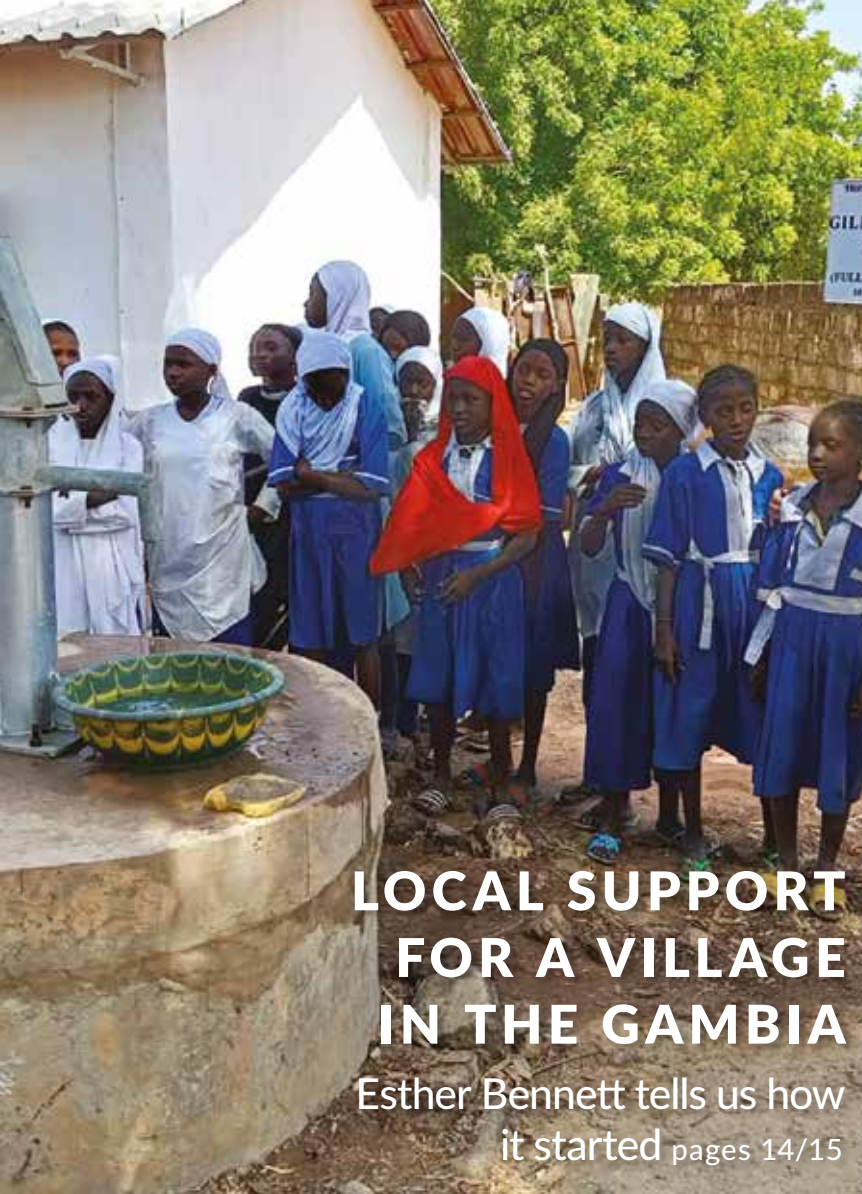


Bathford Bulletin

BATHFORD

SHOCKERWICK

WARLEIGH



LOCAL SUPPORT FOR A VILLAGE IN THE GAMBIA

Esther Bennett tells us how it started pages 14/15

ST. SWITHUN'S
FIM CLUB
page 5



FOLLYFEST
WINNERS
page 11



VALUATION DAY

Tuesday 23rd September 2025 | 10am - 1pm

St Thomas à Becket's Church, Church Lane, Box SN13 8DT

Free parking at Selwyn Hall, just around the corner

RECENT RESULTS

Banksy 'I fought the Law' Print
-£71,000



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-£6,000



George VI
1937 Double Sovereign
-£2,100



Bottle of 1795 Madeira
Terrantez Barbelto
-£8,000



The Beatles Signed
Photograph -£13,000



Portrait of
Major Callis
c1741 by
Richard
Wilson RA
-£24,000



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Figure
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Dinky Toy
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Kath Shayler – Creative

Adrian Raybould – Editorial

Catherine Tait – Editorial

Charlie Barden – 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.

OCTOBER ISSUE COPY DEADLINE

Contributions and advertisements are welcome, up to but **no later than 13 September 2025** 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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COVER PHOTOGRAPH

A new well in the village of Ndikiri Kunda



WELCOME

to our September edition

Welcome back! Did you have a good summer? How good to see the English weather fall kindly during the children's summer holidays this year.

Follyfest deserved fine weather, as the community's summer celebration. After the rain stopped, Bathford's residents came out and partied hard! If you missed it, read the review on [page 11](#).

In June, Esther Bennett reminisced about her surprise visit by Cliff Richard over 40 years ago. In this issue, on [pages 14/15](#), Esther turns our attention to her charitable efforts with the **Fulladou Foundation**. They have transformed life in a village in Gambia for over 250 schoolchildren and their teachers, by improving the school facilities and the village infrastructure. Bathford has a reputation for the generosity of its residents supporting charitable causes both domestic and international and her heartwarming article deserves our attention.

Our **Bulleteen + feature for young people in Bathford** goes from strength to strength. We catch up on [page 13](#) with **Sephy Priston** who has now completed her first year at university. She reflects both socially and academically on the past year and what wonderful opportunities lie ahead in her next academic year.

Hannah Malone meanwhile decided against university life but grasped the opportunity of an apprenticeship with **Disney** – see [page 12](#). Now, at just age 20, she's worked on 'The Lion King', 'Hercules' and is now looking forward to working on 'The Greatest Showman' - but it means hard work!

September marks a return of Bathford's many clubs, societies, events and activities. **Bathford Society** talks resume with a presentation on participants from Bathford in World War I, see [page 7](#), Sunday afternoon concerts return to St. Swithuns, see [page 20](#) and **Batheaston Art Trail** takes place **27/28 September** – [page 16](#).

Don't forget, **Bathford Flower Show** takes place on **Saturday 6 September**. [Page 21](#) for details.

Editorial Team



la
TABERNA
fire & feast

ASADO SUNDAYS AT HOMEWOOD
A BOLD MEDITERRANEAN TAKE ON
THE CLASSIC BRITISH ROAST

homewoodbath.co.uk | reservations@homewoodbath.co.uk
01225 580 439 | @homewoodbath

ST. SWITHUN'S FILM CLUB SUMMERLAND

Mon 22 September at 14:00 | St. Swithun's Church, Bathford

Join us for a special screening of **SUMMERLAND**. The film follows the story of fiercely independent folklore investigator Alice (Gemma Arterton), who secludes herself in her clifftop study, debunking myths using science to disprove the existence of magic. Consumed by her work but also profoundly lonely, she is haunted by a love affair from her past.

When spirited young Frank (Lucas Bond), an evacuee from the London Blitz, is dumped into her irritable care, his innocence and curiosity awaken Alice's deeply buried emotions. Bravely embracing life's miraculous unpredictability, Alice learns that wounds may be healed, second chances do occur, and that, just perhaps MAGIC really does exist.

Stay afterwards for complimentary tea and cake.

Suggested donation: £3

For enquires contact keithmilner5@yahoo.co.uk

THIS MONTH AT THE VILLAGE CLUB

As we head into September, we hope that you have all had a lovely summer and enjoyed the marvellous weather we have had – let's hope it continues into September and beyond.

Thank you for all your support throughout the summer, it's been lovely to see so many of you.

SATURDAY NIGHT - LIVE MUSIC - 20.30 TO 23.30

Sat 13 September | Sophie Silva – returning to us again. Always a fun night when Sophie's with us – covering tracks from across the decades, she is sure to have you singing along and tapping your feet!

Sat 27 September | Free Spirits Band – a fabulous local 5 piece band – they made their debut with us last year and are back by popular demand and we can't wait.

BINGO | Fri 5 September – 19.30

Our Bingo evenings are always such fun and are growing and growing in popularity – come along and chance your luck. £5 for a book of 4 games and 2 flyers – 12 chances of winning.

JAZZFORD | Fri 26 September – 20:00

Always a lovely evening of excellent live music – our house band welcomes all keen players of any level to jam with them throughout the evening.

Please keep an eye on the Bathford Community or Village Club Facebook pages for details of any sport we may be showing.

Remember there is always a warm welcome in The Village Club and we look forward to seeing you soon.



THE VILLAGE
CLUB
Bathford

THE REPAIR CAFE BATHFORD

BATHFORD REPAIR CAFÉ

After its summer break, the Bathford Repair Café returns to its regular venue in Bathford Parish Hall.

We aim to run on the **second Saturday of each month** between **09:30** and **12:00**. The dates of our upcoming sessions are:

- Saturday 13th September
- Saturday 11th October
- Saturday 8th November
- Saturday 13th December

The idea is straightforward – users bring items in need of repair along to our Repair Café and our skilled volunteers will try their very best to fix them.

At the same time, we offer light refreshments, so even if you don't have anything to be fixed come along for a cuppa and marvel at the ingenuity of our team as they tackle the inevitable, the interesting and the unusual items that get brought along.

Common repairs include small mechanical, electrical and electronic items, garden tools & equipment, toys, clothes & textiles.

If you already have the spare parts needed to fix your item but don't feel like tackling the task, then bring them along and we'll fit them for you. We also put things back together...

We have a PAT testing capability and later in the year we hope to be able to offer knife and small garden tool sharpening.

Under a 'Pay What You Can' model, users may make a charitable donation to **Share & Repair** (see <https://shareandrepair.org.uk/>) following an attempted/successful repair.

For more information and enquiries, contact us at: bathfordrepaircafe@btinternet.com



A shady bunch!

HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Please do contact us if you would like to look at the large stock of books we have. Many are stored at premises near Corsham and they cover most subjects: gardening, cookery, biographies, music, art/sculpture, religion, philosophy, photography,

royalty, poetry, politics, humour, healthcare, sport, crime, travel, atlases, military, transport. The books have been kindly donated, and we would like to diminish our stocks significantly and at the same time raise funds to help Hope and Homes in their work to provide stable family environments for children who are 'held' in orphanages or institutions.

Paperbacks are stored in our home in Dover's Park as are children's books. Please contact us to view at either place.

Thank you for your support, Keith and Julia Masdin

keithmasdin@btinternet.com | 01225 858042



Image: www.freepik.com

BATHFORD SOCIETY TALK

Bathford and WWI presented by Peter Martin

Mon 29 September at 20:00 in Bathford Parish Hall
Coffee available from 19:30

Research by David Howells and Steve Mackerness shows where residents of Bathford who died in WW1 were buried but there has been no knowledge of where they died. Now, by making reasonable assumptions from the date of their death and their burial place, and researching the battles and other relevant events, we have an idea. There is an amazing range, from the battlefields of France, the fight against the Ottoman Empire led by Lawrence of Arabia, the Egyptian revolt of 1922, to a sinking off Italy and the terrible destruction, not in battle, of HMS Bulwark. To put this in context, there will be the briefest résumé of the course of WWI. We will also, as far as possible, describe the locations and backgrounds of the hundred or so men who enlisted and returned.

BATHFORD VILLAGE CHOIR

The choir goes from strength to strength and returns to rehearsing on 25 September with a new repertoire of music, with something for everyone. Under the musical direction of Kate Robey, the choir is flourishing and growing in size and our Thursday evening rehearsals are enjoyable and uplifting. The summer term ended with a successful concert followed by a performance at **Shockerwick House Nursing Home** with a picnic in the grounds. Working towards a Christmas concert, a performance as part of the 'Music on a Sunday Afternoon' charity concerts at St Swithun's and a return for a festive concert to Shockerwick, the choir has a busy few months ahead. Do come along and join us – new members are most warmly welcomed.

Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings, 19:45 for 20:00 starting 25 September in the Parish Hall.

Information: Pam – 01225 743499.

Some of the Village Choir after singing at Shockerwick House



AROUND THE GARDEN

with Kevin Marris



This is the time of year when I should be sitting back, enjoying the results of all that hard work in the earlier seasons. But oh no!

Where did it all go? I must be the fittest I've been in years – running around the garden with watering cans morning and evening keeping pots alive and trying to make sure things like sweet corn flourish ready for the show (but the rainwater collection is getting a bit low now).

So, if my garden isn't doing that well – what to do?

Well, I'll tell you – check out the **National Garden Scheme** and go and visit some of their openings – a decent garden, decent teas, and you're making a donation to charity. Recently we went down to **Gasper Cottage**, which is just by **Stourhead**, and enjoyed an afternoon with a group of like-minded people all interested to see what can be done with a hillside.

Gasper Cottage garden



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SUMMER SMILES AT BATHFORD VILLAGE SHOP & CAFÉ

What a summer we've had! Our Café has been full of life, welcoming visitors from all over the world who are staying in local Airbnbs or at the campsite. Many mornings begin with the sizzle of bacon and the smell of fresh coffee as they tuck into a hearty cooked English breakfast. Then it's over to the Shop, where they spread out their maps, tap away on our free

Wi-Fi, and chat with our volunteers about the best things to see and do in Bath and the nearby villages. Our local knowledge seems to travel just as far as they do!



Back in the Shop, we've been spoiled with the generosity of our neighbours.

Baskets of shiny apples, bunches of fragrant garlic chives, and bowls of plump, golden Victoria plums have all found their way to our counter. Because these beauties are donated, we can pass them on to you at about **half the supermarket price** — fresh,

local, and full of flavour. It's a simple but wonderful example of our community working together so everyone wins.

We've also been busy giving our chiller a bit of love, expanding the range so it's now stocked with dips, creams, and all sorts of tempting extras to brighten up your meals.

And there's something new on the shelves too — our **FIFO electrical accessories range**. We've got mobile phone charging cables of all sorts and lengths, as well as plugs and adaptors. They've already been a hit with visiting travellers topping up their batteries before heading out again, but they're just as handy for locals who need a spare lead or adaptor in a hurry.

So whether you pop in for breakfast, fresh fruit, a tub of cream, a friendly chat, or just to power up your phone, we're here for you. And if you've got an idea for something new that we could do, we'd love to hear it — that's how some of our best ideas begin!



KINDNESS

What good fortune to have moved to Bathford and to have found so much kindness all around. Our spirits are already lifted, simply because our Parish is pretty to look at and is surrounded by beautiful, green and lush scenery. We can't forget the kindness of residents who rallied during the **Covid lockdowns - groceries were delivered from the shop**, prescriptions were collected, neighbours were concerned for each other and checked on each other.

And the kindness continues and grows; **Bathford Events Team** have created events that draw in everyone like the recent **Follyfest**. There are the many **volunteers** — those that are the backbone of the shop, who run the **Flower Show**, our **Parish Councillors**, **LINK drivers** and so many more, including those profiled in the recent Heartbeat series in the Bulletin. In times of crisis there is the **Batheaston Medical Centre**, whose kindnesses from reception to treatment are so valued. And always there is **St Swithun's**, who take their responsibility for the Parish as seriously as they do for their congregation, along with their many and varied social and charitable events.

Not bad for our small and rather special village.

Judy Marris

The Bulletin invites others to contribute to this series, The Joy of...

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BATHFORD FOLLYFEST 2025

What a day! Bathford had waited over 15 years for a community event of this magnitude – a Fair to celebrate summer and bring members of the community together. Hats off to Bathford Events Team who had worked tirelessly to bring it all together; the weather had been ‘scorchio’ for ten days before the event. What omen could be better...?

And then we woke on the morning of 5 July to a dank day which turned to heavy rain!

But as the old adage goes, ‘the show must go on’. Everything was ready for a midday start. The marquee, stage, stalls and Cotswold Wardens display were all set up; face-painters poised, Dog Show prepared, the band was set up, the Avonvale Rugby Club bar was ready... all we awaited were visitors.

Simon & Rosie with their Raffle First Prize – a Dyson worth £500!

And as the rain eased and it dried up, a crowd of visitors descended!

Gemms (from Batheaston) kicked off the music while the stallholders sold books, candyfloss, arts and crafts, Pimms, cards and tombola; the raffle stall had prizes galore including a Dyson V15 cleaner worth £500! Children were entertained with a coconut shy, obstacle course and entertainers - Bert the Clown and Jonny G, with their circus and magic tricks respectively. They really stole the show keeping the enthralled young audience enraptured for ages. Refreshments satisfied thirsts and appetites - the bar in the Rugby Club, a BBQ, the Twinning crepe making team and a pizza van.

Late afternoon, the Jazzford musicians, accompanied by Bathford vocalist Caroline Murray, brought some smooth tones to the marquee before a cameo performance by Krys Cooper; and then the evening switched to a silent disco, which proved a real hit!

Feedback from many of those that attended was that the event was a great success and should be repeated. Keep 4 July 2026 free in your diary!

HUGE THANKS ARE DUE TO MANY:

The Sponsors who kindly helped raise the necessary funds: Auctioneum, BANES, Bannerdown Benching, Bathford Parish Council, Camella Estate Agents, Curo, Helen Petteimerides Personal Training, Portals, Whiteley Helyar Estate Agents.

The Donors for all the prizes on the Tombola and the Raffle.

The Volunteers who staffed the entrances for hours, took the money, helped dress, set up and take down the bunting and facilities. And finally...

Bathford Events Team who organised and ran the event: Hillary Carr, Heather Lord Carter, Jon and Krys Cooper, Tracey Cruse, Vicky Drew, and Jan Tatem.

WELL DONE!!

Dora - Best in Show

Painted faces

Hillary Carr

FROM BATHFORD TO LONDON'S WEST END: Hannah's Story

BY CATHERINE TAIT

Not many 20-year-olds can say they've worked on an internationally renowned musical. But for Hannah, born and bred in Bathford, the dream to work in theatre became a reality when she started an apprenticeship with Disney.

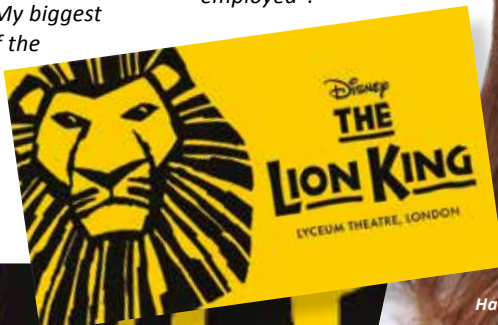
As a **Creative Venue Theatre Technician**, Hannah has been trying out all areas of backstage work – be it stage management, lighting or sound. She's already assisted with famous Disney musicals **'The Lion King'** and **'Hercules'** and has now set her sights on **'The Greatest Showman'**, which premieres in Bristol next year.

It was in her gap year, while shadowing the Stage Manager for The Lion King, in Birmingham, that she first became aware of **Disney's apprenticeship scheme**.

"I knew I wanted to work in theatre and didn't feel that university was the right route for me, so I looked for other opportunities."

After a successful application, Hannah was soon packing her bags for her big move to London.

Now, she's got some pretty incredible experiences under her belt. "My biggest achievement is being a part of the opening of Hercules," she told The Bulleteen+. "I was part of rehearsals from day one and got to be involved in building the show from scratch."



When working on The Lion King, she also operated the lighting desk entirely by herself!

But these opportunities don't come without hard work. "Theatre involves very unsociable hours, and I sometimes find it challenging to motivate myself to be productive with my time off", she explains. Planning her free time has been helpful for managing this.

HANNAH'S TOP TIPS FOR LANDING A JOB IN THEATRE?

Any experience is valuable – whatever the area. She worked on **Front of House** at Bath Theatre Royal and assisted with **youth drama workshops** on her gap year, which provided her with a range of transferable skills to bolster her apprenticeship application.

Network – Shadowing theatre professionals helped her get a foot in the door. In theatre, "everyone knows each other, so creating connections can have a huge impact".

Be nice! – "If people enjoy working with you, you are far more likely to be employed".

Hannah Malone

Bulle teen

FOLLOW UP...

BY SEPHY PRISTON

IN FOLLOW UP, Bulleteen + got back in touch with Sephy Priston after her first year studying at Durham University, to check how she is getting on. We asked her to reflect on her first year away from home. This is what she had to say...

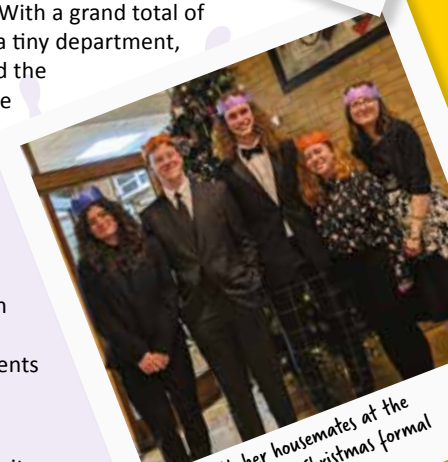
With about a million post-18 options existing in today's world, I was worried that picking a niche subject like Japanese to study at university would limit me. In fact, it has proved to be the complete opposite. With a grand total of **11 students in my entire first year cohort**, I found myself in a tiny department, known by first-name by all of my tutors and lecturers. Named the worst performing and hardest subject at the University by the **Palatinate** (Durham's Student Newspaper), sometimes it very much feels like our department is at odds with the rest of the University. But within **Japanese Studies**, the community bond is incredible. I joined Durham's **'Anglo-Japanese Society'** and met all of the 2nd and 4th year students on my course, as well as contacting the 3rd years currently on their year abroad. Through the Society (of which I am now the Secretary, a role I am unspeakably excited to begin next year), I also met a huge number of Japanese students studying in Durham on exchange.

I will travel to Japan in October 2026 and cannot wait to reconnect with these friends. Durham is a collegiate University, and similar to my course, my college **St Aidan's** is consistently rated at the bottom of student preference lists. But there's nothing the world likes more than an underdog, and my time at St Aidan's was characterised by fiercely defending our college and being grateful I was put there (somewhat against my will, as St Aidan's was not my first choice!). And that's a sentiment I'd like to pass on to any readers currently deciding what to do next in their lives. Two years ago, I was convinced I'd be studying English Literature; a year ago I had a Cambridge offer; and tomorrow, I'm going on a holiday abroad with two of the closest friends I've ever had, who I met studying Japanese at Durham. You never know where life will take you. I **advise you to do what you love - the rest has a habit of falling into place.**

More on apprenticeships at:
www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#



Sephy at Kingsgate footbridge, Durham



Sephy with her housemates at the St Aidan's College Christmas formal

Bulleteen+ is aimed at young people in the Parish. We welcome ideas for future articles. Please send these to bathfordbulletin@gmail.com

IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY LAST YEAR BUT...

ESTHER BENNETT TELLS US OF THE REMARKABLE STORY OF LOCAL SUPPORT FOR A VILLAGE IN THE GAMBIA AND ASKS FOR HELP



Barry Rydz

Who would have thought it! How time flies! Twenty-five years ago this year, our then village hairdresser, Barry Wright, after much persuasion, had my husband David and I agree to visit The Gambia with the charity he ran with another local man, Barry Rydz from Kingsdown.

The Friends of The Gambia had been started over 30 years ago when Methodist churches were encouraged to choose and support a village in the Gambia. Barry Rydz had the job of choosing the village, so decided to close his eyes and put a pin in the map; hence the village of Ndikiri Kunda was found... 200 miles up the Gambia river and 2 miles off road!!

To say our first visit was eventful would be an understatement. At that time roads were virtually non-existent or littered with potholes. It took a full day to reach the village, crossing back and forth across the Gambia river and then onto a dirt road to the village, but it was the reception we received from the village school children that changed our lives.

STANDING ON BOTH SIDES OF THE APPROACH ROAD TO THE VILLAGE, THE CHANTING OF "WELCOME" FROM 250+ SCHOOL CHILDREN WAS BOTH LOUD AND EMOTIONAL; WE WERE ALL IN TEARS.

Stepping out of the jeep, we didn't have enough fingers for every child who wanted to hold our hands. I believe I was only the third white woman to visit the village. Meeting those lovely people changed our lives and made us determined to do what we could to support them and the school in the future.

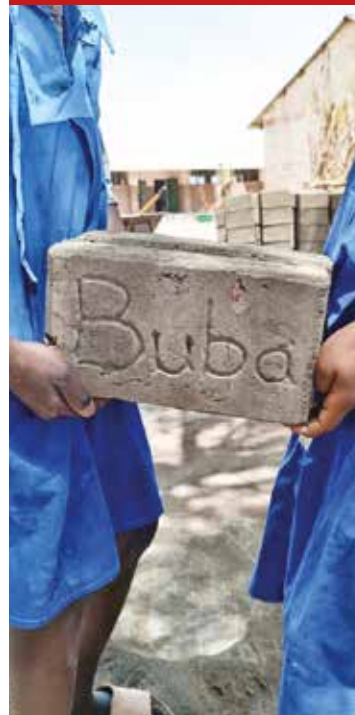


Village living



Brick making machinery

Our brickmaker



SO HERE WE ARE TODAY...

...with David as Chairman and a small group of enthusiastic people doing our best to keep supporting the village school and its needs. In the past our charity has provided fees for girls to attend school, extra funding for additional school years, blackboards and school equipment, children's pens and books, teachers' accommodation, classroom furniture, rain harvesting and a school well.

NOW WE HAVE OTHER PROJECTS THAT WE NEED TO FINANCE AND HOPEFULLY YOU MIGHT HELP!

One of the main projects at this time is to repair a wall that surrounds both the teacher's accommodation and the school, to prevent the cattle and other animals from wandering in. To this end, a builder who uses natural materials has been employed to teach the young people of the village to make blocks for the wall with, hopefully, an end result of creating a business enterprise for them. The charity, now registered in the Gambia as the Fulladou Foundation, needs to raise income for this project and one of our members came up with a great idea of those making a donation, to have a name engraved on a stone being made for the wall that will go around the school. We are starting to build (literally) on this idea. If you would like to donate to have your name on a block, please message me on Facebook and I will be in touch: <https://www.facebook.com/esther.bennett.94>.

ANOTHER WAY TO HELP...

Another way of helping us is to register with Easyfundraising.org.uk online and nominating Fulladou Foundation. Then, as many times as you shop online, Easyfundraising will donate to the charity. Alternatively, we have a gofundme account: <https://gofund.me/a6d4ee47>. Any support you can give will be gratefully received and will certainly help us and especially the children and school of Ndikiri Kunda.

THANK YOU

Esther Bennett



The finished well



BATHEASTON ART TRAIL 2025
 27th & 28th SEPTEMBER
 *OPENING TIMES: 10.30AM - 4.30PM
 For more information: www.batheastonarttrail.com



THE BATHEASTON ART TRAIL

Sat 27 and Sun 28 September | 10.30 to 16:30

The Batheaston Art Trail is celebrating its 5th anniversary this September with 50 amazing artists joining this year's event to make it our biggest and most exciting art trail yet.

Artists, designers and makers from Batheaston and the surrounding areas will be opening their studios or exhibiting in shared venues like the **Batheaston New Village Hall**, **St John the Baptist Church** and the **Batheaston Scout Hall**. There will also be a range of interesting workshops for all the family in the Youth Club and Rhymes Pavillion.

Come along and meet our talented artists who are looking forward to sharing their work process and answering any questions you may have on their art.

Details of the artists, workshops and a map of the Trail with venue details can all be found on the Art Trail website www.thebatheastonarttrail.com. Leaflets with the Trail map will also be available in local venues leading up to and over the weekend.

If you wish to contact us or have any questions, please email us on batheastonarttrail@gmail.com

Harvest Festival Bring and Share Supper

St Swithun's Church
Tuesday, 30 Sept - 7.30pm

Everyone most welcome

Low key Picture Quiz
 BYO Drinks

For further Information contact
 Rev Laretta 07840 753202 or
 Liz Townsend 07846 851657

Donations in aid of Genesis Trust Bath

St Swithun's Church, Bathford

21 September
 Concert at 15:00
 followed by refreshments

Viva Vocals
 Female community choir from Corsham, performing popular songs from a range of diverse artists.

JIGGIDY
 Multi-instrumental duo from Bath, perform Irish folk songs including cover versions of popular songs.
Annette Bartlett
 Clarinetist from Bathford accompanied by Nick Breeze on piano.

Retiring collection for the Church Mission Society and the project-based support work of Jon and Elise Fletcher in the biggest slum community in Bangkok.

St Swithun's Charity Action

FROM THE VICARAGE

Dear Friends,

I wanted to share with you my feelings on the trend for **Direct Cremations** that seem increasingly popular. You'll have seen on adverts that **Direct Cremations** are billed as simple and cheap - avoiding the necessity for loved ones to have the bother or the expense of a service. This really perturbs me. Obviously, as a vicar, I would choose to include God in any celebration and thanksgiving of life, but my concern is not just as a vicar but as a human....

Since earliest times, humans have held burial rites as important and I feel strongly that this is vital, not just to honour the person who has died, but also to allow a time and space for others to express their appreciation, gratitude, sadness and indeed a myriad of other emotions. As someone who is very experienced at taking funerals, **I always try to work with the next of kin to provide something that they want**. It doesn't have to be in church, we have a beautiful crematorium chapel at **Haycombe** (and other places), and it doesn't have to be Religious with a capital R. I always suggest including the Lord's Prayer and a reading from the Bible but these can be gently included, giving people the opportunity to pray and reflect, not demanding that they do.

My stepfather left instructions for a direct cremation saying that he didn't want us to have any bother, but we chose to have a service for him, and the number of people who came to pay their respects to him, to honour him as a person made it so worth the arranging and the expense... I know this is only my experience and I know as vicar I have a distinct perspective but I suspect it's one that many could echo.

Please do contact me if you'd like to chat about this on revlauretta@outlook.com

Lauretta

ANOTHER STEP ALONG THE WAY...

This photo was taken in late June at Wells Cathedral, where my colleagues and I had just been ordained as priests. Being priested means that, for the final two years of my curacy (training) here, I will be able to take **Holy Communion**, **weddings** and **baptisms**. I am so delighted to be able to minister in this very meaningful way. Learning these things in this benefice is an absolute joy because each of our churches delight in the way we are all on a journey, all learning and all in need of encouragement.



Jane Hoe (centre) Wells Cathedral

If you have not yet experienced your wonderful church here in Bathford - please give do give us a try! Also, if you are considering a wedding, baptism or funeral here please do get in contact, either with your vicar Lauretta or myself; we would both love to chat with you.

Jane Hoe





Abney & Baker

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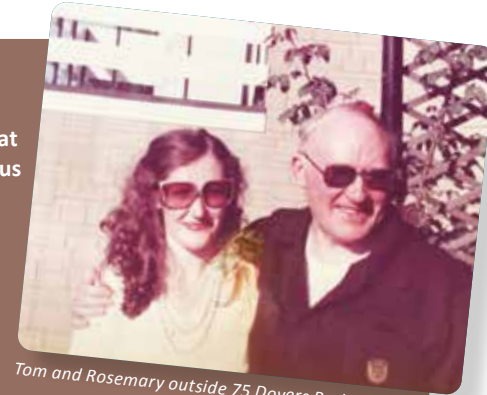


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Tom reaches 100!!

Long-time Bathford resident Tom Dyer, will be 100 at the end of September. His daughter Rosemary tells us a little about his life.

Tom was born in London, where he worked as a telegraph boy, until he joined the RAF as a wireless operator and was stationed in Wiltshire during his training. One weekend Tom and his friends came to Bath where he met his future wife Vera on a boat trip down river to Bathampton.



Tom and Rosemary outside 75 Dovers Park in 1980

Tom was in Germany at the end of WWII and before he was demobbed, was stationed in Egypt and Iraq. When he returned, he was transferred to the main GPO in Bath where he worked on the counter. Tom and Vera had been married in 1945; they set up home in Bathampton but, after the very cold winter of 1963, they thought they would like a modern house. They looked at the new houses at Hantone Hill, but they thought £5,000 was too much for them, so they bought 75 Dovers Park for about £4,500. The house was one of the last built in phase two – there was a telegraph pole on the plot of number 77, and it took a year to move the cable!

When Tom retired, he was very pleased to help Mr Suleman at Bathford Post Office.

Tom now lives at Garstons with Rosemary.

News from Batheaston Medical Centre

There are a couple of items of note from their latest Patient Newsletter...

An initiative is underway to reduce the number of missed appointments. Every month, scores of appointments are wasted by patients not turning up despite the text reminders that they receive. Firstly the surgery has started to publish the number of DNAs (did not attend) in their monthly newsletter. Secondly, a receptionist (Claire Stevens) has been appointed to be responsible for telephoning those patients with a high rate of missed appointments. This has already reduced the missed appointments by 30%.

Heidi AI dictation software is being used to improve efficiency. At the start of your consultation, you may be asked to give consent for your clinician to use some new dictation software which transcribes the consultation. GPs may use this to help save time when adding information into your medical records.

We only have room to reproduce part of the **Patient Newsletter**. If you would like a copy of the full monthly newsletter emailed to you, please let reception know or email your request to bswicb.bmc@nhs.net



St Swithun's Church Bathford



Concerts at 15:00
followed by
refreshments

Retiring collections
in aid the following charities:

- the Church Mission Society
- Médecins Sans Frontières
- Mission Aviation Fellowship
- Wiltshire Rural Music
- Genesis Food Bank
- Bath Youth for Christ
- Mother's Union International

- 21 Sep '25** Viva Vocals (female community choir)
Jiggidy (duo) - Irish folk songs and tunes
Annette Bartlett Clarinet
- 19 Oct** Ebonite Clarinet Ensemble
Daisy Chapman Singer-Songwriter
- 30 Nov** Sienna (Young singing student)
Bathford Village Choir
Kate Robey & student Cello/Piano
- 18 Jan '26** The Bissboro Flute Trio
Doves Peace Choir
- 15 Feb** Passion Flutes
Claer Turner Piano
The Stringalong group
- 22 Mar** Cwm Bath Male Voice Choir
Bathford Jazz group
St Swithun's Charity Action



Bathford Flower Show

It's just around the corner!
It's September and it's time for the Flower Show!

Saturday 6 September 14:00-16:30.

What have you got that you can bring to the party? You still have time!

No veg? Then bake a cake. **No flowers?** Then take a photo of something.

Pop into the Village Shop and pick up a schedule from the counter.

If you have an idea for an entry – there's a host of options – **by Wednesday evening 3 September**, bring the entry form from the schedule along to the **Parish Hall** between **16:00** and **19:30**. Then you can go home and bake your cake or take your photo!

But anyway, even if you're too shy to enter something, do come along and look at the entries, and the displays of the school children's art, and have some refreshments out on the veranda – it's bound to be a lovely day.

And if you're able to help with either setting up on Friday evening, or during the day on Saturday please get in touch with **Kevin Marris 07796 772128** or **John Smart 01225 858206**.

And maybe, just maybe, you would like to lend a hand during the year when we talk about future activities – we need all the help we can get. Talk to our secretary **Caroline Holden 07772 282948**.



BATHFORD ALLOTMENTS
Growing here since 1880

GOT THE URGE TO GROW YOUR OWN FRUIT AND VEG AND ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS?

Full, half or quarter plots are now available to rent

We offer a community tool shed with free tools to use, social events, talks and a social book shed going live soon.

For details contact
allotments@bathford.net
or phone

Warden Louise: **07861 389476**
Warden Adrian: **07894 007373**
Warden Colin: **07899 973695**

BATHFORD EVENTS PRESENTS...

QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER
AT THE VILLAGE CLUB

DOORS OPEN AT 7 PM

£8 EACH
TEAMS OF UP TO 6

TICKETS THE VILLAGE SHOP OR FROM:
[HTTPS://BATHFORDEVENTS.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://bathfordevents.eventbrite.com)

BATHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Hedgerows and Boundaries

With August over, we are all in a position to attend to excess foliage in our hedgerows and boundaries – particularly now following the long spell of warm weather we've enjoyed which resulted in greater, earlier growth of shrubbery. Please would you take a close look at your own boundaries, particularly bordering footpaths, to ensure that you leave – and this is the legal requirement – a double-buggy width to pass unimpeded on pavements; especially important for those with children/prams, the elderly, those with impaired mobility or with dogs.

Similarly, if your boundary hedge borders a road, it can be very easy for the verge to extend into the road, which causes the width to diminish. It is your personal responsibility to ensure your boundaries meet the requirements and courteous to other pedestrians or road users. Please take September to get them sorted. Thank you.

The Council is also constantly pursuing BANES to take responsibility for clearing their designated footpaths, streets and pavements throughout the parish.

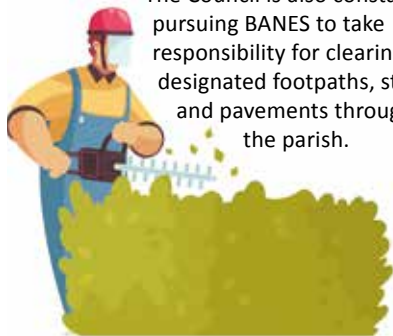


Image: www.freeprk.com

A363 Bradford Road

The Council and BANES Highways are currently in discussions about how best to implement a £50K budget to reduce speeds and increase road safety. There will be full consultation with residents prior to any agreement and implementation.

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

- Heritage Open Days
Throughout September
Various Venues Across the Bath Area:
[see heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)
- Bathford Quilt Group
Tue 2 Sep | 10:00 - 13:00
Community Room,
Mountain Wood
- Mobile Library Service
Wed 3 Sep | 13:00 - 13:45
Dover's Park by School
- Flower Show Entry Form Submission
Wed 3 Sep | 16:00 - 19:30
Bathford Parish Hall
- Bingo!
Fri 5 Sep | 19:30
Village Club
- Jamie's Farm Open Day
Sat 6 Sep | 11:00 - 15:00
Hill House Farm, Box SN13 8QA
- Bathford Flower Show
Sat 6 Sep | 14:00 - 16:30
Bathford School
- Service of Holy Communion
Sun 7 Sep | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- Reconnect
Sun 7 Sep | 16:30 (Yr 7)
and 17:30 (Yr 8/9)
St Swithun's Church
- Bathford Repair Cafe
Sat 13 Sep | 09:30 - 12:00
Bathford Parish Hall
- Live Music: Sophie Silva
Sat 13 Sep | 20:30
Village Club
- Contemporary Service
Sun 14 Sep | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- Come & See! Children's Afternoon Service
Sun 14 Sep | 16:00
St Swithun's Church
- Parish Council Meeting
Tue 16 Sep | 19:00
Meeting Room,
Mountain Wood
- Mobile Library Service
Wed 17 Sep | 13:00 - 13:45
Dover's Park by School
- Community Coffee Morning
Thurs 18 Sep | 10:30 - 12:00
Shockerwick Nursing Home
- Service of Holy Communion
Sun 21 Sep | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- Music on a Sunday Afternoon
Sun 21 Sep | 15:00
St Swithun's Church
- Film Club: SUMMERLAND
Mon 22 Sep | 14:00
St Swithun's Church
- Bathford Village Choir First Autumn Rehearsal (all welcome)
Thu 25 Sep | 19:45
Bathford Parish Hall
- Children's Literature Festival
Fri 26 Sep - Sun 5 Oct
Bath - Various Venues
- Live Music: Jazzford
Fri 26 Sep | 20:00
Village Club
- Batheaston Arts Trail
Sat 27 and Sun 28 Sep
10:00 - 16:00
Batheaston
- Live Music: Free Spirits Band
Sat 27 Sep | 20:30
Village Club
- Welcome Church
Sun 28 Sep | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- Evening Prayer
Sun 28 Sep | 16:30
(Refreshments from 16:00)
St Swithun's Church
- Bathford Society:
Talk on Bathford and WWI
Mon 29 Sep | 20:00
(Coffee available from 19:30)
Bathford Parish Hall
- Harvest Supper
Tue 30 Sep | 19:00
St Swithun's Church

FOR YOUR DIARY

- Bathford Repair Cafe
Sat 11 Oct | 09:30 - 12:00
Bathford Parish Hall
- Music on a Sunday Afternoon
Sun 19 Oct | 15:00
St Swithun's Church
- Bathford Repair Cafe
Sat 8 Nov | 09:30 - 12:00
Bathford Parish Hall
- Music on a Sunday Afternoon
Sun 30 Nov | 15:00
St Swithun's Church
- Bathford Repair Cafe
Sat 13 Dec | 09:30 - 12:00
Bathford Parish Hall

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING Tuesday 16 September, 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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