

FEBRUARY 2026

# Bathford Bulletin

BATHFORD

SHOCKERWICK

WARLEIGH

## SPOTLIGHT

ON LOCAL RESIDENT  
ROBIN HORN, HIGH-SPEED  
CINEMATOGRAPHER

page 16



AROUND THE GARDEN  
page 21



EASTER SCAVENGER  
HUNT page 9



# FOR A FANTASTICALLY FUN TIME

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## THE EDITORIAL TEAM

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Catherine Tait – Editorial  
Claire Woodhouse – Editorial

We welcome all articles, images and notifications of births, deaths and marriages. Please email for contributors' guidelines: [bathfordbulletin@gmail.com](mailto: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 design and artwork? You would be most welcome! Email [bathfordbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:bathfordbulletin@gmail.com) if you are interested or would like to know more.

## APRIL ISSUE COPY DEADLINE

Contributions and advertisements are welcome, up to but **no later than 13 March** via: [bathfordbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:bathfordbulletin@gmail.com)

The Bathford Bulletin is produced and delivered free to all homes in the Parish, 10 months a year on an entirely voluntary basis.

## PRINTED BY

Corsham Print on paper from sustainable resources, using bio-degradable inks and low energy production.

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## COVER PHOTO:

Robin Horn with camera



# WELCOME

to our March edition

**This month's Bathford Bulletin - our biggest issue ever, is 32 pages packed with news, features, advice and information on a wealth of opportunities within our parish community.** There's something here for all age-ranges and interests throughout the month, and talents we have unearthed.

Pride of place goes to **Robin Horn** who takes us through his fascinating and exciting role as a cinematographer; the movies, documentaries, ads and stunts he's filmed, and some of the stars he's had the pleasure of working with. See [pages 16/17](#). At a slower pace ([see pages 22/23](#)), **Esther Bennett** and **Barry Gay** go on a walk through his family's history, reminiscing about past times, people and places over the years since Barry's lived in Bathford.

On [page 11](#), **Andy Ginn** throws the spotlight on neighbours 'across the tracks' in **Meadow Park** and explains how the residents have pulled together and created a friendly, supportive community within our Parish..

Celebrations abound with our recent prize winners – **Children's story writers** on [page 7](#) and **festive decorators** on [page 14](#). Then, announcements of further festivities to come in March and April in the run up to the **Village Shop 20th anniversary** in May.

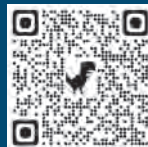
Our '**Bulleteen+**' section, aimed at young people in our community, focuses on how to take up, improve techniques and enjoy running, inspired by this month's **Bath Half Marathon** on [page 27](#).

Plus, ALL our regular features and the wonderful events and functions that are laid on by our extraordinary, talented community. **Happy Easter!**

And **PLEASE complete our Bulletin readership survey** on the loose insert questionnaire in this issue or online and return it this month. *Editorial Team*

**NEW!** At The Bathford Bulletin we have been looking to provide an online, digital solution to circulating the magazine. The Page Turner Flipbook is now available through the link or via the QR code below and allows you to provide friends and families anywhere in the world, with a connection to life in Bathford in glorious technicolour!

<https://bathford-bulletin.paperturn-view.com/?pid=ODk8914008&p=32&v=9.3>





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## PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

The Bathford Parish Hall Management Committee is a small group of 6 friendly volunteers. We meet a few times a year and are looking for another couple of enthusiastic people to get involved and help take this invaluable village asset into the future.

Please contact Richard Wallis 01225 684610  
or Wendy Chambers 01225 859519

## THE BATHFORD BULLETIN READER SURVEY SPRING 2026

**The Bathford Bulletin has been published for many years now in various formats, and has developed into a significant, well-respected publication, admired by residents and other parishes.**

The current magazine is published ten times a year with joint issues covering July/August and December/January. It is produced by an Editorial team of volunteers on behalf of the **Parish Council** and delivered to all 800 households in the community by another team of volunteers.

The magazine currently costs around **£600** per issue just to print, but is provided to you free of charge, courtesy of the revenue earned from the advertisers who appear in our publication. Without them, the magazine would not exist. We aim to have a balance of articles to advertising.

To help the Bulletin continue to thrive and to ensure it reflects the interests and needs of you and your family, we are asking residents to share their views on the current magazine. We have created a short survey and invite you to complete it.

The survey is available in paper form, included in this issue, online via this link: <https://tinyurl.com/bulletinsurvey2026> or through the QR code below. If more than one person in your household reads the Bulletin – including children and young people – we encourage each of you to complete a separate survey. Additional paper copies are available from the Parish Clerk on **01225 858220**, or from the Village Shop.

Completed paper survey forms can be dropped off at the Village Shop or sent to **the Clerk, Bulletin Survey, 54 Bathford Hill, Bathford BA1 7SN.**

All responses should be made no later than **1 April 2026.**

Thank you very much for your time and support.

*The Bathford Bulletin  
Editorial Team*



## SATURDAY NIGHT MEANS LIVE MUSIC

20:30 to 23:30 – £5 entry fee

### SAT 14 MARCH

**ANDREA** an excellent female singer who is a firm favourite at the club – we know we are in for a lovely evening of songs from across the decades sung live.

### SAT 28 MARCH

**JUST FRANK** a great male vocalist covering all the hits from across the decades.

### FRI 6 MARCH 19:30

**BINGO** Growing and growing in popularity – come early to secure your seat – always such a fun evening with lots of winners – the more who play, the larger the prize pot. A book of 4 games and 2 flyers costs £5 and gives you 12 chances of winning – 6 lines and 6 houses. We also play a great game called ‘Sod It’ – the prize pot for this in February was £25 – the hope for this game is that the number called isn’t on your card rather than is on it!

### FRI 27 MARCH 20:00

**JAZZFORD** Always such a lovely evening of live music from our house band and jammers – ideal for those wanting to start to participate or for those that have been playing for years – singers are also welcome – come along and enjoy playing in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

### FRI 20 MARCH FROM 17:00

#### RAYA'S THAI STREET FOOD POP-UP TAKEAWAY

If you haven't tried this yet you don't know what you are missing – hugely popular – starts cooking at 17:00 and finishes when sold out – it is high-end Thai cuisine.

### 6/7 MARCH AND 14 MARCH

**6 NATIONS' RUGBY UNION TOURNAMENT** Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for details of what game(s) we will be showing and when.

**We say it every month, but we mean it – everyone is welcome at the Club, and we'd love to see you – pop in and say hello.**

# HOW EFFICIENT IS YOUR HOME?

Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE) offers independent, expert, not-for-profit advice on making your home warmer and more energy efficient.

Want some help making your home warmer and more energy efficient?

As many of us look for ways to keep our homes more comfortable and affordable to run, **Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE)** – a local not-for-profit community energy group – is offering clear and independent home energy efficiency advice.

Whether you're new to home retrofit or are planning major improvements, BWCE can help you understand your options and make confident, informed decisions.

B&NES residents can get **70% off all BWCE Home Energy surveys**, thanks to **Retrofit West** discount vouchers. Each household can use two vouchers, and BWCE can apply for them on your behalf.

Support is available for:

- Improving comfort and energy efficiency
- Listed building challenges and navigating the planning and consent process
- Considering a heat pump and which system is right for you and your home
- Free short home visits for simple, practical guidance on how to get started

Find details on these offers, plus free community events and further support at:

**Bath & West Community Energy**  
Universal House, Queen's Parade,  
Bath, BA1 2NN

**T 01225 683202**

**www.bwce.coop | FCA registration number 30960R**

BWCE reinvests surplus income into local projects that cut carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty. To explore supporting community energy or ethical investment, visit: **www.bwce.coop/invest**



## HELLO FROM SHOCKERWICK HOUSE

**It's been a busy start to the year here at Shockerwick**, with residents enjoying a series of Hollywood silver-screen-themed activities throughout January, culminating in an Oscars-themed quiz. It's been a wonderful way to bring a touch of glamour, nostalgia, and fun to the start of 2026.

We'll be arranging more fun activities, including evening events, in the future, so please keep an eye on our Facebook page – we'd love you to join us.

We'll also be holding an **Easter competition**. We'll soon be sending out an Easter-themed picture for you to print and decorate. Once finished, you can email it back to us or pop it in the post – whichever is easiest. If you need any further information, please contact **laura.bright@bupa.com**.

Don't forget our monthly coffee mornings, held on the **third Thursday of every month** between **10:30 and 12:00**. Our next one will be on **19 March**. If you have a little spare time, please do join us for tea, cake, and a lovely wander around the grounds.

With spring just around the corner, we're reminded of Dana's Eurovision classic from 1970 – **'Snowdrops and daffodils, butterflies and bees...'** The uplifting feel of the song mirrors the cheerful atmosphere here at the home, as our residents look forward to brighter days and more exciting activities in the months ahead.

*Laura Bright*



SCAN ME



In partnership with





Lillian receiving her book token and certificate from Catherine Tait

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YOUNG STORYSMITHS!

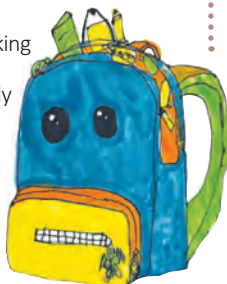
Following the announcement of our winning and highly commended entries for January's 11s and Under Creative Writing Challenge, we were delighted to present Lillian and Daisy with their prizes at the Village Shop last month.

The two storytellers received framed certificates, along with a book token for Lillian, who won **Most Promising Young Writer**.

Inspiration came from all kinds of places – for Lillian, one look at her backpack set the ink flowing, while for Daisy, it was a love of squirrels.

Both children enjoy writing stories in their free time, with topics ranging from trouble-making twins to Tutankhamun. We were particularly entertained to hear of a girl who, after waking up to find everyone else has gone missing, decides to deploy Whoopee cushions ready for their return!

Congratulations to both young writers, and we wish them the very best in their future story-writing endeavours.



## ST DAVID'S DAY IN WALES

**1 March is probably the most important day for the celebration of Welsh culture in the year.** Primary schools

all hold Eisteddfods where the children arrive in their traditional costume; the girls with red cloaks over black skirts and tall black hats or bonnets carrying bunches of daffodils. They have learnt traditional songs in Welsh, poems in Welsh and in the most ambitious of schools there might be some traditional dancing too. The classrooms are full of pictures illustrating the life of St David and daffodils.

The tradition of Eisteddfod continues through secondary school into adult life. International Eisteddfods draw in many from the Celtic diaspora as well as others celebrating their unique culture. And if you've ever wondered why the Welsh sing their hearts out at rugby matches- well they've been doing it since they were 4!

Judy Mariss



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Friends of Bathford School's

EASTER



# SCAVENGER HUNT

## Easter Scavenger Hunt Across Bath and Surrounding Areas Invites Families to Join the Fun

With Easter just around the corner, friends and families looking for a fun, creative and flexible way to spend the school holidays are invited to take part in an **Easter Scavenger Hunt**, organised by Friends of Bathford School (FOBS) in partnership with local businesses.

Running from **Saturday 28 March to Sunday 12 April**, the scavenger hunt is designed to fit easily around other holiday plans. Teams can take part at their own pace, choosing to complete as few or as many missions as they like during the event. Each completed challenge will earn points, with prizes awarded to the highest-scoring teams.

**The top prize is a family-of-four voucher for LEGOLAND®.**

Missions are a playful mix of easy location-focused questions and riddles, through to slightly more involved creative challenges and photo-based tasks. Some can be completed in the comfort of your own home, whilst others encourage people to get out and explore the local area. All that's needed is internet access and the ability to take and upload photos.

The event is a **FOBS fundraising initiative**, with all proceeds going towards supporting Bathford Primary School. Entry costs just **£5 per team of up to 6 people**.

The scavenger hunt is proudly supported by local businesses: **Alice Park, Tile & Floor, Miller Kehoe Painting & Decorating, Roasted Lemon Catering & Café**, and **Extracted** in Bath, **Camella** in Batheaston, **Toast Coffee House**, Restaurant **Vine & Plate**, **Wadswick Country Store** in Box and **The Castle Inn** and **Timbrells Yard** in Bradford on Avon.



**WHEN:** 28 March to 12 April 2026

**ENTRY:** £5 per team (up to 6 people)

**HOW TO TAKE PART:** Register online in advance

**FIND OUT MORE AND SIGN UP:**

<https://buytickets.at/friendsofbathfordschool/2016989>



## EVENT DETAILS



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*Brian, 92, Client*

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Stay steady, stay safe. Scan to get your **free Fall Prevention Introductory Course** and build confidence with every step.



# BUILDING COMMUNITY IN MEADOW PARK

Meadow Park is a cul-de-sac at the north of Bathford Parish, made up of 84 houses spread across five branches, with a walkway (Meadow Walk) linking the southern branch to Box Road.

Because the street is so spread out, it would be easy for neighbours to feel disconnected. This became especially clear during the 2020 lockdown, when a former resident suggested creating a **WhatsApp group** to help everyone support one another.

What began as a practical tool quickly became something much more valuable. The group helped to build a stronger sense of community, and, once lockdown ended, residents agreed it should continue. As people have moved in and out, the group has evolved, and it now has 92 members, including some from **Morris Lane** and **Evelyn Close**.

Today, the group is used for all sorts of reasons: **welcoming new neighbours, sharing recommendations for local traders and services, asking for help, reporting roadworks or travel issues, flagging special events or offers, and offering unwanted items** to others before sending them to charity or the tip. In short, anything that might be useful to the community.

**The group has also inspired several other neighbourhood initiatives:**

- The Meadow Park community library – built by a resident and located in front of no. 63, offering a place to swap books with occasional clear outs to donate books to charity
- A separate **WhatsApp group** for those who want to stay informed and coordinate responses to proposed development plans
- A regular meet-up group for residents who enjoy chatting face-to-face.



*Library at 63 Meadow Park*

**There is no doubt that this has all helped Meadow Park become a genuinely close and supportive community.** It's a street where many people stay for years, and for them, being connected to the wider neighbourhood is a real bonus. If you wish to be included in any of the groups, consult your neighbours for details.

*Andy Ginn*

Morris Lane

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## ASK THE TRAINER

Your questions answered by  
Ali Creighton at Doodle Dogs Training

**For my final article in the Bathford Bulletin, I've put together some of my Top Tips:**

- Remember your dog doesn't speak English!
- Teach them what words mean and make it worth their while to respond to you.
- Play is great for you and your dog!
- Consider your lifestyle before you choose your dog. The wrong fit is no fun for anyone.
- Slow down. This applies to pretty much everything! No-one can run before they can walk.
- Feed your dog the best food possible – you are what you eat.
- Dogs form habits really easily and are always learning, whether you like it or not!
- Don't pull items from your dog's mouth, you could induce guarding behaviour.
- Reward your dog! Would you work for free?
- As well as teaching what you want, prevent what you don't want, dogs form habits easily.
- Dogs will do what works, so be careful what you teach them. If they jump up and you cuddle them, they'll jump up again.
- Start your training quietly at home, we don't learn to drive on the M25.
- Don't use punishment. It's a great way to ruin your relationship. Ask your dog to do something else if they're doing something you don't like.
- Keep dogs on leads next to roads. Why would you risk it?
- Have fun! What could be more rewarding?
- Enjoy your dog but, if you have any problems, get in touch with Ali at [www.doodledogs.uk](http://www.doodledogs.uk)



*Ali and her dog Peto*

**Our sincere thanks for all her contributions and sound advice and we wish her and Peto well.**



## ST SWITHUN'S FILM CLUB: RADIOACTIVE

**Mon 23 Mar at 14:00 in  
St Swithun's Church**

Join us for a screening of **RADIOACTIVE** (with subtitles) starring Rosamund Pike and Sam Riley. Based on a true story, from the 1870s to the modern era, a journey through Marie Curie's enduring legacies, her passionate relationships, scientific breakthroughs, and the consequences that followed, for her and the world. After a tragic accident, Marie advances her work, the transformative effects and ensuing fallout of Curie's work and how this shaped the 20th Century.

Stay after the film for complimentary tea and cake (suggested donation : £3.00)

For all enquiries, please contact: [keithmilner5@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:keithmilner5@yahoo.co.uk)



## AROUND THE VILLAGE



The Bathford Repair Cafe is held in Bathford Parish Hall on the second Saturday of each month between 09:30 and 12:00.

The dates of our upcoming sessions are:

**Sat 14 March | Sat 11 April | Sat 9 May**

Common repairs include small wooden, mechanical, electrical and electronic items, garden tools & equipment, toys, clothes & textiles. We also provide a knife and small garden tool sharpening service (max two items per user).

Following the great success of our recent 'Sewing With Confidence' workshop, we will be offering this on a regular basis. Bring along your sewing machine and our friendly tutors will help to develop your skills beyond the basics.

For more information, to book a knife sharpening slot or join the next sewing workshop, contact us at: [bathfordrepaircafe@btinternet.com](mailto:bathfordrepaircafe@btinternet.com)

*Martin Hobbs*



**Two of the Festive Front Door competition prize winners** were congratulated on their efforts and treated to refreshments in the Village Shop café last month. They were presented with their prizes – vouchers to spend in the Village Shop.

*Pictured are Julie Collins (left) and Wendy Freebourne (right) both of Mountain Wood.*

## Twinning Association Serves Up Pancake Day Treats

The Twinning Association brought Shrove Tuesday to life in the Village Café, making fresh crêpes and a cheerful afternoon in the café. A steady stream of happy customers enjoyed the delicious treats and a lovely community atmosphere. *Photo: Ruru Chiu*





*Celebrating* **2006-2026**

*20th Anniversary  
of serving the Community  
as a Community Co-operative*



## FORTHCOMING CELEBRATIONS AT YOUR VILLAGE SHOP

**With the weather slowly warming up, we're starting to feel a touch of spring in the air – and Easter is just around the corner! We're busy stocking up on all your seasonal favourites, including Easter greeting cards, chocolate eggs, and of course, delicious hot cross buns.**

We continue to explore and introduce quality goods to enhance your shopping experience. Highlights include our popular **Larkhall Butchers** meat packs, a **great range of cheeses**, and **fresh fruit** and **vegetables** delivered regularly to keep things tasty and wholesome. Don't forget, we're always happy to take orders for anything you need – and we offer free delivery with no minimum spend.

This year is extra special for us as we celebrate our **20th Anniversary** with both existing and new customers. Your community Shop & Café can only survive with your support, so if you're not a regular visitor, please do pop in – you may be surprised at the wide range of stock we offer!

Our anniversary celebrations continue with **two fun competitions** in **March** and **April**, with something for all ages. More details in the Shop.

### WIN A SIMNEL CAKE

Guess the weight of a delicious homemade Simnel cake for £1 and be in with a chance to win it for Easter.

The competition runs from **12 March to 2 April**.

### EASTER BUNNY HUNT FOR CHILDREN

Bunnies will be hiding around the village during the school Easter holiday. Find them all for a chance to win a chocolate bunny.

And don't forget to save the date for the **BEFA Big Birthday Bash** on **Sat 16 May** – more details to follow soon!

**Thank you, as always, for supporting your Village Shop. We look forward to welcoming you in.**



## SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL RESIDENTS

# Robin Horn

## High-Speed Cinematographer

Adding to our occasional focus on local residents and the jobs they do, Maureen Breeze caught up with Robin Horn to learn more about his work as a cinematographer.

If, like me, you find yourself mesmerised at the end of a film by the endless list of job titles and the sheer number of people involved, you might be particularly intrigued by Robin's role. His speciality is **high-speed cinematography** – a niche corner of the film world. Using specialist cameras capable of capturing action at up to 2,000 frames per second, Robin records moments that would otherwise be too fast for the eye to see. Explosions, crashes, and other rapid sequences can then be replayed in crisp slow motion.

Working freelance through his company, **Absolute High Speed**, Robin has collaborated with major film companies including **Panavision**. Naturally, I was keen to know, whether he had been involved in any blockbusters! He mentioned **Spiderman**, **Mission Impossible**, and **Maleficent** among his credits. Much of his work is with stunt units, and he's grateful that modern technology – drones and Technocranes (specialised, high-end telescopic camera cranes) – now allows him to capture complex shots remotely without leaving the ground. One thing he does not miss is filming from helicopters, which he admits he always disliked!

Robin's work also extends to a wide range of television commercials, with clients as diverse as **Kia Cars**, **Glenlivet whisky** and the **NHS**. His documentary credits are equally impressive, including a memorable project with **Paul McCartney at Abbey Road** – "*one of those pinch-me moments that will live with me forever*," as he puts it – and a series of films with **Michael Caine** for '**My Generation**', exploring Caine's life in 1960s London and revisiting the places that shaped him.

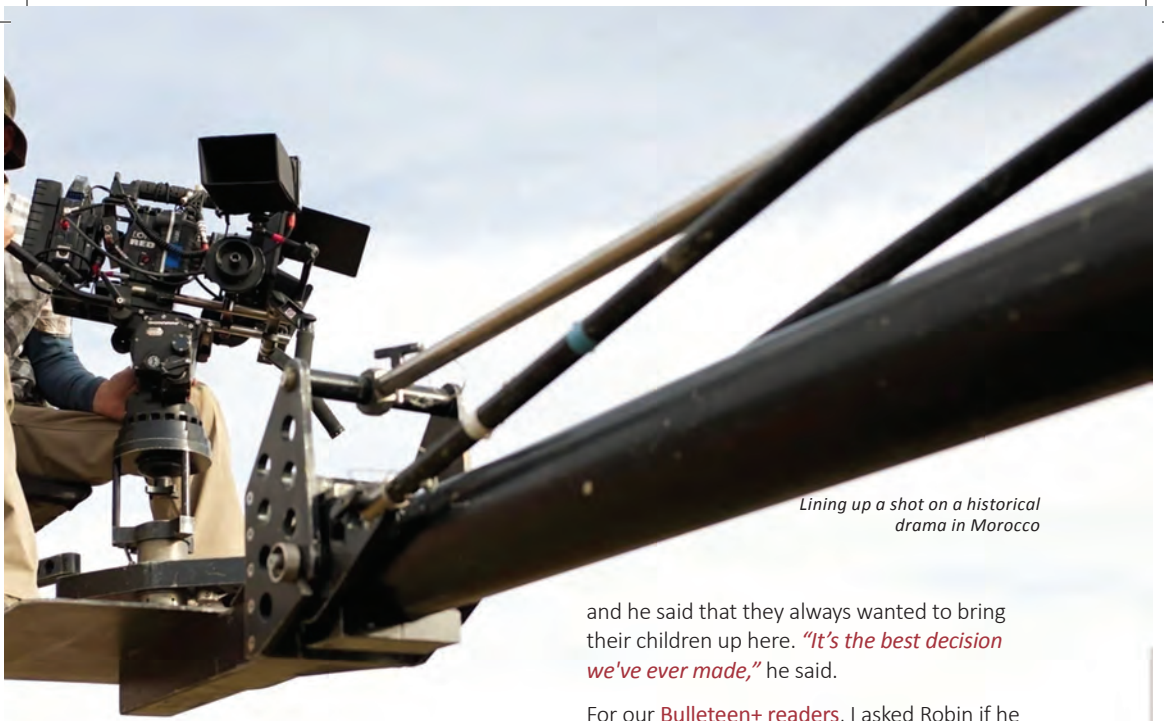
**So how did Robin find his way into such an unusual career?** As he tells it, he was often in the right place at the right time – and willing to give things a go. He began as a runner (essentially a gofer - a person who runs errands) at a London studio before becoming a trainee in the camera department. For a time, he worked as a Clapper Loader (2nd Camera Assistant) – the person who claps the slate for each take and loads the film. This was before high-speed filming entered the digital age when Robin used to load detachable, light-tight magazines that held 1,000 feet rolls of motion picture film, which allowed for long,



Robin out in the field



Filming 'My Generation' with Michael Caine



*Lining up a shot on a historical drama in Morocco*

continuous takes without needing to stop to change the film. As his career progressed, he became a 1st Camera Assistant, responsible for keeping the actors in focus at all times – a role he describes as extremely stressful!

I was intrigued to know what was the most dangerous situation Robin had faced while filming. He told me that Health and Safety in the film industry is a major concern. He described a fatal accident in which a camera operator was killed on set when a stunt car hit him. Robin himself once walked off a job because of poor health and safety standards, after a stunt car on a music video narrowly missed him. *“Thankfully, on the whole, the industry is very safe, and we don’t often find ourselves in dangerous situations,”* he said.

Robin goes wherever the work takes him, and although his business is based in Buckinghamshire, he can work remotely when not on set. He and his family have lived in Bathford for **17 years**. His wife, **Emma** (a costume supervisor), was brought up in Bath,

and he said that they always wanted to bring their children up here. *“It’s the best decision we’ve ever made,”* he said.

For our **Bulleteen+** readers, I asked Robin if he would recommend cinematography as a career. *“This is a hard question,”* he said. *“I wouldn’t want to put an aspiring filmmaker off pursuing such a rewarding career; however, I am very concerned about the rise of AI in filmmaking and the effect that is going to have on the industry. Hopefully audiences will still want to watch real humans!”* He encourages anyone looking to enter the industry, to find a mentor and to start creating their own short films. *“You learn so much by actually filming — especially from your mistakes,”* he said.

Like many who work in the arts, Robin’s career is unpredictable, with the constant question of when the next job will come along. But his obvious enthusiasm for the craft, and the extraordinary images he helps create, make it clear why he continues to thrive in this demanding and ever-changing field.

**Do you have a job or role in life that has a story to tell? We would love to hear from you: [bathfordbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:bathfordbulletin@gmail.com)**



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# FROM ST. SWITHUN'S

Dear Friends,

As I'm writing, just before Ash Wednesday, people are talking about what they are giving up for Lent... I have just about traversed a Dry January (with a celebratory glass of wine in the middle) so a different kind of focus feels more appropriate. I just preached a sermon about nature being an antidote to worrying, so I'm considering the challenge of giving up worrying for Lent.

Worry is a difficult habit to break for some of us and stopping it would have a positive effect on those around us as well as on our own well-being. As to how to 'not worry', this is my emerging plan for Lent:

To pray every morning before doing anything else, specifically about those things that could cause worry. We will always care about the troubles of our world, our community and our lives but these can be viewed positively if we can entrust them to God.

To 'consider the lilies' – get outside every day and give thanks to practice being present – rather than replaying past missteps or dwelling on the looming to-do list (speaking personally I will need practice).

And...to chat with a neighbour/friend/colleague every day.

Do you have any good antidotes to worrying?

Lent is a great opportunity to relish the gift of life and journey of faith. I hope your Lent is a time of hope, not worry..... please do feel warmly invited to the Lent lunches in the Church on **11** and **25 March** at **11:45**. Soup lunch will be provided, please bring a donation for charity.

With every blessing, *Lauretta*



## Help Shape Our Concerts!

More than 120 musicians from our area have already performed in St Swithun's Church, Bathford, as part of our series of afternoon charity concerts. Together, these events have raised over £8,000 for a range of worthwhile causes. Alongside this month's concert, three more are planned for Autumn 2026.

Attendance is free – and so is the cuppa, the slice of cake (at least one!), and the good chat after the concerts. Donations to the chosen charity are entirely optional, though most people are happy to contribute.

Some of the most popular past performers will be invited back, but we're also keen to cast the net wider. **This is where YOU come in.** If you know of any local musicians – individuals or groups – who might be willing to share their talent for up to 30 minutes in a concert, we'd love to hear from you. **Any age, any style – all are welcome to perform.** There'll be some jazz this month and a male voice choir, with a swing band to follow later in the year.

Suggestions – or offers of help – can be emailed to [maureenbreeze@protonmail.com](mailto:maureenbreeze@protonmail.com).

*Jeremy Furber*

### St Swithun's Church, Bathford

**22 March 2026**

**Concert at 3pm**



followed by  
tea and cake

Retiring collection  
principally in aid of  
The Church Mission  
Society (CMS) and  
Médecins Sans Frontières

#### Bathford Jazz Group

Drawn from in and around Bathford, the group will play a range of jazz standards.



#### Cwm Bath Male Voice Choir

Bath based Anglo-Welsh choir, directed by Nick Breeze. They will be performing an

eclectic range of well known songs.

St Swithun's Charity Action

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# AROUND THE GARDEN

with Kevin Marris

**And for my next innovative idea?** I think I'm going to build an enormous umbrella – one that's big enough to cover the whole garden! Then you'll tell me it has already been done – it's in Cornwall, and it's called the Eden Project. But I think you will admit that the sentiment is well placed.

**From a gardening perspective though, I'm not unduly worried about the rain.** I'm just making sure my pots are not standing in puddles, even putting them under cover, because for plants in pots, the next worst thing after too little water, is too much, especially in winter. They're not growing, so what do they need all that water for? And if it freezes, you might find that the roots are sitting in an ice cube.

**But who can predict the weather even for the next couple of weeks?** It may be glorious sunny weather by the time you read this.

**The snowdrops are out in force now.** It's not surprising really, they were designed to push up through snow, so a bit of wet isn't going to stop them. There are primroses dotted around, and hellebores nodding their heads at me as I pass below them in the drive. And we've uncovered *iris reticulata* by chopping back the rambling roses; I forget them every year and then they surprise me each February. They look quite exotic dressed in their deep purple coats with gold markings.



One of the things I really like about gardening is that you are allowed to talk muck in polite society. And I get to spread it around quite liberally too. **Happy days.**

## BATHEASTON GARDEN GROUP TALK FOR MARCH

**Wed 11 March at 19:30, Bathford Parish Hall**

Dr Francis Burroughes will be giving a talk entitled 'Illegal Immigrants'. Dr Burroughes' talk will tell the fascinating history of how many of the ornamental plants and vegetables we grow today first arrived in Britain. All welcome, talks are free to members, non-members £5.

For information about future events and on becoming a member please visit our website: [www.batheastongardengroup.co.uk](http://www.batheastongardengroup.co.uk)



# REMINISCENCES OF A BATHFORD FAMILY

by Esther Bennett

**It got me thinking. We've lived in this lovely village of Bathford for over 52 years, and in that time we've seen many changes.** But what about the families who have lived and worked here for generations, and the changes they've witnessed? One such family is the **Gay family**, whom I've known for over 50 years. Barry Gay and I met up to talk about his family's history.

**His grandparents, Charlie and Bessie Gay, childhood sweethearts, grew up in Bathford and attended Bathford School in Church Street.** Bessie's family lived in the cottage above the shop on the corner of High Street and Ashley Road while Charlie's family lived in Prospect Place.

**Charlie and Bessie married in Bathford in 1911** and moved to the Channel Islands to work in service. Sadly, due to a 'no children' clause in employment, their son Stanley, born in 1913, had to be sent back to Bathford to live with Bessie's sister.

**Charlie, conscripted into the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry, fought in the First World War but was discharged in 1916.** The couple returned to Bathford in 1921 and worked as butler and housekeeper for the **High Sheriff of Somerset**. Five years later, they moved to Taunton.

**Stanley – Barry's father – grew up and found work at Warleigh Manor for the Skrine family, living in the gatehouse;** he later worked at Bathford Paper Mill, where he met his sweetheart and future wife, Elizabeth (known as Midge). Stanley later became the church organist and served in the Bath Fire Service from 1939 to 1945.



*Stanley and Midge*

**Midge was the daughter of Kitty and Mark Harding, who lived in Yeeles' Cottages on Bathford Hill** and who were the owners of The Crown Inn which burned down in 1906. It was rebuilt as it stands today, with a roof garden and cider vats. Mark Harding, Midge's father, led a colourful life. He enjoyed fishing and rabbiting and was fond of a drink. Rumour has it that he even spent time in the village stocks.

**Stanley and Midge married in Bathford in 1934.** After their wedding they lived in Yeeles' Cottages next to her parents. As their family grew to two children,

they needed more space and moved up the hill to Goldney Cottage, where they had two more children.

**Barry and I talked about the many changes his family must have seen as they grew up and worked in the village.** At one time Bathford had seven pubs, reflecting what must have been a very sociable community. The Star, Smiths Arms, Brewery Inn, Travellers Rest, and Quarrymen Arms had all closed before we arrived in the village, leaving only The Crown and The New Inn – which has become the Village Shop and Café, run as a community co-operative.

**We walked our memories up the hill:** past Gages Dairy, Threshers Bakery, then Church Street with the butchers, the post office, and the 'Lower Stores'. Further up the High Street were the 'Middle Stores' on the corner of Ashley Road, and then the 'Upper Stores', Dolmans, on the High Street- where Barry had a newspaper round in 1960. All now gone.

**Today, The Crown remains, as does the Portals Mill, and we still have a hairdresser.** The only other social spaces are the Rugby Club and the Village Club- and I find myself wondering how long they will survive without the support of the local community.

**So, as a very personal message: please don't let any more places disappear. If you care about them, it really is a case of 'use it or lose it'. Thank you.**

*Esther Bennett and Barry Gay*





Yeeles' Cottages



Threshers Bakery



The Crown



Gages Dairy



The New Inn



Goldney Cottage



The Star Inn

## BATH SAILING CLUB RMS Carpathia

Due to his service commitments Bathford's 'Top Gun' Squadron Leader 'Tris' Le Lohé RAF is now unable to give his talk on his recent exchange tour with the US Navy Electronic Attack Squadron 129 (and how to take off and land on a boat!) and this is being rescheduled for the next 2026/7 winter season of monthly talks. In the meantime, we wish Tristan safe landings wherever he is tasked to fly.

**So, the next and last talk of this season at the Village Club is one rescheduled from December:**

**Monday 9 March 2026** – Paul Barnett: 'Titanic Effort - the story of RMS Carpathia and her dash to save a stricken liner'. This is the lesser-known story of the heroic efforts to reach the sinking Titanic. On April 15, 1912, after the Titanic struck an iceberg and sank on her maiden voyage, the Carpathia arrived only two hours later and rescued 705 survivors from the lifeboats. This illustrated presentation takes us through the drama and revealing facts of the disaster.

Doors and bar are open from 7.15 for 7.45 pm start. £5 entry for non-members.

[davideleho@live.com](mailto:davideleho@live.com).



RMS Carpathia



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**SOLD - £39,000!**

John Craxton (1922-2009) - Fish hawker with basket 1951 tempera on paper



**SOLD - £6,500!**

Vintage early 20th century glass cased model SS Brimsdown ship collier

**SOLD - £8,600!**

1766 Bristol Old Vic silver theatre ticket



**SOLD - £23,000!**

Jean Souverbie (French, 1891-1981) - Allegorical figure oil on canvas



**SOLD - £12,000!**

1688 Paradise Lost - Copy of Charles Killigrew, Master of Revels



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# BATHFORD HISTORY SOCIETY

Becky Hayter: Head, Bathford School: Then and Now

**Becky's talk was utterly absorbing, a glimpse into our Victorian past and a comparison with today. As she said, "teachers, ancient and modern, need stamina, and lots of it".** The times could not be more different. Then you were teaching 60 students by rote in a cold classroom, with multiple health issues and children disappearing to help with the potato harvest, and with frequent discouraging inspections. Children were trained to be obedient and disciplined within a moral framework.

**Now, teaching is positive and enabling;** it goes way beyond the three Rs, in that there is an effort to develop the whole child. As part of the presentation, we heard recordings of children's voices reciting some of the differences and sounding very secure. The classrooms, as we would expect, are warm and uncrowded.

Mixed class



There are still some similar problems. As then, balancing the books is one of them, particularly as schools are paid per pupil and there is a declining birth rate. Then as now, there was community involvement, and Becky encouraged local people to volunteer to help in the School, perhaps by hearing children read or donating resources.

The Old School



We can be proud of the efforts made by the School on our behalf, a story well told by Becky in her excellent presentation.

.....  
Next Talk: Bathford Mill Serves the World

**Mon 30 Mar at 20:00, Bathford Parish Hall (Coffee available from 19:30)**

**Presented by Andy Nash, Managing Director, Portals.** Bathford Mill was recorded in the Domesday book and has moved on from grinding corn to become one of the few very high security paper manufacturers in the world. Today, its full client list remains a closely guarded secret, but over the years it has produced many interesting watermarks and images that can be shown to the general public. In this talk, the speaker will explain some of the history of watermark design and manufacture, demonstrate some of the secure features of a passport book and show examples of the exotic watermarks that have been generated at Portals in recent decades. History will unfold before our eyes!



Bathford School  
Maypole Dancing 1920s



# Avalon Therapies

Welcome to Avalon Therapy Practice  
in Bathford

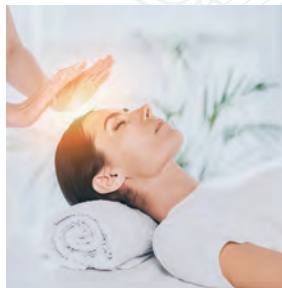
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Penny L, Dec 2025

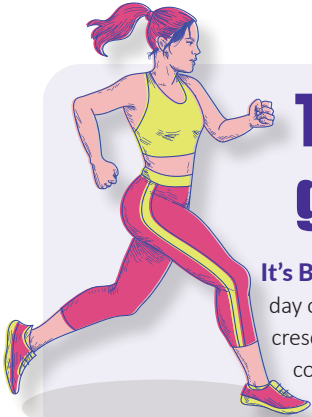
"So happy to have found Jane. I had EFT and Reflexology with her as I was preparing for big work project. Jane tailored the treatment towards my needs. I left feeling grounded, prepared and armed with a lot of tools to take forward. Would definitely recommend her."

Bill G, Jan 2026



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07545 458414 | 8 Westwoods, Box Road, Bathford BA1 7QE



# The Sport-phobe's guide to Running

by Catherine Tait

**It's Bath Half Marathon month!** To some, that means a celebratory day of pushing limits, achieving goals and bouncing around elegant crescents dressed as a bottle of ketchup. But for those of us whose most complimentary school report for P.E. was **'brings the correct kit'**, even getting started with running can feel daunting.

For guidance, I spoke to fellow (self-proclaimed) non-sporty Bathfordian Molly. Like me, Molly found P.E. lessons in school to be **"very competitive and stressful"**, which had put her off.

But it was lockdown that put the spring in her step. **"When everything stopped and we couldn't go anywhere, I really started to enjoy it!"** she explains, saying it gave her **"a good sense of freedom"**.

Now, she runs regularly, with a manageable 30-minute run twice a week. While it's less enjoyable in winter, she says it's a helpful **'stressbuster'** and a good way to explore the outdoors.

## MOLLY'S TIPS FOR STARTING OUT?

**Start small:** The first time she went running, she set the bar low. **"I thought, I'll just go for 10 minutes and see how it goes. If I like it after 10 minutes, I'll just keep running."** With the help of a good playlist, she found she could continue and built from there.

**Warm-ups and stretches:** Warming up before the run can help reduce aches and pains. **"I tend to try and walk a little bit before, and I find that helps if someone's a shy runner"**, she explains, **"but the stretch after is more critical."** Molly recommended a great video to guide post-running stretches – scan the QR code to watch.

**Local routes:** Molly recommends a simple Bathford-Bathampton loop for a 5K run. A trip along the canal path from Bathampton to Bradford-on-Avon also offers a scenic route, while Browne's Folly, though challenging, provides spectacular views.

**Motivation:** For Molly, listening to music helps. Others try a more eccentric approach- her friend uses a **'Zombie app'**, which mimics a zombie apocalypse. When you hear the screaming, start running faster!

**Try an app:** Molly uses **'Run Keeper'** to plan routes and track how fast/far she's run. **"It's very positive – you'll do 50 runs and it will say 'That was your 50th fastest run!'"**, she laughs. The **NHS Couch to 5K** app is also a popular choice for beginners looking to build up their fitness gradually.



SCAN ME

Image: www.freeplk.com



## CALLING ALL BATHFORD BREAD BAKERS – IT'S TIME TO GATHER!

Whether you occasionally bake a simple loaf, are devoted to sourdough, love trying out new bread styles, or prefer the ease of a trusted bread maker, would you be interested in joining a Bathford Bread Bakers Network?

The idea is to share recipes, tips, experiences, favourite recipe books — and of course, to sample each other's bakes! If it sounds like something you'd enjoy, I'd be delighted to hear from you.

Our first get-together will be on **Friday 3 April** (Good Friday) from **10:30 to 11:30** in my kitchen, when we'll be talking all things **hot cross buns** and sharing recipes and tips and hints. If you've made any at home, feel free to bring one along for others to taste.

Let me know you can make it by emailing me at: [maureen@itsabreezebaking.uk](mailto:maureen@itsabreezebaking.uk)

*Maureen Breeze*



## WHAT'S COOKING? BATHFORD MYSTERY MEALS ARE BACK!

Following the success of the past two years, we're delighted to offer another series of **Mystery Meals** this May. You are warmly invited to enjoy these fundraising lunches and supper parties, hosted in private homes within a mile of Bathford Village Shop.

It's excellent value: a three-course meal, including wine, for just **£30 per person**, with every host generously volunteering their culinary skills.

Look out for the insert in this month's **Bulletin** which lists all 14 menus.

Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so please make your first and second choices soon and contact me at [jfurber40@gmail.com](mailto:jfurber40@gmail.com) to secure your booking.

All proceeds will support **Jamie's Farm** and **Dorothy House**, two outstanding local charities making a real difference.

And of course, part of the fun is the mystery: you won't know your host or venue until the morning of your meal. It's a wonderful chance to share a convivial evening with friends, neighbours, or new faces.

*Jeremy Furber*



## Bathford Quilt Group

**Much progress has been made** and we would now like to ask anyone who is embroidering flowers or letters, or who has completed a piece representing village life, to let us have them back in time for our next meeting, which will be on **Tuesday, 3 March at 10:30** in the **Community Rooms**. Everyone is welcome. In the meantime, we will be sewing in the **Village Café** from **14:00 to 16:00 on Monday afternoons**.

*Ruth, Wendy, Heather*

## EASTER BISCUITS by Claire Woodhouse

I remember visiting Nan and Grandad on their farm as a child. Us grandchildren would always head straight to the biscuit tin to see what goodies were waiting for us. At Easter, these biscuits were always there. Nan is in her 90s now and too frail to make them herself, but she has passed the recipe down to the next generations. After years of looking after us, it's now our turn to bake them for her.

PREPARATION TIME | 35 minutes COOKING TIME | 15–20 minutes

INGREDIENTS (makes 24 biscuits)

- 4 oz butter
- 5 oz caster sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 oz currants
- 6 oz plain flour
- 2 oz rice flour
- 2 level teaspoons mixed spice
- 1–2 tablespoons milk

### METHOD

1. Line two or three baking trays with non-stick or buttered greaseproof paper.
2. Cream the butter with a wooden spoon until soft. Add 4 oz of the sugar and beat thoroughly until pale and fluffy.
3. Separate the egg. Beat the egg and extra yolk into the mixture, then stir in the currants.
4. Sift the flours together with the mixed spice. Add to the creamed mixture a little at a time, stirring to combine. Add a little milk if necessary to form a soft but manageable dough.
5. Knead the dough lightly on a floured board, then roll out to 1/8 inch thick.
6. Cut into rounds using a 2½ inch fluted cutter and place on the prepared baking trays.
7. Mark lines about 1/4 inch apart with the back of a knife.
8. Bake just above or in the centre of a pre-heated oven at 350°F (175C, Gas Mark 4) for 10 minutes.
9. Take the biscuits out of the oven and brush with the unbeaten egg white and dredge with the remaining sugar. Return to the oven and continue to bake for a further 5-10 minutes.
10. Remove tray from oven. Leave to cool slightly, then transfer to a wire rack.

Serve while quite fresh — and ideally from a well-loved biscuit tin



## Granny's Recipes!

Most homes have a book full of recipes that have been passed down through the generations that are firm family favourites; it might include a Christmas cake, a treacle sponge pudding or Bonfire Night toffee. All will inspire a sense of nostalgia.

If you have a beloved family recipe with a story to tell, please send it our way — it might just be the next Granny's recipe we share! Please submit recipes and a few accompanying words to [bathfordbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:bathfordbulletin@gmail.com) so we can celebrate and share them with others.



# BATHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## DOTT BIKES AND E-SCOOTERS

Following the arrival of the **Dott bikes and scooters**, we have had a follow-up meeting with Jessica Fox-Taylor, the Team Leader for **Sustainable Transport Active Travel** (BANES Council) to understand more about the extension of the scheme to Bathford.



Jess explained that the scheme has been incredibly successful and that it is still being trialled. Following comments from residents, we asked if other locations could be introduced such as the bike rack area behind the village club which is being considered. We also requested that a cap is put on the number of bikes/scooters that can be stored at each location which was agreed.

If you have ideas for other suggested locations or if you have any comments, please email the Parish Clerk via [clerk@bathford.net](mailto:clerk@bathford.net)

We have asked for data about the number of bikes/scooters being used to help us understand the usage and possible future demand. Following the trial, additional funding can be sought, if required, to fund the painting of permanent lines to help protect pedestrian areas.

For more details, [download the Dott app](#).

## ANNUAL PARISHIONERS' MEETING

Please note, the date of this year's meeting is **Tuesday 5th May 2026** at **Bathford Primary School**

**19:00** for **19:30** start. Beverages will be available.

This meeting is your opportunity to voice your opinion and to review and challenge the Parish Council on its performance over the past twelve months. There will be presentations from guest speakers, followed by a Question & Answer session. Please indicate any local matter that you would like to be covered and we will endeavour to meet your request. Speakers will be announced shortly.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday 17 March 19:00  
Mountain Wood Community Rooms

The public are invited to attend and raise any issues within the first ten minutes.

Contact: [clerk@bathford.net](mailto:clerk@bathford.net) | Tel. 01225 858220

cut out and keep

## VILLAGE DIRECTORY

**Avonvale Rugby Club**  
01225 858295

**BANES**  
01225 394041

**Bathford Cricket Club**  
01225 858007

**Batheaston Medical Centre**  
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**Batheaston Dental Practice**  
01225 859394

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[bathfordbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:bathfordbulletin@gmail.com)

**Bathford Church School**  
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**Parish Hall Bookings**  
<https://bathford.net/local-information/bathford-parish-hall>

**Parish Council**  
01225 858220

**Shockerwick House Nursing Home**  
01225 743636

**St Swithun's Church**  
01225 920050

**Village Club**  
01225 858072

**Village Shop and Café**  
01225 859186

## WHAT'S ON - MARCH 2026

- **Service of Holy Communion**  
Sun 1 Mar | 10:00  
St Swithun's Church
- **Reconnect**  
Sun 1 Mar | 16:30 (for Yr 7),  
17:30 (for Yr 8/9)  
St Swithun's Church
- **Bathford Quilt Group Monthly Meeting**  
Tue 3 Mar | 10:30  
Mountain Wood  
Community Room
- **Wednesday Soup Lunches for Lent**  
Wed 4 Mar | 11:45  
St John's Church, Batheaston
- **Mobile Library Service**  
Wed 4 Mar | 13:00 - 13:45  
Dovers Park by School
- **Bathford Village Choir Practices**  
Thu 5 Mar (and every Thursday)  
20:00 - 21:30  
Bathford Parish Hall
- **BINGO**  
Fri 6 Mar | 19:30  
Village Club
- **Contemporary Service**  
Sun 8 Mar | 10:00  
St Swithun's Church
- **Come and See! Especially for children ages 4-11**  
Sun 8 Mar | 16:00  
St Swithun's Church
- **Bath Sailing Club Talk:**  
Titanic Effort - the Story of  
RMS Carpathia  
Mon 9 Mar | 19:45  
Doors and bar open at 19:15  
Village Club (£5 entry for non-  
members of the Sailing Club)
- **Wednesday Soup Lunches for Lent**  
Wed 11 Mar | 11:45  
St Swithun's Church
- **Batheaston Garden Club Talk:**  
Illegal Immigrants (of the Plant  
and Vegetable Variety)  
Wed 11 Mar | 19:30  
Bathford Parish Hall
- **Bathford Repair Cafe**  
Sat 14 Mar | 09:30 - 12:00  
Bathford Parish Hall
- **Live Music:** Andrea  
Sat 14 Mar | 20:30  
Village Club
- **Service of Holy Communion**  
Sun 15 Mar | 10:00  
St Swithun's Church
- **Bath Half Marathon**  
Sun 15 Mar | From 10:30  
Starts in Great Pulteney Street,  
finishes in Victoria Park
- **Wednesday Soup Lunches for Lent**  
Wed 18 Mar | 11:45  
Rhymes Pavillion, Batheaston
- **Mobile Library Service**  
Wed 18 Mar | 13:00 - 13:45  
Dovers Park by School
- **Shockerwick House Coffee Morning**  
Thu 19 Mar | 10:30 - 12:30  
Shockerwick House
- **Raya's Thai Street Food Pop-Up Takeaway**  
Fri 20 Mar | 17:00 onwards  
Village Club Car Park
- **Ceilidh**  
Sat 21 Mar | 19:00  
Bathford Church School
- **Welcome Church**  
Sun 22 Mar | 10:00  
St Swithun's Church
- **Music on a Sunday Afternoon**  
Sun 22 Mar | 15:00  
St Swithun's Church  
(Please note that Evening  
Prayer for this month has  
been cancelled)
- **Film Club:** Radioactive  
Mon 23 Mar | 14:00  
St Swithun's Church
- **Wednesday Soup Lunches for Lent**  
Wed 25 Mar | 11:45  
St Swithun's Church
- **Bathford Church School Easter Service**  
Thu 26 Mar | 09:30  
St Swithun's Church
- **Jazzford**  
Fri 27 Mar | 20:00  
Village Club
- **Live Music:** Just Frank  
Sat 28 Mar | 20:30  
Village Club
- **Friends of Bathford School Easter Scavenger Hunt** (see  
Page 9)  
Sat 28 Mar until Sun 12 Apr  
Multiple Missions Across Bath  
and surrounding area
- **Palm Sunday:** Joint Service of  
Holy Communion  
Sun 29 Mar | 10:00  
St John's Church, Batheaston  
(Note no service at St Swithun's)
- **Bathford History Society Talk:**  
Bathford Mill Serves the World  
Mon 30 Mar | 20:00  
Coffee available from 19:30  
Bathford Parish Hall
- **Holy Week Evening Prayer**  
Tue 31 Mar | 19:30  
St Swithun's Church

## FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Bathford Bread Bakers Network**  
Fri 3 Apr | 10:30 - 11:30  
Private kitchen, Bathford
- **Bathford Repair Cafe**  
Sat 11 Apr | 09:30 - 12:00  
Bathford Parish Hall
- **Quiz Night - Bathford Events**  
Sat 25 Apr | 19:00  
Bathford Parish Hall
- **Bathford Mystery Meals (see flyer)**  
14 events throughout May  
(See page 28 and separate flyer)
- **Annual Parishioners' Meeting**  
Tue 5 May | 19:00  
Bathford Church School
- **Bathford Repair Cafe**  
Sat 9 May | 09:30 - 12:00  
Bathford Parish Hall
- **BEFA Big Birthday Bash**  
Sat 16 May  
Village Shop
- **Nearly New Sale**  
Sat 31 May | 12:00 - 16:00  
Bathford Parish Hall
- **St Swithun's Charity Quiz**  
Fri 19 June | 19:30  
Bathford Parish Hall
- **Follyfest**  
Sat 4 July | 12:00 - 21:00  
Folly Field, Recreation Ground

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