



SHAW-CUM-DONNINGTON

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Newsletter - Autumn 2026

Letter from the Chair

Yesterday afternoon I sat and watched the rain fall. Who would have thought that a little rain could bring such pleasure? After weeks of heat and gardens turning brown and dry, even a brief shower was welcome. Please remember to keep bird baths topped up and, if possible, place a container of water at ground level under a hedge for animals such as hedgehogs, squirrels and rabbits.



This autumn, we have two community events to look forward to: a bulb-planting session on 17th October and our annual autumn litter pick on 31st October. Further details about both events appear later in the newsletter.

Many of you may be wondering about the proposed new school at Donnington Heights and David Wilson Homes' request to be released from its obligation to build it. The Parish Council is actively monitoring the situation and recently held a productive meeting with West Berkshire Council's planning and education portfolio holders. We are waiting to hear the date when it will be considered at a WBC Planning Committee, hopefully this Autumn.

I hope you were able to attend the fête in June. It was a wonderful afternoon, with music from Watership Brass, stalls to browse and classic cars to admire. Congratulations to the dog show winners and to everyone whose beautiful floral displays, magnificent vegetables and mouth-watering bakes featured in the garden show. My personal thanks go to the volunteers who worked so hard in the weeks leading up to the fête and on the day itself.

Thank you to everyone who completed our survey. Your feedback will help shape the parish's future plans.

You may be aware of Thames Water's sewage pumping station upgrade at Shaw Recreation Ground. The main work should be completed by half-term, with the site cleared by Christmas. By the time you read this, the diesel generator should have been removed and replaced with a silent electricity supply for the benefit of local residents.

Finally, remember you are always very welcome to attend our monthly Parish Council meetings on the third Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall.

Councillor Margo Payne



Shaw-cum-Donnington C.E. Primary

Reception Admissions - September 2027

Is your child's date of birth between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023?

If so, you need to apply for a school place before 15 January 2027.

Admission to the Foundation Stage of Shaw-cum-Donnington CE Primary School is in September of the academic year in which your child becomes five. West Berkshire Council handles all our applications for admission.

We welcome you to look around our school. Visits take place by appointment only. To book a place on one of our tours on the dates below please call the school office on 01635 40971 or email office@shaw.w-berks.sch.uk

Thursday 15 October 2026 9.30am
Thursday 12 October 2026 2pm
Tuesday 24 November 2026 4.30pm
Friday 4 December 2026 9.30am
Friday 8 January 2027 9.30am

We can admit up to 14 children into each year group. If more children apply than we have places available preference will be given according to the criteria laid down by West Berkshire Council. Full information explaining the process is available on line at the WBC website: [West Berks Primary Admissions](https://www.westberks.gov.uk/primary-admissions)
You will be able to apply for a school place from the beginning of November each year online or by post. A refusal of admission is subject to a right of appeal.

We need your help to plant spring bulbs in Donnington Recreation Ground!

We will be planting some spring bulbs around the edge of Donnington Recreation Ground on Saturday 17th October and would love to have some volunteers to help us. Please come along from 10am and bring gardening gloves and trowels/bulb planters.

We will open up the car park at the top of the recreation ground, which is accessed from Castle Lane (turn right into the recreation ground just before the gates and Castle Lodge).



The eagle-eyed among you will spot that the photo above shows Spanish Bluebells, but rest assured we will be buying native bluebell bulbs for the recreation ground!

More news on our website

This newsletter is available to read on our website: www.shawcumdonningtonparish.gov.uk

If you visit our website you can also sign up to receive regular news updates from the Parish Council by email.

Don't forget the Pop-Up Library at the Myrtle Community Café in the St Mary's Church Centre

Every Monday* at Shaw Church Hall between 10.30am and 12.30pm, the Myrtle Café provides a friendly and inclusive welcome. In addition to free refreshments, there are internet facilities and help to find specialist information, advice and support.

The new 'Pop-Up' Library service is available once a month at the café, supported by a West Berkshire Council librarian, where everyone can come along and take out books from a selection that will be updated quarterly. This service is being funded by the Parish Council, and we hope it will prove popular.

Future dates for the Pop-Up Library are: Mondays 7th September, 5th October, 2nd November and 7th December.

*not on Bank Holidays or in August.

Community Litter Pick!

Come along and help to make our parish look lovelier!

Saturday 31st October at St Mary's Church car park in Church Road from 10am till noon. We will supply bin bags, litter picks and hi-viz jackets - bring gloves if you can. Under 16s should be accompanied by an adult.

Guided walk around Donnington, Sunday 6th September

The circular walk starts from the Village Hall on Love Lane at 2pm and includes refreshments afterwards.

The walk is around three miles long and will include information on the history of the village, its significant buildings and famous past residents.

The cost is £10 and all proceeds go to the Village Hall extension and refurbishment project.

To book your place send an email to scdvillagehall@btinternet.com

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN THE FUN

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Find out more about your local group . . .

1st Newbury Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association

Open Evening (School Years 4-6)

Wednesday 16th September 2026

6:15-7:45 pm

Shaw Church Centre, Church Road, Shaw

RG14 2DR

RSVP: 1newbury@boys-brigade.org.uk



Looking back on another successful Village Fête on Sunday 28th June at Donnington Recreation Ground



Thank you to all the local organisations and businesses that took part, including the WI, 3rd Newbury Scouts, the Boys' and Girls' Brigade, St Mary's Church, Shaw-cum-Donnington Primary School, The West Berkshire Car Club, Lifestyle Fitness, Doggy Daze Treats and Watership Brass.

Thank you to all the public that came along to enjoy the afternoon and help raise funds for many local organisations.

With matched funding from the Good Exchange, £1,600 was raised for the village hall expansion project from donations for plants, cakes and refreshments.

We hope to see you at Donnington Recreation Ground for next year's fête on Sunday 20th June 2027 - put the date in your diary now!

New playground at Shaw House

West Berkshire Council has opened a new playground at Shaw House which is accessible for disabled children too.

The play area was funded from developer contributions and opened on 29th July. At the heart of the new space is a bespoke play structure inspired by Shaw House's Great Hall. Designed to reflect the character of the Grade I listed Elizabethan mansion, the structure encourages imaginative play by linking into the site's rich history.

The playground also includes sensory equipment, a nest swing, accessible carousel and balance trail, alongside pathways and safety surfacing to ensure children of all abilities can enjoy the space.

Don't forget to check out the **Altered States** open air sculpture exhibition in the grounds of Shaw House too — until 27th September. It is free and open from 11am to 4pm, seven days a week.

New Sunday Bus Service—the 34

From 20th September the 34 bus will stop at the Vodafone Roundabout going into Newbury at 09.26 and then every other hour at that time until 17.26, and going out of Newbury it will stop at 09.50 and every other hour at that time until 17.50. It will follow the usual route through Garrison Meadows, Bastion Street to Love Lane and Oxford Road.

This has been funded through a Government award.

Your Shaw-cum-Donnington Parish Councillors

Margo Payne - Chairperson
margo.payne@shawcumdonningtonparish.gov.uk

Ian Miller - Vice Chair
ian.miller@shawcumdonningtonparish.gov.uk

Richard Almond
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OPEN SCHOOL EVENTS

OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM 4PM-7PM
TALKS FROM THE HEADTEACHER WILL TAKE PLACE AT 5PM & 6PM

Everyone is welcome to visit our Open Evening. No bookings needed. There will be opportunities to speak to students and staff, visit our facilities and view our excellent facilities.

OPEN CLASSROOMS / BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

15TH, 17TH, 25TH & 30TH SEPTEMBER 8TH & 14TH OCTOBER AT 9.15AM - 10.45AM



For Parents and their Y5/6 children. Experience lessons and get a taste of our school day. Limited places available - to book please scan the QR code opposite or contact Trinity Main reception on: office@trinity.newburyacademytrust.org or telephone 01635 510500 indicating the date you wish to attend, your name, your child's name and current school and contact telephone number.

INFORMAL INFORMATION EVENING

7TH OCTOBER AT 6PM - 7PM

Informal Information Evening - a short presentation from the Headteacher followed by an opportunity to speak with key members of staff regarding life at Trinity. Please book your place as numbers are limited. office@trinity.newburyacademytrust.org or telephone 01635 510500

For more information or to reserve a place to one of our events above please visit the school website: www.trinitynewbury.org or contact: office@trinity.newburyacademytrust.org or scan the QR code above - We look forward to welcoming you to our school.

Personal Excellence and Collective Responsibility

Your West Berkshire Ward Councillors



Councillors Antony Amirtharaj and Martha Vickers are the West Berkshire Councillors for the Speen Ward, which includes Shaw-cum-Donnington Parish Council. If you have any problems with WBC, they may be able to help.

Councillor Antony Amirtharaj 07584 252 028
email antony.amirtharaj1@westberks.gov.uk

Councillor Martha Vickers 07413 323 525
email martha.vickers1@westberks.gov.uk