other music. The cost of £1,650 inc. VAT. Please consider contributing towards the cost of the automatic hymn player. If you have further thoughts or would like more information, please contact me. Again, thank you very much for your consideration. As always, God bless, Paul, Vicar

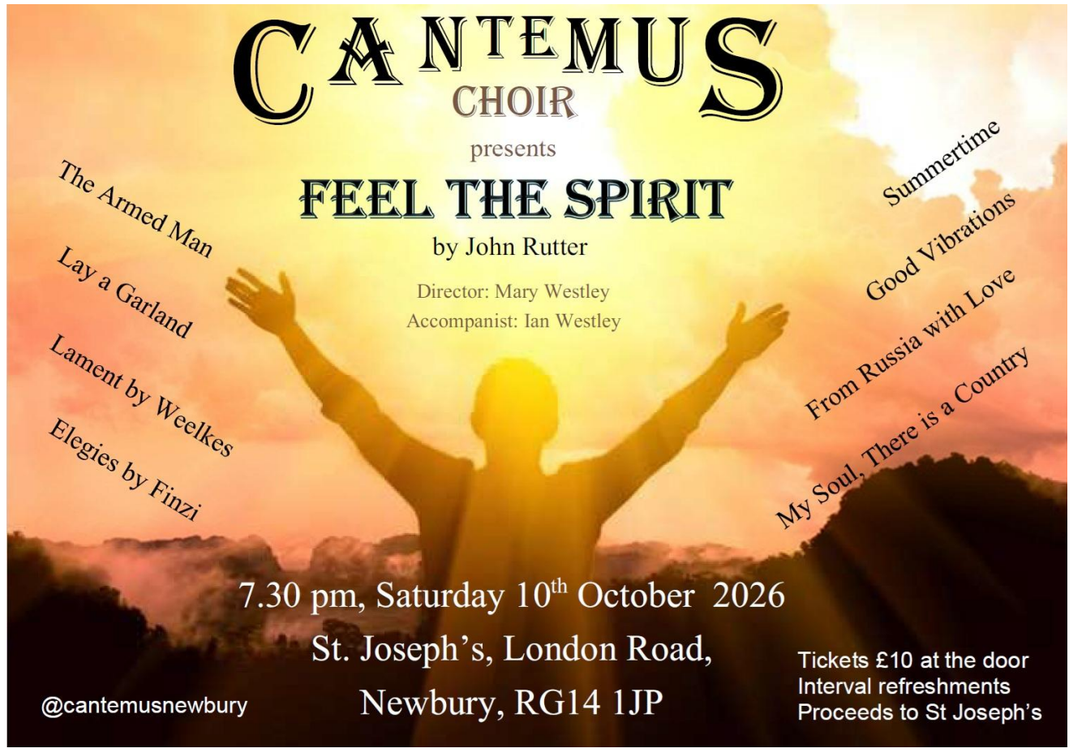


Padworth Village Hall Volunteers Wanted

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



Tickets are available from the Shaw House web site.
Go to https://booking.westberks.gov.uk/heritage_events.html



Full details will be available later at www.facebook.com/stmarysshinfield and www.facebook.com/bellecantotrio

Aldermaston Parish Council – Notes of Meeting - 8 September 2026

Planning
Trees -There were three requests for permission to work on trees but only one raised any concerns. This was a request by Aldermaston Recycling. The PC will raise an objection due to the lack of information on the trees concerned and request the information be provided.
Strawberry Farm - Replacement of a fire damaged bungalow with a two-bedroom house. No objection as the number of bedrooms is not increased beyond that in the already approved plans.
Youngs Industrial Estate - the creation of hardstanding has already been approved despite the concerns previously raised by APC. As the PC could see no material changes, it raised no objection to this revised application.
West View Farm, Tadley: No comment.

Planning enforcement cases
Padworth Saw Mills: this case was discussed at the Eastern Area Planning Committee on 2nd September. Representations were made by residents, APC and our Ward Councillor, Mr Dominic Boeck, and had an impact helping the Committee to reject the application.
Pinewoods, Soke Road: the planning breach has been reported to WBC and their views are awaited.
Jan London Trade Ltd, Paices Hill: The growing mound of tyres stored here continues to cause concern. As well as adding APC's voice to that of Tadley Town Council on potential planning breaches, the Council decided to make a referral to the Environmental Health Officer at WBC over the safety of so many tyres stored in the open air.
Site on Reading Road: The process regarding this site is still ongoing; the PC is awaiting updates in due course.

The Rec
Following the replacement of the fencing at the recreation ground, the PC discussed the new entrance and potential access difficulties during wet weather. Alternative surfacing solutions around the gate will be investigated.

AWE Site Development
The meeting with neighbouring PCs to discuss the potential impact of AWE's site development has been arranged for September and will be reported on at the next meeting.

Next meeting
Tuesday 13 October – 7.30pm in the Parish Hall
All parishioners welcome
For details, please visit https://aldermaston-pc.gov.uk/
Des Farndell
Parish Councillor

Beenham Parish Council – Notes of meeting - 7 September 2026

Public Forum
Thanks were given for the grant provided to Beenham Church for ground maintenance
A reminder was given that the Giant Vegetable Show is being held this coming Sunday 13 September at the Victory Hall

Thames Water
Many issues with the Thames Water works though the village remain. It was considered that communications to the PC and parishioners by TW, WBC and M Group (the contractors) have been appalling. The notifications of water cut-off to properties have been patchy and in some cases absent. Whilst traffic coped with the initial driving difficulties, the introduction of the 5-way traffic light system caused chaos, especially for those residents between the light locations, who couldn't know if they had right of way. It was agreed that the resulting safety issues, especially in the vicinity of the school, could not be ignored. It was agreed that Dominic Boeck, our DC, would take these up with WBC. It was also agreed that the PC continue to urgently seek a meeting with all parties to establish a single point of communication to the PC, in order to avoid conflicting information and allow the PC to advise residents. It was noted that the 5-way trafffic light system had been changed which has alleviated some of the traffic issues.

Planning Matters
26/01439/HOUSE 4,The Warings, Beenham. Rear conservatory. No objection
26/01779/HOUSE Highdown, Webbs Lane. First floor roof extension. No objection.

Creation of a Unitary Authority
Our DC reported that the planned re-organisation and merger of West Berkshire Council with South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse to form a new unitary authority, which had been authorised by the UK Government in July, had suddenly been paused by the Government after they received legal advice. A great deal of time and money has been spent on planning this change and we will have to wait and see what the outcome will finally be.

Mallard Way, Aldermaston Wharf
Parking issues - no further news.

Recreation Ground play area
A meeting with the contractor to establish which repairs to carry out is pending.

Finances
A grant request from Bucklebury Community Group, which provides services for the elderly and disabled to and from medical appointments, was discussed and approved.

Next meeting
Monday 5 October - at 7.00 pm in the Community Room.
All parisioners welcome.

Peter Hamblin
Parish Councillor

Full details of Councillors (including email addresses) are on the website at beenham-pc.gov.uk/councillors/ .

All correspondence to the PC should be addressed to the Parish Clerk, Lauren West
Tel: 07919 916125 Email: clerk@beenham-pc.gov.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)	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