

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 5 May
at 19:30
Bathford School



Your chance to
influence aspects
of Parish life
details page 26

Bathford Bulletin

HEDGEHOG AWARENESS
WEEK page 19



THE JOURNEY CONTINUES:
FROM DURHAM TO TOKYO
page 21

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WARLEIGH

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Maureen Breeze – Editor
Viv Calderbank – Creative
Adrian Raybould – Editorial
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

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 if you are interested or would like to know more.

JUNE ISSUE COPY DEADLINE

Contributions and advertisements are welcome, up to but **no later than 13 May** via: 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.

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WELCOME TO OUR MAY EDITION, TO WARM WEATHER AND SMILES ON FACES.

The past month was notable for the concerns raised, not only in world events, but also closer to home. In our last issue, Sue Moore posted a candid view for the **Village Shop and Café** and the need for the community to understand the quite parlous position it faces without more support at many levels. It is heartwarming to say that there was a significant response to her appeal and positive moves are afoot. Sue will devote an article in a forthcoming issue to update the situation and no doubt thank the community for the response.

Our cover this month brings your attention to the **Annual Parish Meeting** being held on **Tuesday 5 May** at **Bathford School**. It's your opportunity to discuss local issues, listen to and question the guest speakers and to hold the Council to account. **Please don't miss this opportunity.** The agenda is on **page 26**.

Spring is in the air, and Isobel Lawes has offered her recommendations for books to read on **page 14**. Meanwhile our own 'Springwatch' focuses on dearly loved nocturnal visitors who are at risk of extinction – and how you can help them. **Go to page 19**.

We follow the continuation of **Sephy Priston's** journey through Durham University to a new adventurous phase that takes her to the Orient in our **Bulle-Teen + article on page 21**.

Food Glorious Food! A spread of culinary delights awaits you on **pages 22/23**.

And how good it is to see the return of the **Festival of Motoring**. Two free family tickets are available to applicants who will be randomly selected from applicants to bathfordbulletin@gmail.com. **See page 24**.

Enjoy your Spring!

The 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!

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ST SWITHUN'S FILM CLUB

Please join us on **Monday 25 May** at
14.00 at **St. Swithun's Church, Bathford**
for a screening of **SONG FOR MARION**
(with subtitles)

Starring Vanessa Redgrave,
Terence Stamp,
Gemma Arterton, and
Christopher Eccleston.

A heartwarming story
about living life to the
full, with a dazzling
all-star cast. Grumpy pensioner
Arthur is reluctantly persuaded by his
beloved wife Marion to join her highly
unconventional local choir.

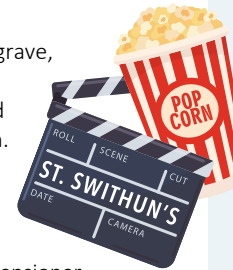
When his relationship breaks down with
his son James, it is left to colourful choir
director Elizabeth to try and persuade
Arthur it's never too late to embrace life.

On the passing of Marion, he embarks
on a life-affirming journey of musical self-
discovery. Hilarious, joyous, yet poignant,
it is impossible not to be moved to both
laughter, and tears.

Please stay after the film to enjoy
complimentary tea and cake.

Suggested donation £3.

For all enquiries, please contact
keithmilner5@yahoo.co.uk



Welcome to May, with its
longer evenings, a glimpse
of the sun and everything
blooming, what more can
we ask for? Come and join
us for some great events.
We always say that you don't
have to be a member to use the Club – you would
be made very welcome.

THE VILLAGE
CLUB
Bathford

SUNDAY 3 MAY 13:00 – MAY DAY DRAW AND PLOUGHMANS LUNCH

Roll up, roll up for your chance of winning some
fabulous prizes for a 25p stake – tickets are currently
on sale in the bar and will continue on the day- 4
for £1 – some great prizes up for grabs – wine,
chocolates, spirits. We are also offering a 2 course
lunch – ham/cheese ploughmans for £10; this is
proving very popular so please reserve your plan at
the bar.

FRIDAY 8 MAY 19:30 - BINGO

Always such a fabulous night with a lovely
atmosphere. At least 12 chances of winning as you
can play for 6 lines and 6 full houses for £5 – yes
just £5!

SATURDAY NIGHT – LIVE MUSIC – 20:30 TO 23:30

Sat 9 May – Lavinia returns, covering some well
known classics from across the decades – an
excellent female singer.

Sat 23 May – Ryan Turner is back – a hugely popular
male keyboard vocalist – guaranteed to entertain.

FRIDAY 15 MAY - THAI POP-UP RESTAURANT IN THE CAR PARK (3RD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH)

Remember to order early as this is extremely
popular and always sells out – the Club will be open
where you can if you wish, eat and enjoy a beverage
or two.

FRIDAY 22 MAY 19:30 - JAZZFORD

Always an enjoyable evening of live Jazz by our house
band and then by those that choose to Jam. If you
play, come along and have a listen and join in when
comfortable and for those that don't play, just come
along and enjoy some beautifully played music.

As always please keep your eyes on our Facebook page.



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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
Brimdown
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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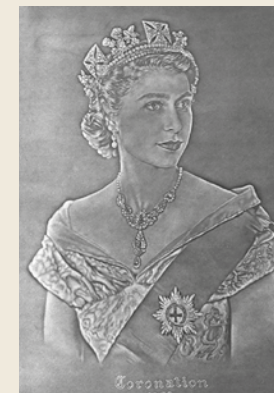


BATHFORD SOCIETY

Review: Andy Nash, former Managing Director, Portals: Bathford Mill
serves the world - interesting artefacts from down the hill

Andy, recently retired MD of Portals on Bathford Hill, gave a talk to a packed hall, and held the audience spellbound. The talk was about security printing artefacts which had been collected over the years. A good collection of memorabilia was passed around the audience, including a very heavy brass plate of **Abraham Lincoln** used in commemorative paper, plus an **ultraviolet torch** to analyse passport paper which it is apparently impossible to counterfeit. The watermarks are part of the structure of the paper, and the fibres in the paper glow different colours under ultraviolet light, of which the red glow is the most expensive.

Andy finished by asking us to identify different watermark portraits from all round the world. We of course all recognised **the Queen** but had some difficulty with **Mohammed V** of Morocco. The designs used to be done the hard way, with artists and craftsmen chipping and cutting, but it is of course all done now by computer. The ingenuity in designing high security paper is breathtaking and it is no surprise that there are a very limited number of factories in the world operating in this business. Portals' business takes it round the globe, confirming our deep understanding that **Bathford is truly the centre of the universe!**



Watermark of Queen Elizabeth II

Peter Martin

Bathford Repair Cafe

The Bathford Repair Cafe is held in Bathford Parish Hall, Church Street, Bathford, BA1 7RS, on the second Saturday of each month between 09:30 and 12:00. The dates of our upcoming sessions are:

Saturday 9 May | Saturday 13 June | Saturday 11 July

Common repairs include small wooden, mechanical, electrical and electronic items, garden tools and equipment, toys, clothes & textiles. We also offer a sharpening service (max two items per user) suitable for kitchen knives, woodworking tools, garden tools and mower blades.

If you have a sewing machine and would like to develop your skills beyond the basics, our friendly and knowledgeable tutors will be on hand to guide you.

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



Martin Hobbs, Repair Cafe Lead

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**HELLO FROM
SHOCKERWICK HOUSE**

We hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Easter – we certainly did here at Shockerwick House.

Spring has brought fresh energy to the home and April was especially exciting as we enjoyed our first visit to **Jamie's Farm**, located right on our driveway.

Residents have loved watching the seasonal changes unfold, especially the arrival of newborn lambs. Many have been taking gentle walks to the nearby field to see the lambs playing together and to enjoy the peaceful countryside around us.



We are also busy preparing for our **Summer Fete on Saturday 8 August**, which is always a highlight for our residents and the local community. We welcome anyone who would like to host a stall at the event. If you're interested, please contact Laura.bright@bupa.com.

Our monthly coffee mornings and weekly community activities are continuing, and everyone is warmly invited to join us. Our next coffee morning will be held on **Thursday 21 May**, and we would be delighted to see you there.

With the lovely weather, everyone is welcome to bring a picnic, enjoy our grounds, and take a moment to appreciate how lucky we are to live in such beautiful surroundings.

Laura Bright

**FROM ST.
SWITHUN'S**

Dear Friends,

Do you enjoy 'Desert Island Discs'? I find it a fascinating window on another world and sometimes the guest shares something that stays with me a long time.... one such snippet was the university professor of neuroscience, when explaining his selected discs said that music was his **'drug of choice'**- he said he used music to settle him, to comfort him, to energise and inspire him.

So I wonder if that might help you and I to explore music that settles, comforts, energises or inspires us? You may possess great musical talent yourself, in which case this will probably be quite a task as you flick through the hundreds of possibilities, or you may be much less conversant with music beyond what you hear on the radio. Either way, I invite you to the challenge of finding at least **4 tracks** and if you wish **submitting them to me (via our Administrator Becky administrator@stswithunsbathford.co.uk)** so that we could have our own **'Desert Island Tracks'** in church in the late summer, I hope **Monday 24 August at 19:30 in St Swithun's** will suit, I will bring us a glass of something summery to enjoy with the music.

None of the tracks need be 'religious' (though of course they might be) - Jesus talked about **'life in all its fullness'** which surely includes the beauty of music – certainly for me there's something heavenly about Otis Redding's 'Sitting on the dock of the Bay'! I look forward to hearing from you.

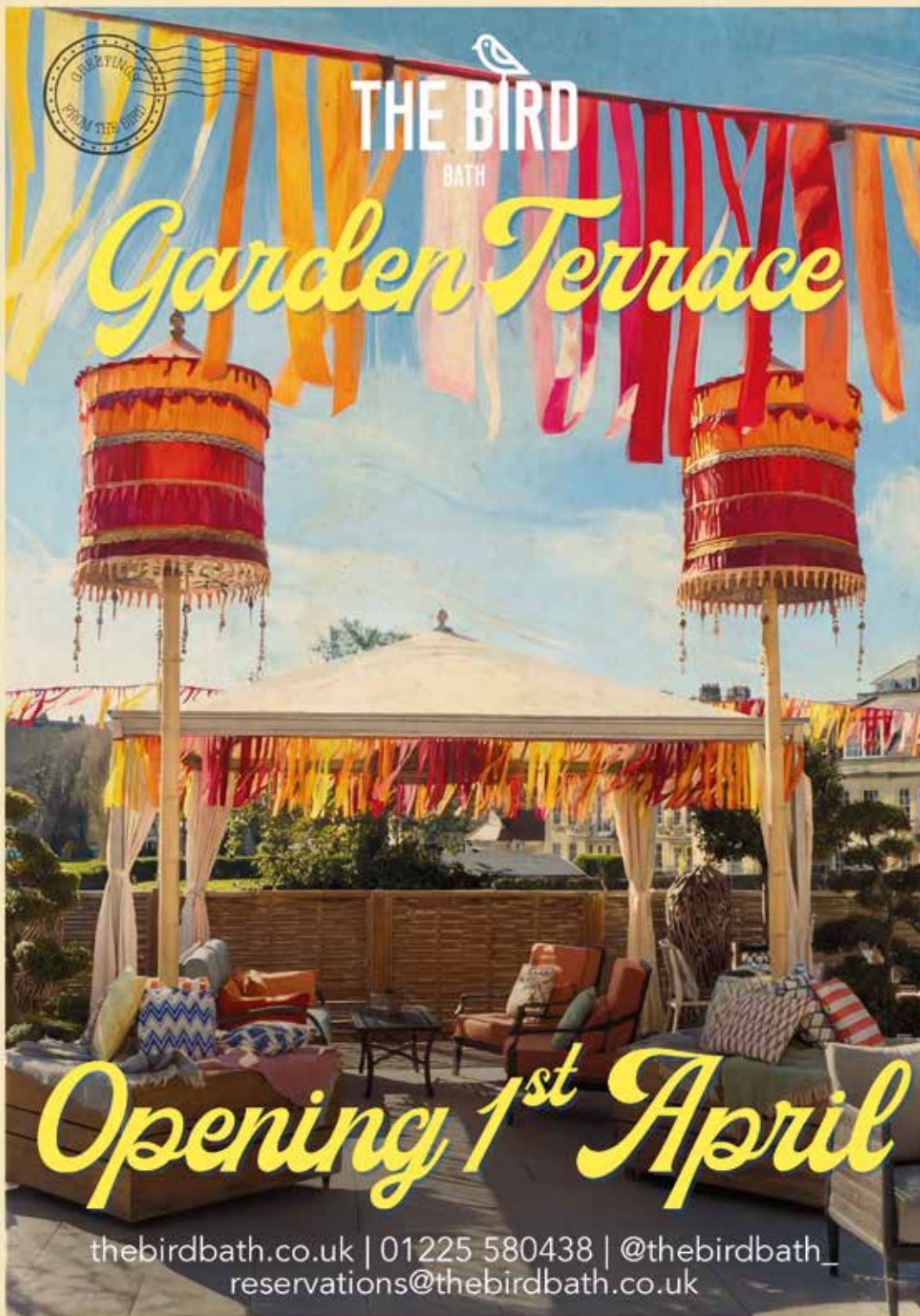
With prayers for fullness of life,

Lauretta

**Bathford Twinning Association
SAVE THE DATES!**



We are pleased to confirm the dates of the next visit to Bathford from Artannes will be between **Saturday 17 and Wednesday 21 October 2026**. The French have around 35 people interested in the visit and we will need extra hosts this year. It is always great fun with a programme of activity organised by the Twinning Association. If you are able to offer accommodation for a single person, a couple, or a family - or have any questions- please let us know. Contact: bathfordtwinningassociation@gmail.com or phone **01225 852444**.



NEW IN-HOME TRAINING for those with Neuro Conditions



Helen Pettemerides (of Pettemerides Personal Training) has set up **Neuro PT @ home** to enable those with neurological conditions to benefit from exercise in the comfort of their own homes. Helen and her colleague Andrea are both qualified to provide exercise plans for clients with long term neurological conditions and they both have experience in helping those with Parkinson's, MS, or people recovering from a stroke.


Helen and Andrea can devise a set of exercises to help manage the symptoms of the individual's condition. The exercises can improve balance, strength and mobility, which in turn will increase function for everyday activities and tasks.

"For some people, especially those with neurological conditions, it is difficult and sometimes not practical to travel to the gym" says Helen. "Others find it more comfortable to be in a familiar environment whilst doing their exercises" she added.

Neuro PT @ home will bring all the necessary exercise kit with them (balls, bands, step block, etc.) to make each session fun and varied, whilst focusing on the needs and goals of the client.

Neuro PT @ home is more than happy to discuss your requirements free of charge, and also offer a free consultation. For more information or to book a consultation please call Helen on **07779 572761** or email hpettemerides@gmail.com, or visit the website www.neuroptathome.co.uk






*"Home based personal training
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- Build Strength and Endurance
- Improve Balance and Mobility
- Reduce Falls
- Manage the Symptoms of Your Condition



Please call or email Helen for more information or a **FREE CONSULTATION**
t.07779572761 e.hpettemerides@gmail.com

BATHFORD VILLAGE SHOP & CAFÉ

We are delighted to say that ice cream season is nearly here! Our freezers are now fully stocked, ready for you to enjoy a refreshing treat as spring turns into summer. Whether it's a quick indulgence on a sunny walk or something to take home and share, we've got you covered.



A big thank you to everyone who took part in our Easter Cake Weight Guessing Game – it proved to be incredibly popular, with an amazing **87 entries!** We're pleased to congratulate our winner, **Sue Stoward**, who was one of three people to correctly guess the cake's weight at 1.80kg or 4lbs. Well done, Sue!



AND SPEAKING OF CELEBRATIONS, please save the date:

Saturday 16 May, 11:00-14:00 at the Shop:

20th Anniversary Birthday Bash!

We're planning a wonderful community birthday party; we'll be cutting a cake with special guests and unveiling a new bench in memory of our late landlord, Iqbal Suleman at 11:00, followed by local wine, cheese and ice cream tasting, takeaway food including burgers as well as crepes produced by Bathford Twinning Association, and live music from the Bathford Jazz Trio, and our local Village Choir.

It promises to be a fantastic occasion, and we would truly love you to be part of it- come and join in. This milestone belongs to the whole community – **you are the reason the shop exists and continues to thrive.**



Finally, a reminder that the BEFA AGM will take place on: Tuesday 26 May, 19:00 for 19:30 start at the Village Club.

All BEFA members are warmly invited to attend. If you're not yet a member, you can pick up a sign-up form in the shop – it's a great way to support and be involved in sustaining your village shop for the future. **We look forward to seeing you soon!**

“

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Brian, 92, Client

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SPRING READING

Enjoy meeting these characters, full of ambitious dreams, whose lives are packed with unexpected events and decisions.

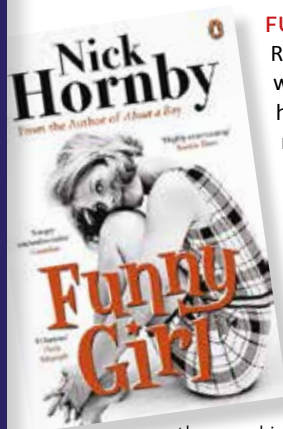
STILL LIFE by Sarah Winman (2021)

The novel opens in 1944 in war-torn Italy, when Ulysses, a young British soldier meets Evelyn, an art historian in her sixties, a chance encounter which changes his life. The action, spanning almost eight decades, moves between London and Florence, establishing friendships, love affairs and lasting connections between the characters whom Winman portrays with boundless imagination and affection - including Alys, the Kid and Claude, the parrot. It's a book filled with unusual beauty to sustain and delight you.



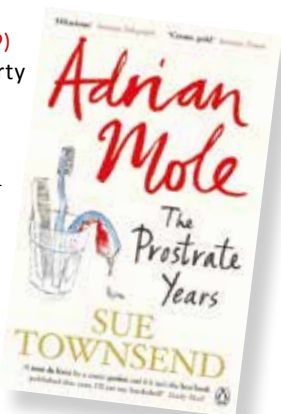
FUNNY GIRL by Nick Hornby (2014)

Reluctant beauty queen, Barbara Parker, not content with being chosen as Miss Blackpool 1964, leaves home for London and lands a leading role in a new TV comedy series. As actress Sophie Straw she joins a dream team. With two clever writers, a sympathetic producer, and two attractive stars, the story of 'Barbara (and Jim)' becomes an enduring nationwide success, until real life relationships start to affect the screen drama. Hornby celebrates the vital job of making people laugh, satirising pompous intellectual diehards and asserting the true worth of popular entertainment: 'there are worse things to aim at than making people happy.'



THE PROSTRATE YEARS by Sue Townsend (2009)

In this volume of his diary, Adrian Mole reaches forty and faces the dread verdict of a cancer diagnosis. Yet the deliberate misspelling of 'prostate' in the title confirms Sue Townsend's fearlessly comic approach to the catastrophes in the daily life of her protagonist. Still unrecognised as an intellectual, still aching for Pandora Braithwaite BA MA PhD MP (Junior Minister in the FO), Adrian struggles now with a failing marriage, his obstreperous parents, a son fighting in Afghanistan, as well as the symptoms and treatment of his illness. Most scenes are riotously funny and whilst Adrian's plight is sensitively presented, neither he nor the reader is allowed to wallow for long: 'I gave way to tears and cried for two minutes and thirty seconds.'



BATHFORD UNFUN RUN

May sees the return of Bathford's hugely popular Unfun Run. The one mile route will once again start at the Crown, go through the village, into the woods and then end at our glorious Browne's Folly (see map for details). Rumoured to be the toughest race in the south-west, all proceeds from the event go to the Friends of Bathford School charity.

Sunday 17 May, 14:00

The Crown Inn, Bathford

Please join others in the village for a brilliant afternoon running, walking, cheering, or just enjoying the afterparty. As with last year there will be a finish-line party, and a kids race from 14:00 at the Folly, then an afterparty at the Crown.

Many thanks to our kind sponsors, Bathford's very own Proteus Health Management, who will be leading the warm-up and providing prizes.

To sign up, find out more or donate, please scan the QR code.



LINK AGM and Lunch



This year we are combining our AGM with lunch at the Village Club.

Wednesday 13 May at 12:00

You are invited to join us to hear about this valuable village service and offer your suggestions.

To book your place, please contact us on 07434 795217

The cost of the lunch is £12.50 except for volunteers, past and present, who don't have to pay.

The Bathford Quilt

This month our theme was hot air balloons. Some lovely ones have been produced and Wendy also showed her work in progress on Sally in the Wood. Catherine brought her finished depiction of the lockup.

Wendy also reported that Shockerwick House has got a small group together to make flowers. Even the church secretary has been enthused to create a cross-stitch piece. We will meet again on 5 May at 11:00 in the Community Room, Mountain Wood. Sewers welcome. Please bring along any finished work.

Heather Gillard 07810 867155

Wendy Freebourne 07814 016962

Ruth Holding 07966 507922

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AROUND THE GARDEN

with Kevin Marris

There's so much going on in the garden just now that I can hardly keep track of it all, and I certainly can't keep making notes. But I can talk about impressions.

With the weather being so variable I can be out there scraping away in a border one minute and then in the greenhouse taking shelter the next. And I'm left with the impression that both have their rewards.

By the way, 'scraping away' means perhaps doing some weeding between the rows of onions, shallots and garlic (you did remember to put them in from February onwards, didn't you?). Then the robin, whose territory I am looking after, comes down to inspect. And I stand there, amazed at what it can actually see to peck at, because I can't see a thing. And I stand a bit longer when I hear its song; is it saying "Thank you very much", or "Please Sir, I want some more"

And another 'by the way'; did you see the advice that we should stop putting feed out in our bird feeders during the summer months because of the risk of disease. Well, I'm sure my scratching around in the soil is a way of helping out by exposing more of the things I can't see, but the birds can.

Then a change in the weather, and back into the greenhouse, where I'm impressed by the miracle of all the seedlings that are coming up. But now I'm worrying about when and how to prick them out to pot on, and worst of all – did I label them correctly? Because I'm not very good at practising what I preach!



BATHEASTON GARDEN GROUP PLANT SALE

Saturday 16 May 14:00 to 17:00 at Meadowfest.

Batheaston Garden Group will have a plant stall selling a range of ornamental plants grown by members.

The Meadowfest raises funds for Batheaston Primary School and is held at Mike's Meadow, Northend, Batheaston.

www.batheastongardengroup.co.uk





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HEDGEHOG AWARENESS WEEK 3-9 MAY



Bathford has many prickly nocturnal visitors whether you've seen them or not! They are classed as vulnerable to risk of extinction with a decline of about 95% since the 1950s although urban hedgehog numbers have stabilised possibly due to human help.

They eat beetles, caterpillars and earthworms, though sadly for gardeners, few slugs and snails; but providing supplementary food in Spring helps them gain weight post-hibernation and before having hoglets in June/July - some having another litter in September/October. You can buy special hedgehog food to put out in a shallow dish or even use dog or cat biscuits, as long as meat is the first ingredient listed (not fish) with a shallow dish of water also. Do NOT feed them bread or milk as they are lactose intolerant and bread is of no nutritional value. For protection from predators and bad weather you can buy cat proof hedgehog feeding stations or even make your own.

You can also help by making gardens more accessible by having a 'hedgehog highway' which are holes in the fence base of about 13cms square so that they can get in and out as they can travel up to 2 miles each night visiting different gardens. Don't use slug pellets which can be toxic and check bonfires before lighting and before strimming long grass as there may be a sleeping hedgehog.

If you find a hedgehog injured, unsteady on its feet or lethargic, pick it up with gloves, take it indoors and put it in a cardboard box with a towel and food and water. Then call for advice from Corsham Area Hedgehog Rescue on 07813 512755 or Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital on 07850 778752. Hedgehogs may sometimes be seen in the daytime especially in spring when they are building nests or feeding young so if it looks well just keep an eye on it.

Finally, if you want to watch your hedgepigs you can invest in an infra-red wildlife camera; some are as little as £25, and in the morning, you get to see what they got up to when you were asleep!

There is a wealth of further information at the **British Hedgehog Preservation Society:**
www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk

Brigitte Morley

Photo: freepik.com





THE JOURNEY CONTINUES: FROM DURHAM TO TOKYO

Bathford resident Sephy Priston fills us in on her latest news as we track her time as a student.

Some of you might remember my previous article, talking about my time in Durham University studying Japanese. My latest update is exciting as I will be spending a year studying alongside Japanese students at the International Christian University, in Mitaka City in Tokyo.

Many university students have the option to add an extra year to their course and to spend a year studying abroad. For a language student, this is mandatory, so my 13 classmates and I will all be sent to various universities throughout Japan to study the language intensely, with the simple goal of returning to England fluent. While I'm there, I will be excited to make international friends and explore everything Tokyo has to offer.

This year at Durham I have been networking with important people such as the Consulate General of Japan in Edinburgh, and the Japanese minister for diplomacy and media, who have given me some amazing insights into working in Japan. To the Bulleteen+ readers, especially to my fellow linguists, who are no doubt concerned by AI and their future employment, I can't overstate the importance of seizing any and all opportunities that present themselves to you as we grow up in a rapidly changing world. Human connection is truly our future- I'm thrilled to have the chance to travel around the world to find more of it.

Sephy Priston

Jigsaws

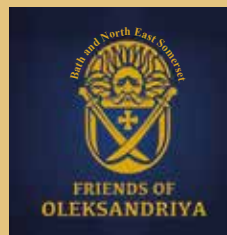
I love a good jigsaw. It's a different side of me. I'm a social person. I play drums, run the Jazzford Jazz club, I'm involved with St. Swithun's Church, and I will chat to anybody. But when it comes to jigsaws, I like to do them as a solitary pursuit. I have a jigsaw mat, a set of sorting trays and a special light. Unlike my general spontaneity, I am methodical and usually have a well-planned strategy for each puzzle. For me, it's not the result, I don't even mind if there's a piece missing, it's the joy of the challenge and the process.

I learned recently that each time you correctly place a puzzle piece you receive a little dopamine hit- a dash of happiness and achievement! I admit that I can get a little over absorbed and time has flown into hours. The difficult ones are my favourites, 1000 pieces and not too easy a picture.

Our wonderful Village Shop has a very good library of jigsaws which are free to borrow.

Mark Dixon

Celebrate Ukrainian artistry and support vital humanitarian aid by going along to a unique musical fundraising concert at the Wiltshire Music Centre, hosted by The Friends of Oleksandriya.



Sunday 17 May from 15:00 -17:30

Details: <https://www.friendsofo.co.uk/event-details/ukraine-within-and-beyond>

Through featuring five independent films and performances by a piano quintet, **Ukraine: Within and Beyond** will spotlight the strength of Ukraine and the power of its people.

'*Lost Youth*' explores the invisible wounds of war and displacement, honouring the memory of Anastasia Porokhnya, a 17-year-old girl killed by Russian cluster munitions in 2022.

'*Adamchyk*' is a short documentary in memory of Bathford's Zhenya Shkil's relatives in Zaporizhzhia: a poignant tribute to their lives and to all civilians still at risk.

Bathford Events Fundraiser NEARLY NEW SALE 2026



30 MAY 12.00 - 15.00
Bathford Parish Hall
CLOTHES | BRIC A BRAC
TEA, COFFEE AND CAKE

Please donate

Items can be dropped off on
Friday 29th from 6pm to 8pm
or from 10.30am on the day.

Saleable items only, no electronics please.

Tickets on sale from
26th May at Village Shop

All proceeds to:
Alzheimer's Society
Bath City Pastors
Dorothy House

QUIZ NIGHT

BATHFORD PARISH HALL
FRIDAY, 19TH JUNE
AT 7.30PM

Great Prizes!
RAFFLE

Tables of 6 or
just come
along and join
in!

Tickets: £13.00
to include snacks &
2 course supper
Bar

For further information, call Liz: 07846 851657
Charity Action at St Swithun's





A Delightful dessert

GREAT SUNDAY ROASTS

Check out Chequers by Claire Woodhouse

The mission to try all the Sunday roast lunch spots continues, and Chequers in River Street, Bath is definitely up there in my top ten. We went at the end of November for a Sunday roast, and it really does live up to the hype. It's got that cosy restaurant feel, not just your standard 'roast place'.

The food was genuinely very good. One of us had the pork belly and the other two had beef; both were great quality and really flavoursome. The roast potatoes were crispy, Yorkshire puddings were decent, and the veg was cooked really well. The cauliflower cheese was lovely and cheesy, and the gravy was rich and full of flavour, which really made the whole plate.

Dessert was a highlight too, the crême brûlée was honestly to die for, perfectly set with that proper crisp top.

It was busy, but staff were friendly and everything ran smoothly. It was also a bit dark for reading the menu, but I think that says more about my age than anything else.

I can't comment on the veggie options this time as we didn't have a vegetarian with us.

It's not the cheapest roast, but you can tell why. Overall, really solid and definitely somewhere I'd go back to or recommend in Bath. They're that confident you'll enjoy yourselves that they sell themselves as 'Bath's Best Sunday Roast'! Website: www.chequers.net

If you have any recommendations for pubs or restaurants creating 'Great Sunday Roasts,' please contact us at bathfordbulletin@gmail.com

BATHFORD BREAD BAKERS NETWORK

Half a dozen of us gathered around the kitchen table on Good Friday to discuss the art of making hot cross buns. We tasted and compared several baked by ourselves- sourdough buns, a bread maker version, saffron-infused dough, ones with dried mulberries, and even a batch enriched with crême fraiche!

It was fascinating to share methods and ingredients along with a general chat about our bread making experiences, from the use of bread makers to a Japanese technique.

Our next get-together will be on **Monday 11 May 19:00-20:00**, when we'll be delving into the world of **sourdough**. If you'd like to join us, please email maureen@itsabreezebaking.uk so we know to expect you.



Samples of the bakers' hot cross buns

ALDA'S PASTA

by Jenny Matthews

My Dad, an industrial chemist at ICI in Billingham, worked in the 1950s with a man called Robert. Robert had been part of the Allied forces fighting up through Italy in 1943/44 and had become close to a local girl, Alda. He promised when the war ended, he'd come back and find her – he did, and they married. My parent's friendship with Robert and Alda has been immortalised in a recipe given to my mum Marion by Alda. Our family still cooks this often, particularly for large get-togethers.

INGREDIENTS (enough for 8/10)

An all-in-one dish that will keep in a low oven for family arriving at an uncertain time.

- 1 cup (about) cooking oil
- 500g minced beef, 2 beef stock cubes
- 500g grated carrots
- 500g finely chopped onions, black pepper
- 3-4 cloves of garlic, crushed.
- 250g sliced mushrooms
- A large tin of sweet corn
- 1 tin chopped tomatoes
- 250g tagliatelle pasta
- About 1 litre white sauce, seasoned
- Parmesan cheese, grated
- Large handful of chopped parsley

Cook the beef, carrots, onions, garlic and mushrooms together in the oil (until beef is all brown).

Add tomatoes, parsley, stock cubes, corn and black pepper. Bring to a boil. Meat sauce is now ready (will keep for a day or two at this stage).

Cook pasta in lots of salty water (check time on packet), drain and put into a very large casserole or two smaller ones.

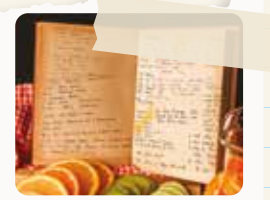
Stir in the parsley to the meat mixture and mix half of it with the pasta, then pour the other half on top (leave some space on the top for the white sauce). Sprinkle over half of the Parmesan.

Make the white sauce and pour over. Sprinkle the rest of Parmesan on top. (There must still be at least 2 cm clearance in the dish for bubbling up).

Cook in a hot oven for 1 hour. It can be kept at a low temp after that for 1-2 hrs for late guests, or can be all made the day before and heated. Very versatile!

Serve with a large green salad.

NOTE Quantities don't have to be exact. The meat sauce should be moist but not runny. Oven temp not critical – top should be nice and brown. The whole thing can be made the day before. Excellent reheated. Freezes well.



Family 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 Family recipe we share! Please submit recipes and a few accompanying words to bathfordbulletin@gmail.com so we can celebrate and share them with others.



Marion, Jenny and Amy



BATH'S CLASSIC CAR SHOW IS BACK THIS YEAR



The Bath Festival of Motoring and Music returns on the last weekend in June, promising an exciting day out for enthusiasts and families alike.

Taking place on **Saturday and Sunday 27/28 June**, the event will feature hundreds of remarkable vehicles spanning a century of motoring history, from classic to modern supercars. The festival is held on the fields at Walcot Rugby Club, opposite Lansdown Park and Ride.

The Rotary Club of Bath is organising the festival, with support from Bath Recreation Ltd. All proceeds will be donated to local charities, with the main beneficiaries being Bath and Wiltshire Air Ambulance, Freewheelers Blood Bikes, and Glasshouse Academy- all supporting vital services for the community.

Rod Davies from the Rotary Club, shared his excitement about the event's return: *"We are delighted to be back, bigger and better than ever after a year's break. The festival will have something for everyone, young and old, petrol-head, electric car enthusiast, nostalgia buff or supercar fan. It will be a great day out for the whole family."*

Visitors can look forward to getting up close and personal with a wide range of vehicles, from cutting-edge supercars to classic vehicles from every decade dating back to the mid-20th century. The show will also feature a range of iconic motorbikes- British and international, offering something for all motoring enthusiasts.

This year's show will boast even more live music performances from a range of local bands and musical groups throughout the weekend. A wide selection of local refreshment stalls will be available to enjoy, and a variety of fascinating exhibitor stands to browse. Free parking is provided on site.

Tickets are available online via the Bath Festival of Motoring and Music 2026 website:

bathfestivalofmotoring.com

Two Family tickets to the Festival are available to applicants drawn randomly who apply via bathfordbulletin@gmail.com



Bathford Bulletin Reader Survey – Key Findings

One of our editors, Maureen Breeze, dipped into the results of our recent survey to pick out feedback that will help the Editorial Group steer the Bulletin over the next year or two.

Thank you to everyone who took part in our recent reader survey – we received 56 responses. It is pleasing to say that the feedback shows how much the Bulletin is valued across the Parish and that it reflects the Parish well.

Most replies came from readers aged over 50 although 15% came from households aged between 26–50, including families. As we analyse and use the information gained, without minimising the richness of the findings, we bear in mind that the age profile of the respondents doesn't necessarily reflect the demographic of our Parish, but perhaps more closely the current readership.

From the responses it was good to see that almost everyone reads the Bulletin every month. Many read it thoroughly, while others read selectively. One respondent summed it up by saying: *"I enjoy ALL of it. A good way to keep up to date with things taking place"*.

We currently produce the Bulletin ten times a year. This frequency remains the clear favourite and we will try our best to sustain it.

The current most popular regular features are items about: Village Shop | Bathford Society | Around the Garden | Parish Council | What's On | Features on local residents.

From the Editorial Team's point of view, it was interesting to find out what readers want more of. Common requests included:

- Local history (families, buildings, old photos)
- Local sports (rugby and cricket results, club updates)
- Profiles of residents
- A greater range of gardening related articles and allotment news
- More advance notice of events and follow-ups afterwards
- An interest in Bathford School and youth activities
- Wellbeing and support for the elderly

Others gave suggestions such as:

- Fascinating trips that members of the village do that might inspire others
- Health & fitness
- Interviews with Bathford schoolchildren about their activities, likes/dislikes, pets
- Local walks
- Legal advice articles

We specifically asked about ideas for younger readers for our Bulleteen+ feature and suggestions included:

- Job opportunities and work experience
- Internet safety and bullying
- Careers and apprenticeships
- Money-saving tips
- Hobbies, sports, pets, art, music

The Bulletin wouldn't exist without advertising, and we were keen to understand how readers react to this. It was useful to see that most readers do look at the adverts and the majority feel the amount is 'just the right amount'. Many have used local advertisers.

Other points included a slight preference for the use of the 24-hour clock; however, opinions were mixed on whether to cover a wider area beyond Bathford.

The Editorial Team looks forward to studying the responses in more detail and following up on some of the excellent suggestions. **We always welcome feedback, so please feel free to contact us.**



BATHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Grasp your chance to influence aspects of Parish life

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

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

You are all warmly invited.



BATHFORD PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

to be held in the Bathford School Hall
on Tuesday 5 May 2026 at 7:30pm (doors open at 7pm)

AGENDA

1. Welcome by Cllr Hillary Carr, Chair of Bathford Parish Council
1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last year's Annual Parish Meeting held on 6 May 2025
3. Chair's Report 2025

Speakers

4. BANES Ward Councillors
5. Bathford Repair Cafe – Martin Hobbs
6. E Scooters – Jessica Fox Taylor - BANES
7. Wessex Water – Matt Wheeldon
8. Break and informal Question and Answers
9. Open Question and Answer session
10. Meeting closure

* All Committee Reports will be available to read in the School Hall from 7pm before the start of the meeting and online now at www.bathford.net in the News section.

WHAT'S ON - MAY 2026

- **Service of Holy Communion**
Sun 3 May | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- **BEFA Big Birthday Bash**
Sat 16 May | 11:00 to 14:00
Village Shop
- **BEFA (Village Community Shop) AGM**
Tue 26 May | 19:00 for 19:30
Village Club
- **May Day Draw and Ploughman's Lunch**
Sun 3 May | 13:00
Village Club
- **Batheaston Garden Group Plant Sale**
Sat 16 May | 14:00 to 17:00
Meadowfest, Northend
- **Mobile Library Service**
Wed 27 May | 13:00 to 13:45
Dovers Park by School
- **Reconnect**
Sun 3 May | 16:30 (for Yr 7),
17:30 (for Yr 8/9)
St Swithun's Church
- **Service of Holy Communion**
Sun 17 May | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- **Nearly New Sale**
Sat 30 May | 12:00 to 16:00
Bathford Parish Hall
- **Bathford Quilt Group Monthly Meeting**
Tue 5 May | 11:00
Mountain Wood Community Room
- **Ukraine Fundraising Concert**
Sun 17 May | 15:00 to 17:30
Wiltshire Music Centre,
Bradford-on-Avon
- **Joint Benefice Service of Holy Communion**
Sun 31 May | 10:00
St John's Church, Batheaston
- **Annual Parishioners' Meeting**
Tue 5 May | 19:00
Bathford Church School
- **Parish Council Meeting**
Tue 19 May | 19:00
Mountain Wood Community Room
- **FOR YOUR DIARY**
- **Bingo!**
Fri 8 May | 19:30
Village Club
- **Bathford Repair Cafe**
Sat 13 Jun | 09:30 to 12:00
Bathford Parish Hall
- **St Swithun's Charity Quiz**
Fri 19 June | 19:30
Bathford Parish Hall
- **Bathford Repair Cafe**
Sat 9 May | 09:30 to 12:00
Bathford Parish Hall
- **Shockerwick House Coffee Morning**
Thu 21 May | 10:30 to 12:30
Shockerwick House
- **Bath Festival of Motoring and Music (Ticketed Event)**
Sat 27 and Sun 28 Jun | Open from 10:00
Walcot Rugby Club (opposite Lansdown Park and Ride)
- **Live Music: Livinia**
Sat 9 May | 20:30
Village Club
- **Jazzford**
Fri 22 May | 19:30
Village Club
- **Follyfest**
Sat 4 July | 12:00 to 21:00
Folly Field, Recreation Ground
- **Contemporary Service**
Sun 10 May | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- **Live Music: Ryan Turner**
Sat 23 May | 20:30
Village Club
- **Bathford Breadcrumbs' Network**
Mon 11 May | 19:00 to 20:00
Private Address
- **Welcome Church**
Sun 24 May | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- **Bathford Repair Cafe**
Sat 11 Jul | 09:30 to 12:00
Bathford Parish Hall
- **Link AGM and Lunch**
Wed 13 May | 12:00
Village Club
- **Evening Prayer (with refreshments)**
Sun 24 May | 16:00 for 16:30
St Swithun's Church
- **Shockerwick House Summer Fete**
Sat 8 Aug
Shockerwick House
- **Mobile Library Service**
Wed 13 May | 13:00 to 13:45
Dovers Park by School
- **St Swithun's Film Club: Song for Marion**
Mon 25 May | 14:00
St Swithun's Church
- **St Swithun's 'Desert Island Tracks'**
Mon 24 Aug | 19:30
St Swithun's Church
- **Thai Pop-Up Takeaway**
Fri 15 May | 17:30 onwards
Village Club Car Park

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 19 May at 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 | Tel. 01225 858220

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