

Connect

THE NEWSLETTER FOR AWE'S NEIGHBOURS AUTUMN 2025

Welcome to the latest edition of Connect

Thank you to those of you who took the time to read the edition we shared in the spring. This saw us trial an extended digital edition for the first time, which gave us a better understanding of how many of you engaged with Connect – and, most importantly, the type of content that's most valuable to you.

If you're new to the local area, Connect is an update exclusively for AWE's neighbours. It's a regular reminder of who we are and what we do, that safety and security are at the heart of our work, and the positive impact we have on the environment and communities around us.

Don't forget to scan the QR code on the back page or visit **awe.co.uk/news** to explore the extended digital edition. This includes information on how to apply for our award-winning apprenticeship programme, with applications for 2026 now open.

Who we are

AWE's purpose is to protect the UK through nuclear science and technology. We support the UK Government's policy to maintain a continuous at-sea deterrent, discouraging the most severe threats to our nation.

We design, manufacture and maintain the warheads for the deterrent, and also provide our unique skills and expertise to support counter-terrorism and nuclear threat reduction.



Emergency text alert service

Under instruction of the Ministry of Defence, AWE is responsible for operating its sites safely and securely. To assure our operations, we work closely with regulators like the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency.

In the unlikely event of an emergency at an AWE site, a new emergency text alert scheme enables local residents to be contacted promptly. To sign up, scan the QR code on the back page or visit www.westberks.gov.uk/awe-text-alert to learn more.

Like all nuclear-licensed sites, AWE is subject to Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (more commonly known as REPPIR). They require us to have a plan in place to respond to any radiation emergency on our sites.

An online version of our REPPIR booklet is available via the QR code on the back page. It explains how you would be alerted, actions to take, and contains a map of the emergency planning zones. This information is also available on the West Berkshire Council website: www.westberks.gov.uk/awe

75 years of AWE – and many more to come

This year marks 75 years since the UK's nuclear programme arrived in Aldermaston – on the site we still call home today. Over that time, our footprint has expanded to Burghfield and beyond, and we're proud to be recognised as a local employer of choice.

Back in June, John Healey MP, Secretary of State for Defence, visited AWE Aldermaston to see what we do first-hand and meet a range of our people, from apprentice to executive.

He was joined by Olivia Bailey MP, whose Reading West & Mid Berkshire constituency includes both our Aldermaston and Burghfield sites.

In a Government press release that accompanied the visit, John Healey said, "The nuclear weapons technology delivered at AWE keeps us all safe every minute of the day. The skilled men and women working here play a fundamental role in deterring global conflict and that cannot be underestimated."



Secretary of State for Defence visits our Aldermaston site

The recent Strategic Defence Review saw the Government commit to a £15 billion investment in the UK's nuclear programme. In Olivia Bailey's words, this commitment will be "crucial for national security" and "transformational for Reading West and Mid Berkshire".

Olivia also said, "I am proud to represent a constituency that is so vital to this country's national security, with thousands of people working in the defence sector to keep us safe. This is a significant investment in this country's national security and reinforces my constituency's place at the very forefront of the UK defence sector."

Scan the QR code to explore our extended version of Connect or visit awe.co.uk/news



This includes:

- What to do in the unlikely event of an emergency at an AWE site
- Busting some of the myths about AWE
- How we reached 50,000 students in the last academic year
- Our public exhibition at West Berkshire Museum (open until December 2025)
- How we're supporting our charity partner, Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Applications are now open for our apprenticeship programme. We have more than 20 different roles available, which allow you to earn while you learn, gaining hands-on experience and industry-recognised qualifications in areas such as operations, engineering and science. Scan the QR code above to find out more and apply.

