

Bathford Bulletin

BATHFORD

SHOCKERWICK

WARLEIGH



A VISIT BY THE MP WERA HOBHOUSE

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THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Hillary Carr – Editor & Advertising
Maureen Breeze – Editor
Kath Shayler – Creative
Helen Keelty – Editorial
Adrian Raybould – Editorial
Catherine Tait – Editorial
Charlie Barden – Editorial
Jessica Whitcutt – Editorial

We welcome all articles, images and notifications of births, deaths and marriages. Please email for contributors guidelines: 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 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.

MARCH ISSUE COPY DEADLINE

Contributions and advertisements are welcome, up to but no later than **13 February 2025** via: bathfordbulletin@gmail.com

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Trevor Johnston presents Wera Hobhouse with her Village Shop lanyard.

Photo by
Carole Banwell



WELCOME

Our first Bulletin of 2025 brings a refreshing new look to the cover by our creative designer Kath, which we hope you like. 'Hope' is used frequently at the start of a new year.

As we go to press, there is a growing sense of hope in the Middle East for **Israelis, Palestinians, Syrians** alike for rebuilding lives and a safer future. Similarly in **Ukraine**, the sense of hope that the conflict between Ukraine and Russia can also reach a positive settlement.

Our ongoing '**Community Heartbeat**' theme reflects on the sense of hope for others in need beyond our borders. We showcase the charitable spirit and dedication of three members of our community: **Keith and Julia Masdin** have worked tirelessly for the charity **Hope and Homes for Children** for over 25 years; and **Zhenya Shkil**, whose **Friends of Oleksandriya** provides invaluable essentials and support for those living in the Ukrainian city, which is under constant threat. Read their inspiring stories in the **centrespread**.

We're celebrating the new year with further additions to our editorial team. **Catherine Tait** and **Charlie Barden** bring their youthful focus and we hope they enjoy their new venture into journalism! Their contributions appear throughout with articles on the **Board Game Café** and **Preparing for life away at Uni** (both **page 8**), on our centrespread feature, and also the **Creative Writing Challenge for under 11s...on page 11**.

Welcome too in this issue, to **Jessica Whitcutt** who has cast an eye over this month's **Panto** on **page 15** – **Snow White and the Nine Dwarfs...yes nine!** Read about the production and then rush out to buy your tickets. We hope you and the cast all enjoy a great night's entertainment...Oh yes we do!! And make sure you support the many activities available in Bathford.

Please take time to complete and return the **survey** in this issue with your vision on where and how you hope Bathford will flourish in the next ten years. **Your opinion matters!**

2025 is going to be a great year! Here's hoping...

Editorial Team

PLATE

AT THE BIRD



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THE VILLAGE
CLUB

Bathford

THIS MONTH AT THE VILAGE CLUB

Happy New Year! Whilst I'm sure Christmas and the New Year are just a distant memory now, we do hope you had a wonderful time.

As we move into February, we can already see the nights drawing out and hopefully the weather getting warmer. You will always be guaranteed a warm welcome at the Club so please come on in and see what we have to offer.

**SATURDAY NIGHT
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 20:30-23:30**

Saturday 1 February | Kate Mills

New to the Club but promises a great evening of live singing covering everything from Aretha Franklin to Lady Gaga, Tina Turner to Pink.

Saturday 15 February | Valentine's Do with Jason Lee
A firm favourite at the Club – never fails to entertain.

Bingo | Friday 21st November 19:30

Oh my, this is growing in popularity – come and chance your luck – always lots of fun and always lots of winners. £5 for a book of 4 games and 2 flyers – 12 opportunities to win!

Jazz Night | Friday 28 February 20:00-23:30

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.

Rugby Union – Six Nations

Please keep your eyes peeled on our Facebook page as we will keep that up to date with what matches we are showing.

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.



ST. SWITHUN'S FILM CLUB

Join us at St. Swithuns Church, Bathford for our film club presentation on Monday 24 February at 14:00. We'll be screening **Kinky Boots**, certificate 12, from the creators of Calendar Girls. The film is based on a true story. For generations, the Price family has made very conservative shoes for men, but to save the firm from bankruptcy, young Charlie Price turns to an unlikely new creative consultant, a sassy transvestite cabaret singer, whose outrageous style and designs are a breath of fresh air. It's a must-see movie that proves that the best way to fit in is to stand out.

Stay after the film for complimentary tea and cake (suggested donation £3). We look forward to seeing you.

All enquiries email:
keithmilner5@yahoo.co.uk



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The Bathford Village Choir

The Bathford Village Choir has been going for over 10 years, delighting the village with twice-yearly concerts raising funds for various charities. Since Covid, like many other organisations, our numbers are well down and it is difficult to raise enough income to keep going, so we urgently need some new members.

We meet every **Thursday evening during term time at 19:45** in the **Bathford Parish Hall** in Church Street. We are a lovely friendly group who just enjoy singing together, so if you feel you might like to join us and see if this is for you, we would love to see you – you will be guaranteed a warm welcome. For further information call **01225 743499**

Pam Priston

The Bathford Quilt

Having worked the Bath Grenfell Quilt with the Norland College in Bath, we have had the idea to make a quilt for Bathford Village, depicting all aspects of the parish (including Warleigh and Shockerwick).

We would be glad to hear from anyone interested in participating with a view to having a meeting in **February** to take plans further. You can participate with ideas, weekly sewing meetings in the **Community Rooms, Mountain Wood**, sewing at home, or just dropping in from time to time and putting in a few stitches.

For more information contact:

Wendy Freebourne 07814 016962
Heather Gillard 07810 867155
Ruth Holding 07966 507922

Images by Freepik



FROM ST. SWITHUN'S



Dear Friends

As I write we are looking forward to the next Concert in St Swithun's.

The ones we have enjoyed thus far have been brilliant in many ways - the musical content has been both inspiring and entertaining. The concerts have included both adults and children and so have been a great way of uniting different people in the village, and they have all raised a good amount for a specific charity.

Charitable giving is important to many people and is a vital aspect of our Christian faith. Martin Luther (not Martin Luther King - this Martin Luther was similarly radical but lived in the 15th century!) said that there are two conversions to Christianity, one of the heart, and the other of the wallet! Generous giving, whatever the amount given, mirrors God's generosity to us and, as we give to charity, we join in with the goodness of their work.

At the next concert, on **Sunday 16 February at 15:00**, donations will be invited for Dorothy House.

I really hope that you will come to this, enjoy the music and the community, and give generously.

Many thanks to everyone who is making these concerts possible, they are a joy!

With every blessing for 2025.

Lauretta

The next charity fund raising concert is at **15:00 on SUNDAY 16 February**

Featuring musicians based at Wiltshire Rural Music: the Ebonite Clarinet Ensemble and the Doves Peace Choir

Refreshments served

Donations welcome in aid of Dorothy House Hospice

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Thirsty Meeples

ADVENTURES IN THIRSTY MEEPLES BOARD GAME CAFÉ *by Catherine Tait*

Tucked away on Gay Street, Bath, is a veritable Aladdin's cave of board and card games. As this sociable hobby grows ever more popular, particularly with tech-fatigued young people, Thirsty Meeples board game café provides a wonderful space to give it a go.

For those overwhelmed by choice, their well-informed 'Game Gurus' are on hand to help. Not only can they suggest games to match your interests, but they can also give you a summary of the rules, making it easier to learn the ropes.

Food and drink are decent. From previous experience the sandwiches can be a little expensive (above £5), so I avoided them during my recent visit, but they did have delicious cake! Ultimately, though, the café's speciality is the entertainment not the victuals.

If you want to bring the fun home with you, there's also a well-stocked shop, where various games are available to buy.

It would be particularly suitable for young people hoping for a novel meetup idea, or as a family outing with older children. The cover charge is **£9 pp for three hours**, though this lowers to **£7 (£6 for children) when ordering food.**



an Aladdin's cave!

Tel: 01225 427120
www.thirstymeeples.co.uk

FROM TEACHERS TO TUTORS - BE PREPARED FOR A NEW LIFE! *by Charlie Barden*

For those thinking about leaving for Uni in the near future, the thought of a new place and a new routine may be daunting! Sephy Priston is here to talk through a couple of those worries.

Studying at **Durham University**, Sephy has taken on the fascinating task of studying **Japanese** and **Korean** languages. A spin off has boosted her social life, as her class mates are participants in various exchanges and 'nomikai', Japanese social drinking! In addition, skiing and snooker have become hobbies that she thoroughly enjoys.

What do you miss the most about living at home?

"Definitely my friends and family. It's a big thing moving to the other side of the country - I'm up in Durham, and while the friends I've made up here are fantastic, coming back to Bath over Christmas was a good way to reset".

What has been the biggest change to your life?

"The biggest change has definitely been the routine at University. It's strange going from a very structured school system to now only having a few hours of teaching each day! I've had to adapt myself to independent studying a lot more than I had to in Year 13. Doing a language like Japanese is a big change too, as it's so different from everything I've previously learnt; but, because my course is so small, I've got a lot of friends who are going through the same experiences so we're all rallying together to help each other out".



Sephy Priston

VILLAGE SHOP AND CAFÉ

Visited by the MP for Bath, Wera Hobhouse

Bath MP Wera Hobhouse visited us on 12 December 2024, to congratulate our team on winning the prestigious Plunkett Foundation "More Than..." Award. After a brief tour of



the Shop, Wera proudly donned her honorary Volunteer badge and lanyard and even served a (rather surprised) customer from behind the counter. Over tea and warm mince pies in the Café, Sue and Trevor shared insights into how the Shop operates as a community co-operative, staffed by dedicated volunteers and focused

on sustaining itself while serving the community. Wera spent over two hours with us, admiring the diverse range of products and even purchasing a few items for herself. Before leaving, we presented her with a framed copy of the centre spread from the latest Bathford Bulletin, showcasing why the Shop was recognised with the Plunkett award.



Craft group Christmas Lunch

The Monday Craft Group celebrated their annual Christmas gathering in our Café, and we were honoured to host them. Rising to the challenge, we prepared a festive meal in the Café kitchen for seven attendees. The menu featured stuffed turkey, roasted vegetables, pigs in blankets, a vegetarian lasagna, and a selection of puddings. We are delighted to report that the meal was thoroughly enjoyed by all, making it a memorable occasion.

Not to be missed...

BEFA Quiz Night 7 March 2025

Our hardworking events subcommittee is busily preparing another fantastic fund-raising Quiz Night for early March. Expect an evening filled with entertaining questions, delicious food and drink, and plenty of raffle prizes to be won. Following the success of last year's event, we're thrilled to host another night of fun and camaraderie. Mark your calendars and join us for what promises to be an unforgettable evening. Tickets will be on sale in the Shop from **Wednesday 5 February**. Don't worry if you're by yourself, or can't make up a full team – we have tables where individuals, couples and groups of less than 6 will be sat together to make a team; come along and meet your new quiz buddies!

Please bring cash for the bar and raffle.

Twinning Association Shrove Tuesday – 25 February 2025

The **Twinning Association** is once again adding some French flair to proceedings on Shrove Tuesday and making crêpes in the Café. Crêpes are thinner and tend to be a little crispier than traditional pancakes. They will be on sale with a choice of fillings between **15:30-17:00**. Takeaway ones will also be available.

Don't miss out on the fun - be sure to save the date and join us in the café for a delightful treat.



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11s AND UNDER CREATIVE WRITING CHALLENGE

We are delighted to announce the winning entry for the Creative Writing Challenge: Lucas Richardson's story, 'Go Zeus! After careful consideration, it was chosen for its highly imaginative concept, well-defined structure, pacing, use of dialogue and descriptive language.

Congratulations also to **Evelyn Baker**, whose story was nominated as our highly commended entry, 'Wensleydale House'.

Well done and thank you to all the young writers who entered stories. They were all entertaining and engaging, so keep up the good work!

GO ZEUS by Lucas Richardson, aged 9

From Mount Olympus Zeus saw flickering red, orange and blue explosions down on Earth. Zeus' dog barked and howled.

"Humans are noisy, selfish and mean!" said Zeus.

Athena said "They're celebrating New Year's Day!".

"Grrr. They only think about themselves."

Hades and Poseidon were sneakily listening from behind the golden structure of Zeus' palace. In hushed whispers they agreed to teach Zeus a lesson. "Let's send him to school!". Hades took away Zeus' powers and Poseidon pushed him off Olympus.

There was a bright flash and Zeus felt himself falling. Air rushed past. Down, down, down he went. Was it his imagination or were his hands shrinking? Was his beard falling out? Were his legs less hairy? He wondered when he would stop, then he landed in some bushes.

He looked around and saw a building with tall iron gates, lots of windows, a small wooden castle, a sand pit, a pond, and lots of children running around wearing the same uniform.

He looked in a window and saw his face was younger. He was a boy around the age of 10.

A boy came running up. "Are you the new boy?" he said. "Do you have anyone to play with?".

"No" said Zeus.

"Come on then!". As he went Zeus muttered under his breath "let's see if they are mean or not".

He brought Zeus to a group of children and they played tag. Zeus tripped and grazed his knees and hands. A boy ran up and asked if he was alright and if he needed a teacher.

Zeus said "I'm fine. Thank you though". He was surprised that not all humans are mean, some of them can be nice.

"Let's read a book in the library" said the boy.

They went indoors. Zeus looked around and saw a dusty old book on the shelf. Zeus blew the dust off making him cough. It was a book of Greek Myths.

He opened the book out of interest to see what the humans had written about him.

The book began to flip through the pages by itself. A hole appeared inside and sucked Zeus in.

It was dark and he felt himself going up, up, up. The dark began to melt into light. To his great delight he found himself back on Olympus. He had learnt a surprising lesson. **Not all humans are mean, some can be kind.**



Image by Freepik

TOGETHER WE STAND

Bulletin readers may remember reading about the work of Bathford resident Zhenya Shkil, and her efforts to improve the lives of those affected by the Russian aggression in Ukraine.

Born and brought up in Kyiv, she has been working relentlessly to find ways to provide aid. She spearheaded a friendship link, backed by **B&NES Council**, between Bath and the Ukrainian town of Oleksandriya and founded the charitable support organisation, **Friends of Oleksandriya**.

She believed that an area like B&NES could provide more tangible help by focussing on a small area in Ukraine to make a real difference for its residents.

Through the charity, she has successfully organised and supported numerous fundraising and charitable activities to buy items such as generators and an ambulance.

One innovative idea has involved the successful fundraiser for a **school bus** with **B&NES residents sponsoring seats**, as well as annual concerts in **Bath Abbey**, sharing the culture of Ukraine with the help of **Ukrainian and local musicians**.

Zhenya has continued to shine a beacon of hope for those in need, most recently with a **'Wrapathon'** in November, which involved over 200 volunteers. In the phenomenal effort over one day, the team wrapped over **5000 Christmas presents** for disadvantaged children in Oleksandriya.

Zhenya tells us, "The overwhelming support by the residents of Bath and North East Somerset for all of our activities, shows how much care and compassion they have".

As the **third anniversary** of the war in Ukraine is approaching, Bathford residents can get involved by taking part in activities. Don't miss the concert of Ukrainian music and visual art, **'Together We Stand'**, at **Bath Abbey on 24 February**. Tickets from Bath Box Office www.bathboxoffice.org.uk/whats-on/together-we-stand



Bath Wrapathon, November 2024. Photo by Jakub Knap

If you want to get involved, contact Zhenya directly by email: zalshkil@outlook.com or by phone: **07568 500828**

See the **Friends of Oleksandriya Facebook** page for updates www.facebook.com/groups/5801687596591224 Website: www.friendsofo.co.uk

A HEARTBEAT

YOU, THE BATHFORD COMMUNITY

For our third look at what constitutes our communal heartbeat, we felt that we should reflect outwards and look at the work of Bathford residents who reach out to those in need. There are so many among us who give their time and effort to improve people's lives, in both a voluntary and professional capacity. This month, we have selected two examples of selfless dedication and who reflect the kindred spirit that makes Bathford's heartbeat be felt way beyond our Parish.

Your story could be one of our next features; just send us the details.

HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN

Keith and Julia Masdin have been fundraising for Hope and Homes for Children for more than 25 years; with their unrelenting energy, Bathford has been at the forefront in remarkably raising almost £500,000!

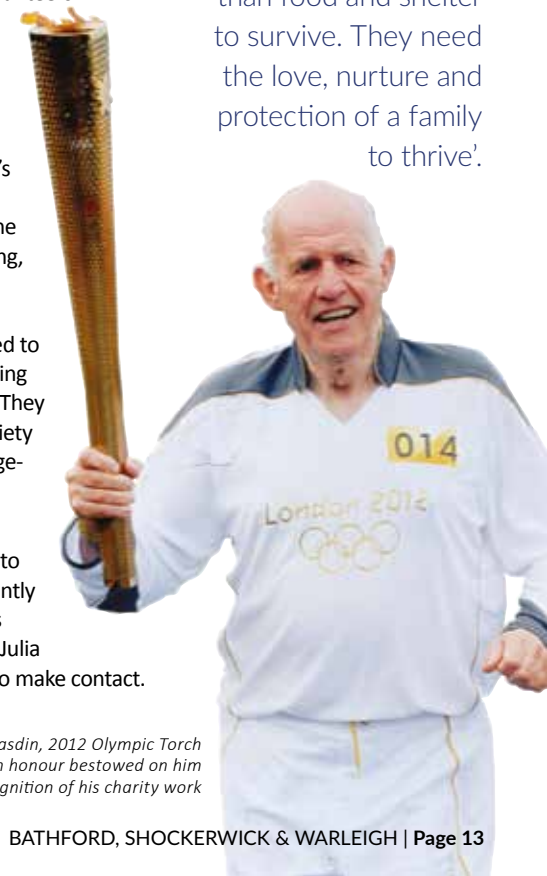
Few residents in the Parish can have missed participating in the huge number of events that **Keith and Julia have organised since 1997**, building a great sense of community. These have included auctions of promises, coffee mornings, wine tastings, treasure hunts, garden parties, and talks from high profile guests such as **Kate Adie** and Olympian, **Katherine Grainger**. They also organised a sponsored cycle ride from Bath to our twin village in Artannes-sur-Indre! Keith tells us that so many Bathford residents have helped them over the years, that naming them would have to come in a separate volume!

The Salisbury-based charity is run by both aid employees and many volunteers countrywide. It celebrated its **30th anniversary** in 2024, having been founded by **Colonel Mark Cook**, a retired British Army officer, who had witnessed firsthand the plight of a group of children struggling to survive in Sarajevo's main orphanage at the height of the Bosnian War. Immediately on his retirement, Mark and his wife Caroline revisited the city to see how they could help. After shelling, the building was in a terrible state; the children were left to scavenge for food and supplies and the babies were crammed in a basement room. Mark and Caroline wanted to give the children and those like them hope, hence founding and naming the charity **'Hope and Homes for Children'**. They work alongside local partners, governments and civil society organisations in over 30 countries to dismantle orphanage-based care systems

Keith and Julia would like their work to continue for the next 25 years and be as successful. They invite everyone to participate in activities; look out for the quiz that is currently available in the Shop and the regular second-hand books sales. Larger fund-raising activities need more input and Julia and Keith make a plea to anyone willing to get involved to make contact. Tel: **01225 858042** Email: keithmasdin@btinternet.com

www.hopeandhomes.org

'A child needs more than food and shelter to survive. They need the love, nurture and protection of a family to thrive.'



Keith Masdin, 2012 Olympic Torch Bearer - an honour bestowed on him in recognition of his charity work



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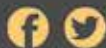
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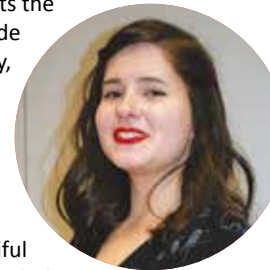


SNOW WHITE SET TO STUN BATHFORD

with Cheeky Adaptation of the Panto Classic

The Bathford Players, now in their 60th year, are feverishly rehearsing for the upcoming performance of the pantomime classic, **Snow White by Nigel Holmes**. This much loved village tradition returns to the **Parish Hall** with evening shows on 20, 21 and 22 February, with a matinee on Saturday 22... and tickets are selling fast!

Emma Sanchez directs the talented cast alongside her husband Anthony, a music teacher and former professional theatre director.



The lead role is played by **Harriet Oswin**, whose beautiful pale skin and luscious dark locks make her perfect for the part. A regular performer for the **Trowbridge Players**, this is her first performance for our local am dram club. She was shocked to be offered the lead role but says she is both delighted and excited to be taking part.

The Prince is played by **Kate Bailey**, who is also making her debut performance for the Bathford Players. After her daughter, Olive's, performance as Tinkerbell last year, she decided to also audition this year.

The loving, familial nature of the ensemble is evident everywhere. Mothers and daughters, husbands and wives, cousins and siblings. When asked what they enjoy most about being part of the show, everyone responds by saying how much fun it is.

A village pantomime is indeed meant to be about good, honest fun. And, of course, a script intended to amuse adults as well as children. This year, keep your eyes and ears on the dame, played by **Ed/Napoleon** whose tendency to improvise on top of an already innuendo-laden script will make you blush and/or guffaw.

But the highlight of this year's production has to be the line up of not seven but **nine naughty dwarves!** All played by a hugely energetic posse of local children, Emma's primary school teacher skills are clearly evident in how she manages to direct the group, and I have no doubt that everyone will love their show.

Jessica Whitcutt



If you haven't yet,
be sure to buy tickets from
the Village Shop.

AROUND THE GARDEN

with Kevin Marris



This month it's not really an article about me and my thoughts in the garden – it's more of a cry from the heart.

The Bathford Flower Show Committee AGM took place recently and thanks to those who turned up. Sadly, it never seems that there's enough of you – but I know the phrase 'Annual General Meeting' can strike fear and dread into most normal people. It was when we discussed the future, that's where we got stuck in the mud. And if you're at all interested in gardening this winter, you will sympathise with that problem.

We need to see people showing an interest now, so that we can be sure to have people familiar with the workings of the organisation for the years to come. So, this is an appeal for

people to get in touch, either with me directly or through any member of the committee. Just let us know that you feel that the **Flower Show should continue** and that if maybe you're busy now, later on you would be prepared to help in any small way.

Right now, our treasurer wants to retire – Roger won't mind me telling you he is in his eighties and wants to hand it over. It's not a huge task. After all, there is only one Flower Show a year.

Chair | Kevin Marris,
kevinmarris@hotmail.com

Secretary | Caroline Holden,
carolineholden2013@gmail.com

Committee | **Roger Boakes, Heather Carter, Mary George, Keri Hendy, John Smart, Sally Taylor.**

BATHEASTON GARDEN GROUP

Talks held at Bathford Parish Hall

Batheaston Garden Group invites you to a talk by Charlie Stirton on "The Development of the National Garden of Wales".

The talk is at **19:30 on Wednesday 12 February** at Bathford Parish Hall.

Between 1996 and 2002 Charlie Stirton was the founding director and CEO of the National Botanic Garden of Wales. This was the first national botanic garden to be created in the UK in over 200 years. The Garden is both a visitor attraction and centre for botanical research.

All welcome. Entrance to the talk is free to Batheaston Garden Group members. Non-members £5 (pay on the door, no need to book).

Batheaston Garden Group welcomes members from all parts of Bath and the surrounding area. For information on membership and our 2025 programme of events please visit www.batheastongardengroup.co.uk



TENNYGROVE VINEYARD

Looking Ahead in 2025

It was a busy second year here at Tennygrove Vineyard, perched on the hill above Bathford in Upper Shockerwick.

We started 2024 with one of the key tasks for any vineyard – pruning. This important job helps keep the vines healthy and sets us up for the growing season ahead. Once the vines were pruned, we moved on to bud selection, carefully choosing the strongest buds to ensure a strong trunk for future growth. Although we didn't see any flowers develop into grapes last year, we're optimistic for the future and looking forward to our first flowering and grape harvest in 2025. We know the journey from vine to wine takes time and we're excited for what's ahead.

Last year, we had some help from our flock of runner ducks. They were busy keeping the slugs and snails under control, which was particularly

helpful during what was a very wet year. They were important in maintaining a healthy balance in the vineyard, all while reducing our reliance on chemicals.

Living in the parish but across the valley from the village, we are grateful for the support we've received from our local community, and we are looking forward to sharing more of our progress in the months to come. The road to growing good grapes is a long one and we can't wait to share the results this year.

We hope to be open to visitors sometime this year and, fingers crossed, have some Tennygrove Vineyard Somerset wine to enjoy. Do follow us on Instagram ([@tennygrove_vineyard](https://www.instagram.com/tennygrove_vineyard)) for updates and more news on our vineyard journey. Thank you for your continued support – we look forward to what's next!

Ally Walsh



Our ducks keeping slugs and snails under control



Bluebird Care Bath, Bristol and North East Somerset is a leading home care provider with an expert care team delivering high quality care. We enable people to live a fulfilled and meaningful life in their own homes and local community.

ABOUT OUR LIVE-IN CARE SERVICE:

Our Live-in care service is perfect for those who wish to remain at home while receiving essential care. Bluebird Care, a top live-in care provider in Bath, offers exceptional support to clients across the city. Rated 'Outstanding' by the CQC, we are dedicated to providing the highest level of care.

ABOUT OUR DOMICILIARY CARE SERVICE:

At Bluebird Care, we support your independence while providing essential care in the comfort of your own home. Rated 'Outstanding' by the CQC for domiciliary care in Bath, we ensure you live safely, comfortably and with dignity, while preserving your personal choices.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR LIVE-IN CARE OR DOMICILIARY CARE SERVICES, OR TO SEE HOW ELSE WE CAN SUPPORT YOU, PLEASE CONTACT US ON THE BELOW DETAILS:

01225 436717

www.bluebirdcare.co.uk/bath

BATH SAILING CLUB

The final winter activities of the Club are:

Monday 10 March 19:30 at the Village Club

GUEST SPEAKER | Tony Conder, Historian and Guide. 'Gloucestershire and the Atlantic Slave Trade'

Gloucestershire was a base for people fighting to stop, firstly, the slave trade, and then slavery itself. But what was the slave trade? What income did it generate? What were the results for Gloucestershire including local characters such as Blathway of Dyrham House? An illustrated talk that aims to tell the history – and leave the audience to make their own minds up. All are welcome to attend.

Monday 15 April 2025

AWAYDAY – Portsmouth Harbour by Train to visit 'HMS Warrior' and other attractions.

Group travel and on-board guided tour of Great Britain's first ironclad warship followed by a pub lunch. Full details at the March talk. Anyone wishing to join the Away Day with our members, please contact davidlelohe@live.com.



BATHFORD SKIING GROUP

The ski slopes of Europe beckon.

As soon as the nights draw in, we're thinking about our escapes to the mountains. Every skier knows it's **more fun together**, on the chairlift, on the slope, at lunch - and sharing stories 'après'. But every skier also has their own preferences - where and when to go, what budget, chalet or hotel, ski or board, fly or drive. Whilst the Village Shop is at the intersection of stories shared upon return, I'm wondering if the skiers of Bathford would want to connect and share plans before heading off. Exchanging info and maybe even venturing off together. So do please contact me if you'd like to be part of the **Bathford Ski Info Exchange** (working title!)

swyatt@bathford.net

BIENVENUE À FRANCE! BIENVENUE À ARTANNES!

The warmest welcome awaits visitors from Bathford this spring as our two communities celebrate 20 years of friendship.

Taking place between **Thursday, 10 April - Monday, 14 April**, the weekend promises to be a memorable experience.

Previous visitors to Artannes will confirm what wonderful, warm, experience visits are. **All accommodation is offered free** with the only expenses being meals in restaurants and visits to places of interest.

The Twinning Association's **Eker Bursary** is available for young people between the ages of **16 to 21** to apply for funding to cover travel costs to Artannes. Email: bathfordtwinningassociation@gmail.com for details.

Not sure it's your thing?

Come and have a chat about what to expect. Meet members of the Twinning Association in the **Village Shop Café** between **10:30 and 11:30** on **Saturday 15 February**.

Alternatively, call **01225 852444**



BATHFORD SOCIETY

Preview: Talk on the Balance between Preservation and Development

Mon 24 February, 19:30 for 20:00 at Bathford Parish Hall

Do you live in a listed building? If so, the next talk to the Bathford Society could be for you. The talk is being given by Alex Sherman, Chief Executive, Bath Preservation Trust (BPT). BPT reviews all planning applications and development proposals for Bath and its environs every year and responds to those which may have a major impact to the integrity and World Heritage status of the city. BPT also provides informed planning advice to

homeowners of historic houses and listed buildings. Giving an example from Bathford, Alex will explain how the Trust balances the need to preserve the unique features of our beautiful city without inhibiting its development in an environment which is both economically and technically demanding.



Remembering

PATRICIA 'PAT' ROGERS (1935-2024)

Pat's sister Mavis recalls her life

Pat was the second of 11 children who grew up in Colerne. After leaving Chippenham Grammar School, she worked as a civil servant in Bath. Later she met Vernon, also a civil servant, and was married in 1963.

They lived in Bath for a few years, then moved to London. Here she worked in a shop, and they enjoyed holidays abroad. Pat recalled watching the sun rise over the Pyramids - she was very impressed!

They also often 'bombed down' to Colerne to visit family in their green mini.

In 1979 they returned to Bath and bought a bungalow in Westwoods, Bathford, where they spent the rest of their lives.

Pat enjoyed volunteering in the **Bathford Community Shop** and chatting to everyone - on the bus, in the shops or on walks.

After Vernon's family passed away, they bought a cottage in Cornwall and visited regularly.

Sadly, after Vernon's passing, Pat was a bit lost. In December, following poor health, she passed away peacefully to be with him.

A service was held for her at Haycombe Crematorium on 6 January, attended by family and friends.

She is survived by 2 sisters and 5 brothers.



NEWS FROM SHOCKERWICK HOUSE

We rounded up 2024 at Shockerwick House with a fantastic Christmas!

Our home was decorated from top to bottom and filled with Christmas cheer!

It was lovely to have our residents' families join in the festivities on Christmas Day. The Oak Dining Room was bustling with love and laughter as every Christmas lunch should be.

We would love you all to come and join us on **Thursday 20 February at 10:30-12:00** for our community coffee morning.

Come and have a look around our beautiful home and enjoy a lovely cup of tea or coffee and delicious cakes!

We would love to make this a regular event so please feel free to pop in.



ASK THE TRAINER

Your questions answered by Ali Creighton at Doodle Dogs Training



Q When and how should I socialise my puppy?

Socialisation, strictly speaking, is a developmental stage which lasts roughly between 4 and 14 weeks so it's already underway when you bring your puppy home. It is nature's way of preparing puppies for adult life and has huge implications for their future behaviour and emotional stability. It is a critical time for your puppy to learn about the world, without which they can suffer from unnecessary fear and anxiety, causing negative reactions.

Expose your puppy gently and positively to as many sights, sounds and smells as you can to build resilience, confidence and optimism. Start at home, then graduate to the wider world. **Carry your puppy or use a pushchair** until vaccinations are complete but don't let your puppy get overwhelmed (especially by everyone who wants to meet and cuddle them!)

Write a checklist of everything your puppy is likely to encounter e.g. adults, children, babies, people with hats/helmets/sticks etc., then start introductions at your puppy's pace, ensuring they feel safe at all times. If rushed, you could create lifelong fears for your puppy so take it slowly. Introductions to other dogs needn't start with touch. Your puppy can see, hear and smell another dog from a distance without risking getting scared. If they look happy, reduce the distance but do this gradually, watching their reaction. A two second nose touch then a break is ideal. Don't use a 'sink or swim' approach - what if they sink? You are trying to build your puppy up, not break them. Remember, you can't go too slowly but you can go too fast.

www.doodledogs.uk



Image by Freepik

Annual budget precept 2025/26

One of the Parish Council's duties is the responsible financial management of the administration and maintenance of our local facilities and services for the community.

Every February the Parish Council determines and submits to BANES the budget for the forthcoming fiscal year. This includes the **precept – the amount that we ask residents to contribute to their Council Tax** to make up the requisite funding. The precept funds are spent solely within Bathford parish, for the benefit of residents.

The Council has passed a precept for 2025/26 with an increase of less than seven percent on the previous figure. Although mindful of the increasing cost of living and the need to keep costs down, the Council is unfortunately faced with increases in certain unavoidable costs in the next financial year. These include the inflationary costs incurred on our village maintenance and the statutory requirement to start paying employer NI contributions on the Clerk's salary. In cash terms, this represents an increase of **£0.04 a week** for a household in a **Band D property**. To find out more, please contact the Clerk at clerk@bathford.net.

Buses and Road Safety issues

There has been much comment online about both the ongoing poor bus service cancellations and delays, and the spate of accidents throughout the parish, the Parish Council is striving to get redress on both issues. We are working to hold a public meeting with **First Bus management** in the village; if you wish to attend – and we hope sufficient will be interested – please contact clerk@bathford.net. With regards the accidents and road safety issues, the Council and our **Ward Councillors** are pressing **BANES Highways** for action. We will report further on developments in future issues.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING Monday 17 February 19:00

Date and venue are yet to be confirmed

Residents are welcome to raise issues with the Council in the first ten minutes.

Contact: clerk@bathford.net
Tel. 01225 858220

COMMUNITY SURVEY 2025

As a Council we also need to have an eye on the future. We want to give you an opportunity to share your views, opinions and desires in how you would like to see the Bathford community develop over the next ten years. For the first stage of the research, we would like you to complete the questionnaire included in this issue. Alternatively, you can complete the survey online at <https://forms.gle/sLQpffc66j4Ff3976>. Full details are included on the questionnaire as to how the research will develop and outcomes be shared among the residents.

We would encourage you all to answer the survey and take part in the programme; we will provide feedback at each stage.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

- Live Music: Kate Mills
Sat 1 Feb | 20:30
Village Club
- Service of Holy Communion
Sun 2 Feb | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- Re:Connect for Children
Sun 2 Feb | 16:30
Year 7 at 16:30, Year 8 at 17:30
St Swithun's Church
- Mobile Library
Wed 5 Feb | 11:20 to 12:05
Dovers Park by School
- Bathford Village Choir Practice
Thu 6 Feb (and every Thu in Feb) | 19:45
Bathford Parish Hall
- Contemporary Service
Sun 9 Feb | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- Children's Afternoon Service
Sun 9 Feb | 16:00
St Swithun's Church
- Bath Sailing Club Annual Dinner
Mon 10 Feb | 19:00
Kingsdown Golf Club
- Batheaston Garden Club:
Talk on National Garden of Wales
Wed 12 Feb | 19:30
Bathford Parish Hall
- Twinning Association – Drop-In to learn more about visiting Artannes
Sat 15 Feb | 10:30 - 11:30
Bathford Village Shop Café
- Live Music: Valentine's Do with Jason Lee
Sat 15 Feb | 20:30
Village Club
- Service of Holy Communion
Sun 16 Feb | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- Music on a Sunday Afternoon
Sun 16 Feb | 15:00
St Swithun's Church
- Bathford Parish Council Meeting
Mon 17 Feb | 19:00
Bathford School
- Mobile Library
Wed 19 Feb | 11:20 to 12:05
Dovers Park by School
- Community Coffee Morning
Thu 20 Feb | 10:30 to 12:00
Shockerwick House
- Pantomime: Snow White (4 performances)
Thu 20 - Sat 22 Feb
Various times
Bathford Parish Hall
- Bingo
Fri 21 Feb | 19:30
Village Club
- Welcome Church
Sun 23 Feb | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- Evening Prayer (refreshments from 16:00)
Sun 23 Feb | 16:30
St Swithun's Church
- Film Club: Kinky Boots
Mon 24 Feb | 14:00
St Swithun's Church
- Concert of Ukrainian music and visual art, 'Together We Stand'
Mon 24 Feb | 19:00
Bath Abbey
- Bathford Society Talk on Balance Between Preservation & Development
Mon 24 Feb | 19:30 for 20:00
Bathford Parish Hall
- Live Music: Jazz Night
Fri 28 Feb | 20:00
Village Club

FOR YOUR DIARY

- Twinning Association Crepe Making, Shrove Tuesday
Tue 4 Mar | 15:30 - 17:00
Bathford Village Shop Cafe
- BEFA Quiz Night
Fri 7 Mar | 19:00
Bathford Parish Hall
- Bath Sailing Club: Tony Conder – 'Gloucestershire and the Atlantic Slave Trade'
Mon 10 Mar | 19:30 for 20:00
Village Club
- Batheaston Garden Club: Talk on Apples
Wed 19 Mar | 19:30
Bathford Parish Hall
- Twentieth Twinning Anniversary
Thu 10 - Mon 14 Apr
Artannes-sur-Indre
- Bath Sailing Club Awayday - Portsmouth by train to visit 'HMS Warrior'
Mon 15 Apr | 19:30 for 20:00
Portsmouth Harbour

You can now publish your event on the Parish Council website calendar.

Email clerk@bathford.net with the following information:

Event name/date/start time/finish time/venue

To see the calendar visit: www.bathford.net/local-information/events

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