

MAY 2024

The Bathford Bulletin

For the residents of Bathford, Shockerwick and Warleigh



THE LOIRE VALLEY COMES TO BATHFORD

READ ALL ABOUT IT ON PAGE 17

The Festival of Motoring returns in June

DETAILS ON PAGE 12

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Front cover: Scene in Artannes by Jacques L'Hôte

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- Maureen Breeze - Editor
- Helen Keelty - Editorial
- Kath Shayler - Creative
- Sarah Appleton - Publishing
- Adrian Raybould - Editorial

We welcome all articles, images and notifications of births, deaths and marriages. Please send details to: bathfordbulletin@gmail.com

The Bathford Bulletin needs you!!

Fancy having a go at writing articles for the Bulletin? Interested in joining the Editorial Team?

Can you use InDesign or Microsoft Publisher and have some spare time to help with the formatting?

You would be most welcome!
Email bathfordbulletin@gmail.com if you are interested or would like to know more.

June issue copy deadline

Contributions and advertisements are welcome, up to but no later than **15 May** via: bathfordbulletin@gmail.com

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WELCOME to our MAY issue...

Well, now we're officially in British Summertime, all evidenced by the budding trees, flowers in bloom, nesting birds – and the return of hen parties flocking to Bath again! And what a wealth of activities there are to enjoy on your doorstep.

We're all mad for a quiz in Bathford and there's a never-ending supply of quizzes to test the 'grey matter' coming up in May from the **Cricket Club** (page 6) and the **Twinning Association** (page 19); followed by a **charity quiz in June** (page 14).

Daisy Lloyd paints a perfect portrait of the **Entente Cordiale** that is generated between the **Twinning Association** et 'nos amis' from **Artannes-sur-Indre in the Loire valley** (page 16); this was richly enjoyed at the rendezvous of some of the two groups in Normandy last month, as described by Kevin Marris (page 11).

Warmer days means a better opportunity (and greater desire?) to get in some exercise. And there are a wealth of people willing to help you, whether Pilates or **Personal Training for ALL ages and conditions** by **Siobhan Slade** (page 9). It's never too late to start!

Some healthy exercise can help to work up a hearty appetite. There are still a few places left in the **'Mystery Meals'** extravaganza to titillate your taste buds while raising valuable funds for charity.

And the **Bathford Bulletin** is pleased to be able to offer to three lucky families, **complimentary tickets (worth £24)** to the **Festival of Motoring** coming back to Bath in June. It's a great day out! (pages 12/13). Be quick to apply!

Finally, and very importantly, it's time for the **Annual Parish Meeting** between the Residents of Bathford and the Parish Council. Remember, you voted in the Councillors, and they are answerable to you. To get some of those answers, and to hear from representatives of local organisations and initiatives, come along to **Bathford School** on **Tuesday 14 May** at **19:00**.

Editorial Team

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THE VILLAGE CLUB

Bathford

Here comes May... hopefully with plenty of sunshine and warmth, but regardless of the weather there is always a warm welcome in The Village Club.

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE ENTERTAINMENT - 20:30

Saturday 4 May | Samantha Nolan – a fabulous female singer covering songs from across the decades.

Saturday 18 May | Alan Drew, guitar/vocalist – makes his debut at the club but of course comes highly recommended.

BINGO

Friday 10 May – 19:30

Always a brilliant evening with lots of fun and lots of winners. In April the prize money totalled over £200!

£5 for a book of 4 games and 2 flyers – 12 chances of winning

JAZZFORD JAM

Friday 24 May – 20:00

An evening of music from the local 'house band' with plenty of opportunity for any players or singers to join in. Please come and join us to play or listen – it is always such an entertaining evening with a wonderful atmosphere.

RESERVE THE DATES

Thursday 6 June | Bathford, Bath and the Tree of Wisdom. D-Day presentation by Simon Browne OBE **19:00**

Saturday 8 June | 80th Anniversary Commemoration of the D-Day Landings **14:00 – 17:00** – Live Music and BBQ – more details to follow.

We hope to see as many of you as possible over the coming month – remember you don't have to be a member to use this local venue – all are made very welcome.

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ST SWITHUN'S FILM CLUB

We are delighted to bring this charming film 'Scrapper' (2023 cert 12) to our St Swithun's Film Club on Monday 27 May at 2pm in St Swithun's Church. (PLEASE NOTE this is a Bank Holiday).

A joyful comedy that received 4 nominations at the 2023 British Independent Film Awards. It stars dreamy 12-year-old Georgie (Lola Campbell), who lives alone in a village following the death of her mother. Her absent father arrives

out of the blue and she is forced to confront reality. An unmissable tale of family and fresh starts. Come along and enjoy the film followed by complimentary tea and cakes after the film. (Suggested donation £3).

Everyone welcome - no need to book
Any questions phone Ann Wade: 07766 554649

NOTICES

We are sorry to announce the deaths of Jean Vesey and Eric Green of Dovers Park.



Jean passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on 13 March, aged 89. Eric, her partner of 30 years, passed away peacefully surrounded by his Bathford family on 5 April aged 90.

We will be featuring a celebration of the lives of Jean and Eric in our June Bulletin.

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QUIZ NIGHT

The Bath & Mendons Parent

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Host Mr Dave B

FRIDAY 17 MAY
Avonvale Rugby Club
from 19:00

Quiz starts at 19:30

Max. 6 per Team £2.50 per person

To secure your place and book please contact

bathfordcricketclub@gmail.com
subject: quiz



BATHFORD VILLAGE SHOP & CAFÉ

18 years of Community Spirit and Quality Products

Since its inception in 2006, the Village Shop has been more than just a convenience store; it has been a cornerstone of our community, providing a curated selection of local and top-quality products and services that reflect the heart and soul of our village.

found their way into the kitchens of celebrity chefs such as **Jamie Oliver** and **Gordon Ramsay**. We're proud to bring these culinary essentials to our customers, adding a touch of gourmet flair to home-cooked meals.



From the lush pastures of **Ivy House Farm** to the artisanal creations of **Seven Hills Chocolates**, the Shop has been a proud stockist of a diverse range of goods that celebrate the essence of our locality. This dedication to quality

and community has made us a beloved destination for convenience shopping as well as discerning food enthusiasts.

One of the highlights of our offerings is the **Tracklements** range, a socially responsible brand of artisan condiments and sauces. Crafted by hand in small batches using traditional recipes. Since the start of the company, Tracklements' products have been sold in **Harrods** and have



Pick up a Tracklements recipe card from the Shop

Image by IconicDestiny on Freepik

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WE NEED YOU

Like any community endeavour that relies on volunteers, we sometimes face challenges when our volunteer roster **thins out**. To address this and ease the pressure on existing volunteers, we're inviting members of the community to join our gap-filling list, offering their time to help out for **1-2 hours as needed**. By coming together in this way, our Village Shop can be ensured continued success and sustainability, while fostering a sense of camaraderie and mutual support among our residents.

If you care about supporting local businesses and connecting with your neighbours, we encourage you to **consider joining our team of volunteers**. Together, we can keep the spirit of the Village Shop as a community owned co-operative alive and thriving for years to come.

Pop into the Village Shop to find out how to join.



Two of our friendly volunteers



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SIOBHAN SLADE

Personal Trainer – for any age!



Siobhan Slade wants you to completely rethink your attitude to exercise.

Siobhan is a Level 3 Personal Trainer with a diploma in Exercise Referral, specialising in exercise for the over-40s to help them enjoy a greater quality of life. She is passionate about getting this message across: **you can stay strong and healthy into old age, and keep living life to the full.** This is true even if you have a common condition like arthritis, osteoporosis, diabetes or lower back pain or a joint replacement. Studies show that sedentary over-75s who embarked on a resistance (weight) training program saw significant increases in strength in 8 to 12 weeks. Think how much more confident you will feel with greater mobility and stability!

“Slowing down with age is not an inevitability – we can still lead very full and active lives (just look at Angela Rippon!) – but we need to move more, not less, to counter our body’s natural decline.”

If you’re worried about exacerbating pain or injuring yourself, the opposite is true, states Siobhan. *“If you have pain or stiffness, safe targeted exercises can reduce your symptoms by improving the strength and mobility of affected joints so you can regain functional movement, whether that’s getting in the car or playing with grandkids.”*

Plus, exercise even helps reverse some conditions – particularly diabetes and high blood pressure – and reduces your risk of developing heart disease and some cancers. Moreover, it boosts your brain too, improving memory, cognitive ability and even lowering the risk of dementia.

Siobhan has a gentle, encouraging manner and explains you don’t need any experience; you could begin with chair exercises.

A key focus in her sessions is balance and coordination, to prevent falls when we’re older – and fun. *“It’s got to be enjoyable for people to stick with it!”*

She can see you in your own home, or at Pettemerides Personal Training in Batheaston. Plus small groups (up to 4).

So what are you waiting for?

Your health is your wealth, and it’s never too late to start exercising – pick up the phone now!

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PART OF YOUR ROUTE INTO TOWN?

Sydney Gardens Liveable Neighbourhood

New through-traffic restrictions are now in place on Sydney Road at its junction with New Sydney Place. This prevents motorists from using Sydney Road as an alternative to the A36 with the aim of creating a safer and more pleasant walking and cycling route.

There is now a **6 month public consultation** period after which a decision will be made on whether to keep or remove the trial.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Details of the scheme and access to the public consultation questionnaire can be found at www.bathnes.gov.uk/sydneyroadetro

Information is also available at the Bathnes Library and information centre and in print and other formats on request by emailing LN@bathnes.gov.uk or by calling **01225 394025**.

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AROUND THE GARDEN

with Kevin Marris

We've just been to France with the Bathford Twinning group. When I say "we" there were eleven of us from Bathford, and we spent a week in Normandy with our friends from Artannes, (you've seen the village sign, haven't you? Twinned with Artannes-sur-Indre). There's always lots to do and lots to see with the Twinning group, whether you speak French or not. So why is this in my gardening article? One of our day's out was a visit to a garden that was quite delightful. The good thing about Normandy is that the weather is not very different from ours; they have the rainfall, but fortunately not while we were there, and it has more sunshine, so they grow everything that we grow, and a bit more. The one we visited was the garden of a charming little chateau – **Château de Boutemont**, near

Lisieux – more of a manor house really, with just a few rooms to view. But the garden was a real treat - it wasn't one of those grand formal affairs, but neither was it just a big cottage garden. It had been developed mostly in the 20th century with modern styles, but with a nod to some of the formal layouts of the past. It had a white garden, a purple garden, a Zen Garden, a mirror lake, and of course a Jardin de l'amour. Well, this is France, and they do think they invented it!



It made me think it would win prizes if it was in a competition. And of course, that immediately made me start thinking of our own competition, the Parish Flower Show. The show is on my mind – even on holiday.

The 7 September is a date to put in your diary – the first Saturday in the month, in the School hall. So, get your thinking caps on and get the little grey cells working on what you can do. And remember it's not just flowers and flower-arranging. As well as things that grow, there's also **jam and bread and cakes**. And for the artist types there's **painting and photography**. Surely you can find something that fits the bill. And we could always do with some help, so if you can spare some time, you don't have to be a committee member – just lend a hand?

BATHFORD FLOWER SHOW

Entries:
The Parish Hall Wednesday 4 September 17:00

The Show:
School Hall, Saturday 7 September 14:30

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BATH ROTARY FESTIVAL of MOTORING



SPECTACULAR FESTIVAL OF MOTORING RETURNS 15 AND 16 JUNE



One of the most popular open air events in Bath's calendar returns this June, when the Rotary Club of Bath's 'Festival of Motoring' will be taking place up on Lansdown.

The show attracts over 500 classic and vintage cars and motorbikes, as well as a stunning array of the latest models from many of Bath's car showrooms, plus a range of the very latest 'supercars', including Ferraris, Lamborghinis, Porsches and Mercedes.

The charitable event is being run by the Rotary Club of Bath and proceeds will go towards the Great Western and Wiltshire Air Ambulance services, and local homeless charity, St Mungo's.

As well as a family-friendly display of interesting and nostalgic vehicles, there will be live music throughout the weekend on two stages, a great selection of local food and drink, activities for children, and the chance to have a mini-road trip in one of the supercars on display.

The central arena will have cars driving round all weekend, allowing visitors to sit and relax while each owner shows off their pride and joy make their way around. It will be a chance to not only see but also hear iconic and unusual historic motorbikes and cars, and the very latest masters of the road.

Held at Walcot Rugby Club grounds, opposite the Lansdown Park and Ride, there is plenty of parking, as well as access via public transport by making use of the Park & Ride buses.

It's a great day out for all the family, and a chance to get up close and personal with some of the most fantastic examples of automotive engineering, design and style from the past 100 years and the present day.

Tickets for either Saturday or Sunday cost £10 and £5 (child) on the gate, but early-bird tickets at £8 and £4 are on sale now, together with Family tickets (two adults and up to three children) for £20. Search for Bath Festival of Motoring on www.eventbrite.co.uk



BULLETIN READER OFFER
To win one of three, free Family tickets (worth £24 each), email your name, address and phone no. to be entered into a prize draw on 15 May email to bathfordbulletin@gmail.com.



Supporting...  Great Western Air Ambulance Charity

St Mungo's
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QUIZ NIGHT

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 14 June, 19:00 | Bathford Parish Hall

Join us for a great evening at the Parish Hall – everyone most welcome! There will be a challenging Quiz, a delicious two course supper and a Raffle. A Bar will be available.

Help us to raise funds for both **Dorothy House** and **Mary's Meals**. We all know Dorothy House but Mary's Meals might not be so familiar. They are a charity providing a school meal every day for children living in abject poverty in 18 different countries around the world. This not only provides the children with essential nourishment but also boosts their concentration to improve learning.

Cost: £12 per person to include supper

Tickets available from the Village Shop, St Swithun's Church or Liz Townsend, **01225 859598, laurelliz106@gmail.com.**



MYSTERY LUNCH AND DINNERS 30 APRIL - 10 MAY

Looking for a different place to eat around the village, then why not try one of our mystery meals? The Mystery is that you will not know which house you are going to until the morning of the event! All venues are within a mile of the Bathford Village Shop.

With the proceeds from the meals in aid of the local charity **GENESIS FOOD BANK**, you'll receive a home-cooked three-course meal with wine for £25pp. Tickets remain for lunch on 30 April, and dinner on 4 May, 9 May and 10 May.

Menus and tickets are available via email from **Jeremy Furber** who will advise on availability and payment. **jfurber40@gmail.com**

Dear Friends,

Having enjoyed so many interesting speakers at our Lent lunches and having seen such worthwhile charities and the fantastic work that is going on, it is great to look forward to a special Charity Action Sunday on Sunday 19 May.

We will be welcoming **Selwyn Image**, the man who founded the charity **Emmaus** and he will be telling us a bit about his story and also encouraging us in our own support of different charities.

St Swithun's supports a number of different charities each year; some of these, as you would expect are very clearly focussed on sharing the Christian faith, but others have a broader reach – this year we are pleased to also be supporting our local **Dorothy House Hospice** and the International charity **Mary's Meals**.

As Christians we are committed to doing all we can to support those in need, this isn't all about money – prayer and practical action are vital – but I hope the wider village might be pleased to join in with efforts to raise money for these charities.

Do get in touch with any questions, and I will look forward to seeing you on 19 May at 10:00 for the service, or 11:00 to come for coffee and to and see the Charity stands with all their information.

With every blessing, *Rev Lauretta*

For up-to-date information, please visit our website

www.stswithunsbathford.co.uk

Rev Lauretta | revlauretta@outlook.com

John Keelty | churchwardenj@stswithunsbathford.co.uk

Katherine Lush | churchwardenk@stswithunsbathford.co.uk

Church Office | Zoe Hill **01225 920050**
administrator@stswithunsbathford.co.uk



ST SWITHUN'S - This year's Lent lunches

These lunches were set up to tell the story of fullness of life- they were in Lent and part of our Lenten journey, but they were relevant to people of any faith or none- they were simply good news. Please do get in touch with ideas that you may have for next year.

MUSIC THERAPY

Adrian Snell is a music therapist who has worked with a huge range of people all across the world. His love of music shone through, but even more evident was his love for people and his Christian faith- Adrian was modest and funny and passionate and made us all question what is it about music that makes the connection with so many of us?

ECO LIVING

Ian MacKay is one of those people who 'walk the walk'- often quite literally as he and his wife have both pledged that they won't use their car within Bath – they walk, cycle or use the bus. This was an inspiring challenge to those of us who will often hop in the car and whizz into town, but what struck us more was Ian's talk of sacrifice – you have to be prepared to put yourself out for the sake of something bigger... Are we prepared to make that sacrifice for the sake of the planet and its future? Contact Gillian Bebbler if you're interested in being part of a local Eco group gillianbebbler@gmail.com

MARY'S MEALS

The speaker from Mary's Meals was not employed by them, he was a volunteer and he explained that Mary's Meals

operates very modestly – its headquarters is still a shed on a farm in Scotland, they have very few paid staff and very few overheads.

This and their 'grassroots' approach of using local food and existing school sites means that they are able to feed a child at school in countries around the world for a whole year for.... An unbelievable £20. Why wouldn't you want to join in?!



SHARE AND REPAIR

Lorna came to enthuse to us about the whole Share and Repair 'project'- most of us knew about the shop in town (which alone is fantastic) but we learned that they are also establishing Share and Repair Pop up mornings in various locations including Larkhall (and soon Bathford). They do lots of schools work and they re-furbish essential items (like toasters and vacuum cleaners) to give to people who've lived in Julian House as they set up home. What Lorna did not say until we realised from the video was that she was the Founder! What a modest woman from whom so much goodness is generating.

BATH CITY FARM

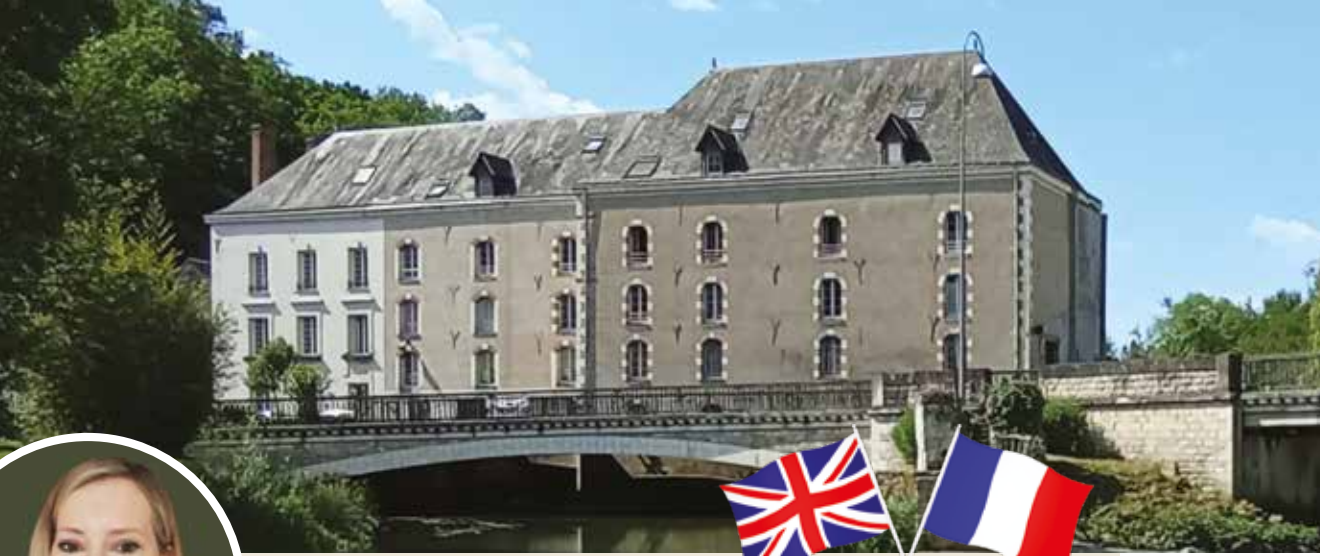
Alison took us on a virtual tour of the farm, explaining where it is (so many of us had never seen it or been there) and the amazing work that goes on there. They offer a space and the expertise to people who need some support with their wellbeing, people with additional needs, people who thrive being outdoors... A sense of community is fostered and nurtured, anxieties are gently lifted, confidence grown. Amazing work- and a very worthy charity to support.



JAMIE'S FARM

Another working farm and with similar benefits to people's wellbeing but Jamie's farm's focus is on offering an experience to children and youths from more urban areas. They offer residential for groups of young people and clearly for those who come, the experience is transformational.... There were so many stories from people whose lives had been turned around. It was amazing!

Reverend Lauretta
revlauretta@outlook.com



THE LOIRE VALLEY COMES TO BATHFORD

by Daisy Lloyd

Is a chilled glass of Sauvignon Blanc on a summer's evening appealing to you? What if I said you could be sharing that glass with some folks who live in the very place it is so famed for? I would like to think, like me, you'd be super excited.

Fortunately, in the mid-noughties a small group of 17-50 somethings made that happen for us. **The Bathford Twinning Association** was formed and is still going strong. We are 'twinned' with the wonderful village of **Artannes-sur-Indre**, nestled in the fabulous Loire Valley, near Tours. The area is famed for its superb chateaux, river, sun and of course, wine! From **Sauvignon** and **Chenin Blanc** to glorious **Gamay**, there is plenty of grape-action there.

Until we moved to Bathford, I have to admit that I thought twinning was simply about having a European placename stated on a town or village boundary sign. You know, the one that reads: "Welcome to..., twinned with...". But I was wrong. Twinning means more than this. It is an **enriching cultural experience** between two countries that gives us a direct route into the real life of people like you and me.

I am eager to share the potential opportunities for us all, opportunities that I have only recently been made aware of. I also want to talk about the heart and soul of twinning. I have been blessed to hear some wonderful stories shared with me by **Maureen Breeze, Chair of Bathford Twinning Association.**

Something I found really heart-warming was hearing how proud the people of Artannes are of their association with Bathford. They have shown a real passion in wanting to build upon our connection. There are many families keen to make a meaningful cultural exchange with us. I was touched to hear the primary school in Artannes sent condolences to us after the Manchester Arena bombing. I was amazed to hear that three of their mayors have come to visit us. I love that one of our committee was presented with a front door key to one of their resident's homes – a genuine **'my home is your home'** sentiment.

Our twinning relationship has helped forge lifelong friendships between Artannes and Bathford and has helped to cement relationships within our own village and beyond. We were able to help Batheaston and Box begin twinning with their very own French villages.



Every year there are get-togethers on both sides of the Channel. This July we have a group coming to visit Bathford and we are really excited to meet them. Maureen has been keen to explain that language has not been a barrier. Through activities and mutual interests, they have found ways to communicate meaningfully.

In the past, visits to Bathford have included going to Warleigh Farm, cricket matches, cooking a traditional Christmas dinner, fish and chips on the memorial field, boat trips, and an amazing musical meeting of minds featuring musicians from both nations.

Aside from this, the Bathford Twinning Association have used funds to enable **French lessons for children in the Parish Hall** and it even boasts a **grant for 16-21 year olds**. The grant pays the travel costs and some spending money for a young person to pursue an interest or project in Artannes.

Some of the opportunities we are excited about are the possibility of our children becoming pen pals with those in Artannes, maybe sending video diaries to each other to exchange celebratory traditions around the year. It would be wonderful to stay with a family in Artannes. Whilst we don't have the room in our house for them to stay here this July, we are hoping to offer them an activity such as **picking veg from our allotment** and cooking together or **watching live music at The Crown.**

You too could be joining in with this. Maureen is keen to say that any involvement, to help extend the relationship, is welcome. Whether you can host some of the people from Artannes in July or even just sparing a few hours to chat and enjoy a glass of wine with them, the sentiment of support will be there.

So, my plea to you is that if you are enthusiastic about these opportunities, then let's give the French the same gusto and enthusiasm they and their families have given us.

The simplest way to get involved and know what's going on is to sign up to the Supporters of Bathford Twinning Association email – there is no charge to become a supporter. Sign up now – bathfordtwinningassociation@gmail.com.

HERE ARE THREE EVENTS COMING UP TO GET INVOLVED WITH:

- **Twinning Association Quiz Night – Friday 17 May** in the Parish Hall (see page 19) – £10 per person which includes a two-course supper. The bar will be selling wine especially selected for us from Artannes. (Tickets purchased in the Village Shop).
- **The visit from an Artannes group** – early July dates tbc – do get involved and join in.
- **French cheese and Loire Valley wine tasting** after the short Annual General Meeting **18:30-20:00 Sunday 9 June.**



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BATHFORD PARISH HALL

Are you setting up a new group and looking for a space to hire?

Currently, the Parish Hall has the following weekday availability, on a regular basis.

Mondays from 12:30 to 17:30
Tuesday mornings up until 12:00
Wednesdays before 12:00 after 14:00 and evenings
Thursdays from 11:30 to 17:30
Weekends are often also free

If you're already a regular user of the Parish Hall, you may not realise that as such, you'd be very welcome to come along and represent your group at the Parish Hall Management Committee meetings - we try not to meet too often!



BATHFORD, D-DAY AND THE TREE OF WISDOM

6 June, Village Club 19:00 for 19:30

June 6 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day when the landings in Normandy turned the tide of World War II in favour of the Allies against Nazi Germany. Bathford and Bath played a significant part in the D-Day campaign.

Colonel (Retired) Simon Browne served with the Army for 30 years in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan; he was awarded an MBE as a Company Commander in Afghanistan and an OBE as a Commanding Officer in Iraq.

His passion as a military historian arose after watching the film 'The Longest Day'. Since retiring from the Army, Simon has become an accredited Battlefield Guide conducting tours to the Normandy beaches, the Ardennes, Monte Cassino and Anzio.

Simon will be giving a presentation for us on the Normandy campaign and how Bathford and the local area played a prominent part in 1944, followed by a Question and Answer session. Please make a note of the date and join us on this special anniversary of D-Day for what is sure to be an insightful and entertaining evening. The bar will be open.

Suggested cash donation: £5 on entry

For further information on Simon, please go to www.gbg-international.com/guide/simon-browne

Hillary Carr

Bathford Twinning Association

QUIZ Night

Bathford Parish Hall
19:30 Friday 17 May

£10 per person to include snacks and a 2 course supper on a French theme

Book a table of 6 or come on the night and join others in the fun!

Tickets available from the Village Shop or by calling 01225 859353

Proceeds to the Eker Fund which helps young people from the Parish to visit Antares.

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PETER MARTIN

Is being a Parish Councillor worth the effort?

I firmly believe so. I have sat on the Council since 2007, though for me it is now time to move on.

WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?

A good way of looking at it is as an arrangement for people who want to work together in a transparent fashion with a clear declaration of interests, to help the Parish – everybody can see what is going on. And note, Bathford Parish Council is non-party political.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

Let me give a few examples. Some of it is quite subtle in that the Parish Council is informed of developments of which the public might not be aware. So, for example, we would have lost all our public footpaths if they were not re-registered before 2026. It was my department, so we looked at all the important footpaths that began or ended in Bathford. We had to register two, the one over the railway bridge and one in Meadow Park, which surprisingly was an elongated process involving public participation. Others for legal reasons, such as they were grade 4 roads, did not require registration.

As a Parish Councillor, it is somewhat easier to get things done. So, there was a process again involving public participation in which we agreed the re-siting of a Telecoms mast. There are now double yellow lines opposite the bottom of Morris Lane and in Westwoods. There is a 30mph limit on the Box Road, not quite as we have wanted it, but it is there. There is a bus shelter on the Box Road and a few other local benefits. We are still waiting for a promised bus stop under the Railway bridge, important for the new bus service D1X between Bath, Bradford-on-Avon and Trowbridge.



Then there is Planning. I have been the Parish Council Planning Chair for some years, and the Planning Committee looks at all planning applications, most of which we approve. The one I am most proud of is that there is a fine mature oak tree, still standing we believe, because of our intervention. We have successfully resisted building on the green belt.

So, all in all, it is worthwhile. There are beneficial local improvements and watchful eyes working in the best interests of the village. *Peter Martin*

BATHFORD SOCIETY

Review of Ecological Surveys around Bathford

by Eleanor Hey and Rebecca Yearsley

Last year we had a talk about the maintenance of the 1840s Bathford Railway Bridge which needed an Ecological Survey before work began.

The survey aroused considerable interest and we asked Ecus, the company which had undertaken the survey how they did it. Rebecca and Eleanor, consultants, let us into the secrets.

Bats are now spotted with infra red cameras as well as by detailed observation of likely habitat. The bridge is not a prime bat venue, though we saw a video of a Greater Horseshoe bat elsewhere. Beavers (their numbers are increasing locally) are rarely seen but their iron-strengthened teeth leave trademark tears on trees. They improve biodiversity and water health. Otters can be detected by their footprints and by where they



Beaver evidence

leave slides as they exit and enter rivers. A lot can be learned from poo (otter poo apparently smells of jasmine). Expert ornithologists look for nests and mark birds on maps using a two letter code, and as to whether they are singing, calling, alarm calling and their direction of flight. Dormice as well as squirrels chew nuts differently, a great giveaway.

There has been enormous eco-destruction which an Act of Parliament, new this February – may partially remedy. Significant developments must leave a mandatory 10 per cent biodiversity improvement; if it is not done on site it must be done elsewhere or they can buy expensive bio credits.

The talk was enthralling and informative and we marvelled at the expertise required to survey our ecology. *Peter Martin*

BATHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from Council meeting 15 March 2024

DEPARTURE

Councillor Claire Harvey announced her resignation from the Council as her family is moving to Devon in the near future. We wish her and husband Paul and the children every happiness in their new location and thank her for the significant contribution she has made to not only the Council, but also to **Friends of Bathford School**, the **Bathford Events Committee** and to community life in general. She will be missed by many.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Parish Council is tasked with improving the quality of life and local services for our community.

The Annual Parish Meeting is your chance to hear from the Council on its activities over the past year and to account for its actions and outcomes. There will also be guest speakers presenting on a variety of topics related to Parish life.

Take the opportunity to join with fellow residents to raise and discuss local issues with the speakers and Councillors and share your ideas and opinions on how you think our community should move forward.

You are all warmly invited. Refreshments will be served.



LINK AGM

13 May 2024 | 19:30
Community Rooms,
Mountain Wood

Refreshments available.
Everyone welcome.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AGENDA

Bathford Church School Hall
Tuesday 14 May 2024 at 19:30
(doors open at 19:00)

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Welcome by Cllr Hillary Carr, Chair of Bathford Parish Council
3. Minutes of last year's Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 April 2023
4. Chair's Report 2024
5. Guest Speakers
BANES Ward Councillors
Jessica Fox-Taylor - Tier Bikes
Bathford Players
Bathford Link
Jamie's Farm
6. Coffee break and informal question and answer session
7. Formal closure of meeting

* All Committee Reports will be available to read in the Hall from 19:00 before the start of the meeting



The Bathford Bulletin and Bathford Parish Council cannot accept responsibility for the goods and services advertised.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 20 May 19:00
Bathford School

Residents are welcome to attend and raise matters with the Council in the first ten minutes.

Contact: clerk@bathford.net
Tel. 01225 858220

DATE	TIME	DETAILS	VENUE
Tues 30 April - Fri 10 May		Mystery Lunch and Dinners - various times and venues	
Weds 1 May	11:20- 12:05	Mobile Library	Dovers Park by Bathford School
Sat 4 May	20:30	Singer: Samantha Nolan	Village Club
Sun 5 May	10:00	Service of Holy Communion with traditional feel	St. Swithun's Church
Sun 5 May	17:30	Re:Connect. A service especially for year 7 pupils	St. Swithun's Church
Fri 10 May	19:30	Bingo	Village Club
Sun 12 May	17:30	Contemporary Service	St. Swithun's Church
Sun 12 May	16:00	Afternoon Praise. A service especially for children aged 4-11 and families	St. Swithun's Church
Mon 13 May	19:30	Link AGM - Community Rooms	Mountain Wood
Tues 14 May	19:00	Annual Parish Meeting	Bathford School
Weds 15 May		Deadline for the Prize Draw for the Festival of Motoring	
Weds 15 May	11:20- 12:05	Mobile Library	Dovers Park by Bathford School
Thurs 16 May	19:00 for 19:30	Bathford Enterprise For All Annual General Meeting (AGM)	Village Club
Fri 17 May	09:30	Fine Arts & Antiques Sale	Auctioneum
Fri 17 May	19:00	Bathford Cricket Club Quiz	Avonvale Rugby Club
Fri 17 May	19:30	Twinning Association Quiz Night	Bathford Parish Hall
Sat 18 May	20:30	Singer: Alan Drew	Village Club
Sun 19 May	10:00	Service of Holy Communion with a contemporary feel	St. Swithun's Church
Sun 19 May	10:00	Charity Action Sunday	St. Swithun's Church
Mon 20 May	19:00	Parish Council Meeting	Bathford School
Fri 24 - 27 May	All day	Bath Canine Show	Bannerdown
Fri 24 May	20:00	Jazzford Jam	Village Club
Sun 26 May	10:00	Welcome Church with discussion	St. Swithun's Church
Sun 26 May	16:30	Evening Prayer, with refreshments at 16:00	St. Swithun's Church
Weds 29 May	11:20- 12:05	Mobile Library	Dovers Park by Bathford School

SAVE THE DATES

Thu 6 Jun	19:00	D-Day Presentation	Village Club
Sat 8 Jun	14:00	D-Day 80th Anniversary Commemoration	Village Club
Fri 14 Jun	19:00	Charity Quiz Night	Bathford Parish Hall
Sat/Sun 15/16 Jun		Festival of Motoring	Walcot Rugby Club
Early July, dates TBC		Bathford Twinning Association - Visit of Artannes families to Bathford	
Wed 4 Sep	17:00	Bathford Flower Show Entries	Bathford Parish Hall
Sat 7 Sep	14:30	Bathford Flower Show	Bathford School

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