

DECEMBER 2025

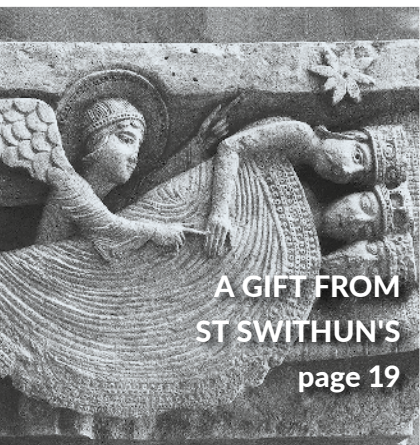
JANUARY 2026

Bathford Bulletin

BATHFORD

SHOCKERWICK

WARLEIGH



A GIFT FROM
ST SWITHUN'S

page 19



CHARITY AT CHRISTMAS

page 14/15



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THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Hillary Carr – Editor & Advertising
Maureen Breeze – Editor
Kath Shayler – 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.

FEBRUARY ISSUE COPY DEADLINE

No issue in January. Contributions and advertisements are welcome, up to but **no later than 13 January 2026** 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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www.corshamprint.co.uk

COVER IMAGE

www.freepik.com

Festive front door competition details on page 13



WELCOME

The thermometer has dropped considerably as we compile this issue. The sunny mornings bring a glistening hue to the landscape... and reminds us that Christmas is not far off.

The season of goodwill is upon us again – time for best wishes and the spirit of giving to friends and family... and also to the less fortunate. Our centrepiece feature (pages 14/15) this month highlights a **selection of the charities and organisations** that serve to help the wellbeing of those in need and offer inspiration and sharing of happiness among us.

That spirit of giving also pervades throughout our wonderful community, whether through assistance to **Bathford School (p11)**, the **Share & Repair Café** that is now firmly established in Bathford (p21) and the care of the elderly and entertainment provided by **Shockerwick House** – which they love to share with the Bathford community (p17).

Warm welcomes permeate through Bathford Parish... at the **Village Shop and Café**, at the **Village Club** which excels at Christmas and New Year entertainment, and there's no warmer welcome and spirit of hope than that at **St. Swithun's** right throughout the Christmas period.

Now it's your turn to get inspired! We are looking for the most **Festive Front Doors** throughout the parish (p13) and encouraging children to enter our **Children's Creative Writing Challenge (p22)**. Time to join in the fun and let creativity shine!

From the Editorial Team, we wish all our readers, contributors, helpers, advertisers, your families and friends a very merry Christmas – especially if you are missing a loved one this year – and sincere wishes for a peaceful 2026. **Take care of one another. We will see you next year for the February edition.**



Image: www.freepik.com

Editorial Team

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ST SWITHUN'S FILM CLUB

Join us on **Monday 26 January 2026 at 14:00** at **St. Swithun's Church, Bathford**, for a screening of **Rabbit Proof Fence (with subtitles)** starring **Kenneth Branagh**.

This is a powerful true story of hope and survival. At a time when it was Australian government policy to train aboriginal children as domestic workers and integrate them into white society, young Molly Craig decides to lead her little sister and cousin in a daring escape from their internment camp. Molly and the girls, part of what would become known as Australia's 'Stolen Generations', must then elude the authorities on a dangerous 1,500-mile adventure along the rabbit-proof fence that bisects the continent and will lead them home. As shown by this outstanding motion picture, their universally touching plight and unparalleled courage are a beautiful testament to the undying strength of the human spirit.

Stay after the film for complimentary **tea and cake**. (Suggested donation: £3)
For all enquiries, please contact:
keithmilner5@yahoo.co.uk



It's beginning to look like Christmas! This December once again we have lots going on to get us into the spirit of Christmas and take us into the New Year. Come and have some fun with us.

BINGO | Friday 12 December – 19:30

Growing in popularity, but we always have room for more. Always a fabulous night with lots of winners.

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 20:30-23:30 | £5 ENTRY FEE

6 December | Play It Again Steve

A very popular returning act covering all eras over all decades.

20 December | Christmas Party Night with Sally Vinyl

Sally comes highly recommended as a fantastic vocalist with a huge personality, exactly what we want for our Christmas Party.

Jazzford | Friday 19 December – 20:00

The Jazzford House Band look forward to an evening of excellent music and welcome all players and singers to come along and join them.

Thai Cuisine | Friday 19 December and the third Friday of every month

Thai takeaway in the Car Park – freshly cooked exquisite high-end Thai cuisine is now available in the village – so we hope you like what he has to offer. William is hugely popular in other Bath locations, so we hope he proves as desirable here in Bathford.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY | Wednesday 31 December – 20:30 until late

This year we have the very talented Neil Stephenson entertaining us and bringing in the New Year. Tickets are now available at the bar or by emailing thevillageclubbathford@gmail.com – just £10 for club members and £12 for non-club members.

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all in the coming month and New Year.

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CHRISTMAS

at Bathford Village
Shop & Café

We kicked off the festive season in style with our much-loved BEFA Members' Christmas Stock Preview Evening on Tuesday, 11 November.

The Shop closed at 5:30 pm for this special event, giving BEFA members exclusive access to browse our newly arrived Christmas stock. The café area was transformed with a delightful display of festive goodies, while guests enjoyed complimentary mulled wine and freshly warmed mince pies – a lovely evening of browsing, chatting, and catching up with friends.

But don't wait too long – all items are available only while stocks last, on a first-come, first-served basis!

This year, we're especially excited to showcase our beautiful Whistlefish Christmas cards, featuring thoughtful designs for everyone – from grandparents and parents to brothers-in-law and dear friends. You'll also find unique handmade creations by local residents, available exclusively in our Shop this season.

Just in – a fresh batch of Membrillo Quince 'cheese', made from quinces grown right here in Bathford – the perfect way to add a local, artisanal touch to your festive gifts.

As always, we're happy to take special Christmas orders for Hobbs bread, Ivy House dairy products, special cuts of meat, seafood, and locally sourced vegetables – everything you need to make your seasonal table extra special. Please place your orders at the shop as soon as possible to ensure everything is ready in time for Christmas.

If you're planning to order from Larkhall Butchers, you can do so directly through their website – just select Bathford Village Shop as your collection point. It's a convenient way to avoid queues, traffic, and extra trips into town!

So why not pop in soon? Browse the shelves, enjoy a coffee or tea in the café, and soak up the festive spirit.



Your Village
Shop is here to make
Christmas shopping
local, easy and
joyful!



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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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FESTIVE FUN IN BATH THIS WINTER by Catherine Tait

While it might feel hard to find festive things to do in Bath when you're past Santa's grotto visiting age, don't despair – here's a little inspiration...

BATH ON ICE SKATING RINK:

Whether you're a skating pro or a barrier-hugging penguin-pusher, there's always something magical about a trip to the ice rink over the holidays. Thick gloves recommended. Available until 4 January, tickets for 13-18 year-olds are **£15**, family tickets **£50.50**.

Book at:
www.bathonice.co.uk



GLOW GOLF: Come Christmas time, Victoria Park's beloved crazy golf course becomes a colourful winter wonderland, with glow-in-the-dark golf balls and fairy-lights galore. Tickets **£10.50** for under 18s, or **£36.50** for families (two adults, two U18s or one adult, three U18s). Running until 4 January.

Book at: www.bathonice.co.uk/glowgolf

GHOST STORIES: Once thought to be the time when boundaries between the living and the dead were weakest, Christmas is a prime time for ghost stories. The Theatre Royal is running various ghost story plays, such as **'The Woman in Black'** and **'2:22'** (book via www.theatreroyal.org.uk), while Burdall's Yard is also hosting a live storytelling performance called **'Ghost Stories for Christmas'** by Erwyrdian Tales (book via www.burdallyard.co.uk/whatson).

CHRISTMAS MARKET: Sure, the homeware and hand cream stalls might be less appropriate, but the caramelised nuts and hot chocolates should be more age-inclusive. Running from **27 November** to **14 December**, opening hours depend on the day.

Details at: www.bathchristmasmarket.co.uk/event-information

CHRISTMAS ESCAPE ROOM AT THE HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN:

Thanks to 'Visit Bath' for bringing this to my attention. **The Bath House of Frankenstein** is running a festive escape room called **'The Despicable Gift'**, where you must work together to reveal the contents of a chilling package. **£15pp for 45 minutes for up to 6 people**, excluding entry to the museum. Website says children over 10 can take part.

www.houseoffrankenstein.com/escape-room



CHRISTMAS FILMS AT THE LITTLE THEATRE: A cosy place to watch some Christmas classics, such as **'It's a Wonderful Life'**, **'Elf'**, and **'Home Alone'**.

More info at: www.picturehouses.com/whats-on

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BATHFORD COMMUNITY UNITES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S PLAYTIMES

F.O.B.S
Friends of
Bathford School

A much-needed project at Bathford Church School has come to life thanks to the generous support of local businesses and parents.

The school's **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)** initiative has already transformed playtimes for pupils, offering a wide variety of engaging resources that inspire creativity, teamwork and imaginative play. However, as the number of resources grew, a new challenge emerged – finding a safe and practical place to store them all.

In true community spirit, local businesses and parents stepped in to help. A group of dedicated parents designed and built a bespoke storage shed, giving up their weekends to turn the plans into reality.



Vertical text: Melissa Anderson, Jennifer Keenan and Alex Reed

The cost of materials was generously covered by **Camella Estate Agents**, while **Ramps for Access** kindly created and donated purpose-built storage trolleys. The result is a safe, secure, and fun storage facility that allows children to make the most of every minute of their playtime.

Jennifer Keenan, Deputy Headteacher and OPAL Play Leader at Bathford Church School, said: *"We are overjoyed to have such an amazing storage facility that is safe for the children to use. We cannot thank our team of parents and local businesses enough for their time, effort, and generosity."*

Melissa Anderson, Founder and Director of **Camella Estate Agents**, added: *"We are proud to support Bathford Church School and delighted to see how this initiative will directly enhance the children's daily play experiences."*

This project stands as a wonderful example of how the Bathford community continues to come together to create joyful, lasting benefits for its children.

THE BATHFORD QUILT

Heather, Chris, Wendy and Catherine met to discuss the way forward and to sew together. From now on we will be embellishing flowers, obtainable from Wendy, and letters, available from Ruth. We will soon have the children's handprints, provided by Heather, to embellish. Catherine has made a piece with curtains to represent the Drama Group, and is now working on the Folly, with goats. Wendy is working on the wall. Jill has made pieces for Browne's Folly, The Link and the Twinning Association.

We have a list of additional village features that need representation so please volunteer to help with sewing if you can. More ideas for features would also be welcomed.

Please note that we may not meet on the first Tuesday in December but there is the opportunity to meet and sew in the café on Monday afternoons.

Contact: Heather 07810 867155 | Ruth 07966 507922 | Wendy 07814 016962



Vertical text: Image: www.freepeak.com

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THE WONDERFUL
**WIZARD
OF
OZ**

A PANTOMIME BY
NIGEL HOLMES

19th – 21st
February 2026

TICKETS

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or

bathfordplayers.weebly.com

**Bathford
Parish Hall**

Adults £12, Children £7

On sale
in
January



Bathford
Society



Zhenya Shkil

BATHFORD SOCIETY - REVIEW AND NEXT EVENT

Zhenya Shkil: Ukraine - what is happening locally and in Ukraine

Zhenya's talk was sombre and powerful. We are used to the images of war in Ukraine, the damaged buildings, the wounded, the sight of drones and missiles but Zhenya focussed on the need for life to continue and the help that she and others, with the help of Bath Rotary, work to soothe the pains of war. There are obvious items that we would expect, like generators to maintain power, and an ambulance.

There are also the things that we might not have anticipated, such as toys for children, all wrapped and labelled in a day of activity at the University of Bath; sewing kits; formula milk – which is much more expensive in Ukraine, and a book for children to celebrate the friendship between Bath and Oleksandriya, the town in central Ukraine which is chosen to be the focus of Bath's efforts.

She reminded us of their annual concert at Bath Abbey, on 24 February 2026

to celebrate Ukraine and raise funds.

There is a whole world of supportive activity out there and if you wish to contribute, please go to their website:

www.friendsof.co.uk. As Zhenya put it, with our audience's approval, **Слава Україні! Glory to Ukraine!**



Children's book available in the Village Shop



Our next event, titled 'Bathford School, then and now', is at 20:00 on

Mon 26 Jan when Becky Hayter, the current Head Teacher, will review the history of Bathford School and compare what happened then with what happens today and look ahead to the future steps.

Festive Front Door Competition

"Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but your front door looks delightful..."

It's time to prepare for fun and festivity! Get one step ahead and design and decorate your front door in preparation for the festive period. Once completed, enter our competition by taking a photo and sending it to the Editorial Team at bathfordbulletin@gmail.com by 20 December.

We will award a top prize and two runner-up commendations. Get decorating! And a very happy Christmas to you.



SPREAD A LITTLE KINDNESS

This Christmas (and beyond)

THE CARERS' CENTRE is a local charity helping support unpaid carers of all ages to navigate their caring journey. Many young carers, some as young as five, spend their days looking after a loved one, often missing out on the simple joys of childhood. The **Young Carers' Service** gives young carers time to laugh, play and connect with others who understand, through activities, days out and support sessions. You can find out more on how you can help a young carer this Christmas by visiting www.banescarerscentre.org.uk. If you know a young carer let them know about The Carers' Centre so they can be supported to thrive alongside their caring role.



VOICES FOR LIFE helps children from Bath & North East Somerset build their confidence through singing. Grounded in the belief that children from all backgrounds should have access to quality music education, the charity runs a range of fun school singing/wellbeing workshops, large-scale performances and choirs led by professional musicians. Each project focuses not just on nurturing children's singing ability but also helping them explore their emotions and grow together as a community. Previous projects include a children's composition, recording at **Peter Gabriel's studio**, and even a **performance for the Queen!** More information and upcoming events and how to support can be found at www.voicesforlife.org.uk



BATH CATS & DOGS HOME cares for over 700 cats and dogs each year, providing rescue, behaviour and medical rehabilitation and rehoming services as well as outreach projects in the local community. This December they're inviting supporters to join their **Big Festive Tea-Pawty**. You can help raise funds for rescue animals by hosting your own tea party — request a fundraising pack to help make your event a success. It's the perfect way to support rescue pets this year. Register your Tea-Pawty at www.bathcatsanddogshome.org.uk/events/the-big-festive-tea-pawty or visit www.bathcatsanddogshome.org.uk for more ways to support.

Across our area, a number of dedicated charities and organisations work quietly and consistently to support those who might otherwise be overlooked during this time of year. Their efforts remind us that the season is not only about celebration, but also about connection and care.

If you have a local charity or community organisation that is close to your heart, please let us know – we'd love to feature them in future Bulletins to raise awareness.

GROW BATHEASTON was formed in lockdown by an enthusiastic group of Batheaston residents and focuses on supporting the community while strengthening connections with nature.

This year, 'Grow Batheaston' continues its tradition of holding a Christmas Fayre at Batheaston New Village Hall on **Saturday 6 December** from **14:00-18:00**. The Fayre is their main Christmas fundraiser featuring local artists and artisans, a wreath-making workshop, a charity raffle and Christmas café. Visit www.growbatheaston.co.uk for details, to donate or to find out how to volunteer.



DOROTHY HOUSE HOSPICE CARE supports adults with incurable life-limiting illness or with severe frailty, offering physical, psychological and spiritual support, free of charge. They create care journeys that begin at diagnosis through to bereavement support for family and carers. You can purchase 2026 calendars and diaries from their shops or website or register for their **Christmas Tree Collection Initiative**, which raises vital funds for their services: www.dorothyhouse.org.uk/get-involved/christmas-tree-collection Dorothy House also runs year-round fundraising events including fire & LEGO walks, treks, fairs and the London Marathon. To find out more visit www.dorothyhouse.org.uk



Background image: www.freepik.com

Bath & North East Somerset Libraries

Gift a Coat

Donate a coat to someone who might need it to keep warm this winter.

When can I donate?
Until Saturday 31 January 2026

Where can I donate?

- Midsomer Norton Library & Information Services
- Bath Central Library
- Bath Housing, Welfare & Advice Services
- Keynsham Library & Information Services

What can I donate?

- Coats, bodywarmers, waterproof trousers, hats, scarves or gloves that are new or as new. Your donation will go to people who need warm items over the colder months.
- Warm items for adults and children
- Please hand donations to a member of staff

BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET LIBRARIES are running a gift a coat initiative until **31 January 2026**. Donate a coat to help someone stay warm this winter – donations can be made at Bath Central Library or Bath Housing, Welfare & Advice Services, Midsomer Norton Library or Keynsham Library. Please hand donations to a member of staff. You can donate coats, bodywarmers, hats, scarves, gloves and waterproof trousers that are new or as new. You can email library_events@bathnes.gov.uk for further information

Donations and referrals should be made directly via each organisation's official website.



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NEWS FROM
SHOCKERWICK HOUSE
CARE HOME

We hope you're enjoying the festive season – wherever you are and whatever you're doing!

There's a lot of magic happening here at Shockerwick House this December, and we'd love for you and your families to join us in the celebrations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Cwm Bath Male Voice Choir – Wednesday 3 December at 18:30**
Enjoy an evening of stirring singing, mince pies, and mulled wine.
- **Chloe's Farm Visit – Thursday 4 December, 14:00-16:00**
Come and meet some adorable animals- fun for all ages!
- **Bathford Village Choir – Sunday 14 December at 14:00**
Enjoy some festive cheer with traditional carols.
- **Coffee Morning – Thursday 18 December at 10:30-12:00**
A Special Visitor from the North Pole!
- **Santa will be stopping by on Sunday 21 December (confirmed by one of his elves!) at around 11:30 and meeting the community at 12:30**
If your child would like to meet Santa or you'd like to take part in any of our events, please email laura.bright@bupa.com

We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Laura Bright



FORTHCOMING
MONTHLY TALKS
AT THE VILLAGE
CLUB:

Monday 8 December 2025 – 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 15 April, 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.

Monday 12 January 2026 – Tony Conder: 'Sailing for a Living'

This fascinating detailed presentation gives a real historical insight into the life and hard work crews put in on the old trading vessels working out of Gloucester and about life at sea between ports. The vessels themselves are illustrated by size and type and their ability to work the Severn Estuary, Atlantic and Baltic areas. And learn about life at sea between ports.



Doors and bar are open from 19:15 for 19:45 start. £5 entry for non-members.

ACTION FRAUD

Between April and September 2025, Action Fraud has received 2,790 crime reports relating to Winter Fuel Payment scams, with victims reporting losses totalling over £27,000.

Winter Fuel Payments are made automatically; you do not need to do anything. If you receive any text messages about Winter Fuel Payments, it's a scam. If you are unsure or have been a victim of any scam, phone **Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040**

Remembrance Day service and Parade



Many of Bathford's residents and visitors gathered at the British Legion on Sunday 9 November for the annual parade procession to St. Swithun's Church for the Service of Remembrance, followed by the Two Minute Silence and wreath laying at the War Memorial.

The procession was accompanied by the Bristol motorcycle chapter 'The Cripple Club' who were also joined by standard bearers for the British Legion and 23rd Bath Scout Group as well as Girl Guides, from Batheaston. Fortunately, the weather was kind for the duration of the proceedings. The interactive service and Act of Remembrance was conducted by the Curate, Reverend Jane Hoe.

Afterwards, tea was served in the Church and the British Legion laid on refreshments at the Village Club.

Photos: Luke Emmett

NEWS FROM BATHEASTON MEDICAL CENTRE

'Did Not Attends'

The total number of patients who did not turn up and did not cancel their appointment in October was 241. This equates to **over 3045 wasted minutes of clinician time**. Please can we ask that you either ring to cancel your appointment if you cannot make it, or even easier – get the NHS app and cancel it that way.

Flu Vaccination Autumn Campaigns

The flu campaign runs until the **end of March 2026** and any eligible patient can book an appointment up until that time. Hospitals are reporting a large number of patients suffering with flu at the moment. The Doctors would encourage all eligible patients to be vaccinated as soon as possible.

Contraceptive Pills

Any patients requiring the contraception pill will no longer be seen by their GP, but will need to **attend their local chemist**. It is hoped that this will save valuable appointment time for the GP Practices.

Children's Respiratory Hub

Please be aware that the Batheaston Medical Centre will be hosting the **regional children's respiratory hub** every **Tuesday afternoon** until the end of February 2026. It is for children with coughs and flu-like illnesses and has been set up to relieve some of the winter pressures on GP practices.

If you would like to receive the monthly newsletter, contact reception on **01225 858128** or email bswibc.bmc@nhs.net



St Swithun's Church, Bathford

18 January 2026
Concert at 15:00
 followed by refreshments
Retiring collection
 in aid of:
Mary's Meals—a global charity that serves school meals to some of the world's poorest children

Welcoming two groups based at Wiltshire Rural Music:

The Bissboro Flute Trio

The Trio, who have been performing together for around 20 years, will play a varied repertoire of light classical, jazz standards and music specifically written for flutes.

Doves Peace Choir

We welcome back the small a cappella choir led by Clara Atkins. The choir sing songs on the themes of peace, justice, hope and love, using their voices to send out a positive message for the world.



St Swithun's Charity Action

BATHFORD LINK

For residents in Bathford, Kingsdown, Shockerwick and Warleigh



Transfer service to medical appointments

Lines are open **Monday-Friday 09:00-15:00**

To arrange a lift with LINK call this number **07870 666 582**.

If no-one is available immediately, leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

If you would like to make a donation to help cover costs, we suggest for example:

Batheaston surgery: £2

Royal United Hospital: £6

Bathampton Surgery: £3 plus £1.20 toll fee



Gislebertus - 'The dream of the three kings' between 1125 and 1135 Cathedral of St Lazare, Autun, France

FROM ST. SWITHUN'S

Dear Friends,

Please accept this image as an early Christmas gift! It is a favourite of mine and I find a couple of details particularly endearing. Firstly the angel's fingers – the touch of the right finger on a king's hand that causes his eye to open, this combined with the left finger that points – God's gentle guidance of the kings – not back to Herod but home by another route. The other tender detail is the blanket that covers the 3 kings – it reminds me of the physical comfort that we all need – making a stone carving look comfy is quite an art!

Of course it is a fitting image for a Christmas gift, and with it I wish you joy and hope as we again celebrate the birth of Christ. It is also an image that overlaps into January when, at Epiphany, we mark the journeying of the Magi... sometimes January can be a little flat, so I'm hoping the comfort in the image will bring some ongoing joy.

Please do feel very warmly invited to our various events and services over Christmas and indeed Epiphany on 4 January.

With every blessing, *Lauretta*

Rev Lauretta | revlauretta@outlook.com
 Curate Jane Hoe | jane.hoe@outlook.com
 Church Office | Becky Bull **01225 920050**
administrator@stswithunsbathford.co.uk



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BATHFORD REPAIR CAFE

The Repair Café is held in Bathford Parish Hall, Church Street, (usually) on the second Saturday of each month between 09:30 and 12:00. The dates of our upcoming sessions are:

- Saturday 13 December 2025
- Saturday 10 January 2026
- Saturday 7 February 2026 (the first Saturday in February)

The idea is straightforward – users bring items in need of repair along to the Repair Café and our skilled volunteers will try their very best to fix them. Common repairs include wooden, mechanical, electrical and electronic household items, garden

tools and equipment, toys, clothes and textiles. We

are also able to sharpen kitchen knives and garden tools

but please note that this is limited to two items per user. There are a finite number of 30-minute slots available for this service, so please contact us at the e-mail address below if you would like to book one. Under a 'Pay What

You Can' model, users are invited to make a charitable donation to Share & Repair (see www.shareandrepair.org.uk) following an attempted/successful repair or knife/tool sharpening.



Tool-sharpening (L) and a repaired ring light (R)

For more information, enquiries or to book a knife-sharpening slot, contact us at: bathfordrepaircafe@btinternet.com Martin Hobbs | Photos Hillary Carr



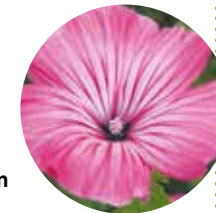
BATHEASTON GARDEN GROUP

We will be holding a members' Christmas Social and Quiz on Wednesday 17 December at 19.30 in the Bathford Parish Hall.

Horticulturist and garden historian Nathalie Mignotte will be giving our first talk of 2026. The talk will be on 14 January at Bathford Parish Hall at 19.30 and will be preceded by Batheaston Garden Group's AGM at 19.15.

Please see our website in the New Year for our 2026 programme of talks and garden visits and for information on becoming a member.

www.batheastongardengroup.co.uk



ANY EXCUSE FOR A PARTY

It's the AGM for the Flower Show So come and join us for cheese and wine in the Parish Hall

Friday 5 December at 19:00

Miller Kehoe

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Contact Sean on 07377 381612
Email sean@millerkehoedecorating.com

Based in Bathford



11 AND UNDER CREATIVE WRITING CHALLENGE

Calling all budding wordsmiths and storytellers!

Is your brain brimming with brilliant ideas? Put pen to paper and enter the Bathford Bulletin's Creative Writing Challenge!

Theme: Why the ... disliked Mondays
Word Limit: 200 – 400 words
Deadline: 6th January 2026
Age limit: 11 years and under

Submission address:
bathfordbulletin@gmail.com
– please ask your parent/carer to send it to us.

Your task is to write a story telling us why someone, or something, doesn't like Mondays.

It could be a dragon, a strawberry, your socks – it's entirely up to you. What happens or happened on a Monday to make it such a dreaded day? Can your character learn to believe in the beauty of Mondays once more?

If you're feeling super creative, feel free to send in a drawing to go with it.

The winner will have their story published in the February edition of the Bathford Bulletin for all to read, and will win a £20 National Book Token to spend as they wish.

Please type up your story, or, if you have very neat handwriting, take a photo of the pages. Parents/carers are welcome to help with typing up the story, but make sure the story itself is your own work.

Three prize-winning writers bring you rich gifts for your mid-winter reading:

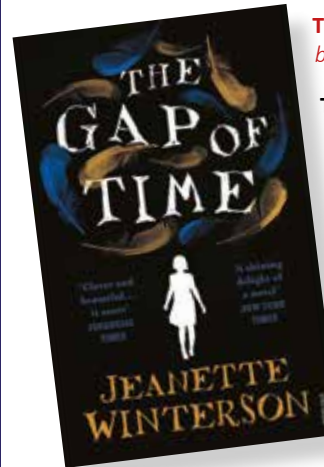
SMALL THINGS LIKE THESE by Claire Keegan (2021)

During the weeks leading to Christmas 1985, Bill Furlong, a coal and timber merchant in a small Irish town, is busy with winter deliveries. Having come from nothing, the son of an unwed mother, he knows 'it would be the easiest thing in the world to lose everything'. With five daughters of his own, he feels special empathy for troubled children and when he discovers a cruel injustice at the local convent, he refuses to remain a bystander though his actions may jeopardise his family's future. Keegan presents this close-knit community with beautiful clarity making it utterly memorable.



THE GAP OF TIME by Jeanette Winterson (2015)

The drama begins: a baby is abandoned during a storm in New Bohemia USA. She is rescued by a black family. In London, Leo, a hedge fund tycoon has falsely suspected his friend (and former lover) Xeno, of impregnating his wife, Mimi, a famous French singer. His insane jealousy punishes everyone, wrecking his marriage, his family and his friendship. Mimi's voice is silenced; it will be heard again only seventeen years later when young Perdita discovers her lost identity, and the past can be redeemed. Winterson re-imagines Shakespeare's play The Winter's Tale, as a thoroughly modern story with swift scene changes and breathtaking encounters.



THE LAND IN WINTER by Andrew Miller (2024)

The novel is set during the interminable, freezing winter of 1962/3 in Somerset. Two young couples, neighbours in this eerily beautiful, snowbound countryside, are awaiting new experiences because the wives of Eric, a doctor, and Bill, a farmer, are both pregnant. Yet all four characters are secretly dwelling on their earlier lives. Miller describes their inner emotions tenderly; he has a flawless ear for humorous dialogue too. He recognises a society which is poised for change but haunted by the horrors of the second world war. The severe weather endangers people's wellbeing and affects their individual decisions which surprise and fascinate the reader.



BOOKMARK

By Isobel Lawes



AVONVALE RFC LADIES

We are the official Ladies' team for Avonvale RFC, entering our fifth season of competitive rugby. We are a welcoming group of women aged between 18 – 55 who bond together through our love of rugby. Our squad is drawn from locals in Bathford and the city of Bath, alongside university girls where we have an alumni pathway with Bath Spa University.

We train on Tuesday evenings at Avonvale RFC on the Bathford Recreation Ground from **19:00-20:30** where we work on a mixture of fitness and skills to prepare us for our matches. We currently play in the **Inner Warriors League**, with the desire to be a part of the **National Challenge 3 League** next season. Avonvale Ladies are unbeaten in both our league and friendly matches this season!

Following the **2025 Women's Rugby World Cup** and the success of England's **'Red Roses'** we have seen a significant increase in women and girls who want to get involved in playing rugby. It has brought us new members that have never played before with the passion to learn the game, but also to learn about the sport on a more in-depth scale.

We have big hopes and dreams for the future of both the Club, and especially our Ladies' team. Our aspiration is to become one of, if not, the best Ladies' team within Bath. We want to achieve this by growing our community and by progressing up through the 'playing pyramid'. We have high hopes that we can expand our Ladies' team and create new opportunities for girls under the age of 18 to play for and represent Avonvale, and to continue to grow women's rugby.

Our home matches can be found in the Bulletin's What's On listings on page 27. If you would like to know more, come and see us on a training night in Bathford or contact **Josh Meagor** on **07399 843040**, via email **avonvalerfldadies@outlook.com**, or visit our Instagram page **avonvaleladies**

Charlotte Papworth



INTRODUCING **Granny's Recipes!**

Most homes have a book full of recipes – often handwritten or a cutting from a long faded magazine page – that have been passed down through the generations and 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. Periodically, the Bulletin will feature a family favourite and help keep those traditions alive! 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** so we can celebrate and share them with others.

Ever since I was a child making mincemeat with my mother for the Christmas mince-pies, I have made my own concoction of the seasonal filling

Here is the recipe:

MINCE MEAT

Makes 1.5 Kg/3.3lb – plenty for 48 mince pies or more – give some away as a gift or as long as it is sealed well, it should keep for next Christmas.

Make it as soon as possible – ideally 3-4 days before you want to use it.

Ingredients

- 850g dried mixed fruit – of your choice raisins, sultanas, currants, dried apricots, dates, cranberries etc.
- 110g cooking apples, peeled, cored & grated
- 50g blanched almonds (or your choice of nuts), chopped
- 225g soft brown sugar
- 75g shredded suet or 60g melted butter
- ½ tsp grated nutmeg
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- Grated rind & juice of a lemon
- Grated rind & juice of an orange
- 150ml sherry, brandy or orange juice, or a mixture – your preference



Method

- Put all ingredients in a bowl and mix thoroughly.
- Cover and leave to stand for 2 days.
- Stir well and put into sterilised jars. If you have the time, allow at least 2 weeks to mature before using.

PASTRY

Here is my adaptation of a recipe by Clive Mellum, former Master Baker at Shipton Mill.

Makes 24 mince pies.

Ingredients

- 350g plain flour
- 1 level teaspoon salt
- 175g unsalted butter – at room temperature
- 50g icing sugar (caster sugar would be OK)
- 50g water between 20C – 30C (you may need to warm it for a few seconds in the kettle or microwave)

Method

- Weigh carefully as proportions are important.
- Ensure butter is soft (but not liquid). Add water to butter and carefully mix until all water is incorporated and mixture looks like whipped margarine. There should be no sign of water in the bowl. You can do this with one hand(!), with a hand mixer or a stand mixer.



- Remove 2 heaped tablespoons of the flour and set aside. Add flour, sugar and salt to the butter/water mixture and then mix to incorporate. Tip out onto the work surface and knead until smooth and pastry is like the texture of playdough. Add the extra flour if needed to get a soft but not tacky consistency. Chill for 30 mins before use to make it easy to handle – although this is not essential.

Will keep in the fridge for at least 2 weeks (note use-by on butter packet and don't exceed) or freeze.

Once prepared, bake at 180C for 20-25 mins until golden. Dust pies with icing sugar when cooled.

If you would like some variations on this pastry for other applications or variations on toppings for mince pies, please email: maureen@itsabreezebaking.uk

BATHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

B&NES Local Plan Consultation – Council Response

Bathford Parish Council recently held an open-invitation meeting with residents at the Village Club to discuss and exchange views on the Local Plan Options as presented by B&NES Council. We would like to thank all those who attended, those who patiently waited to be heard and for the views on all three sites in Bathford.

Following the meeting and reviewing the Plan, the issues and objections raised, the Council subsequently formulated its response to the Plan Options. This document was then ratified by the full Council. The map and response document can be found at the link ...

<https://bathford.net/localplan>

BIKE STORE/SHELTER

Do residents feel that a communal (lockable) Bike Store or Shelter would be useful in the Parish? If so, where best to position it? Answers to clerk@bathford.net

FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER
REFRESHMENTS FROM 6.15PM
CHRISTMAS CAROLS
FROM 7PM
MINCE PIES - MULLED WINE
HOT APPLE JUICE
Join us, with a live musician, on the Village Green to sing Christmas Carols, festive songs and celebrate together.
BATHFORD, VILLAGE GREEN
FREE EVENT.
IF YOU ARE ABLE TO, PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING VIA BATHFORDEVENTS.SUMUPSTORE.COM OR THE QR CODE BELOW

VILLAGE STOCKS

Last month we published a request to ascertain the popularity within the community for retaining and displaying the village stocks, kindly restored by the 'Brunel Shed' in Corsham.



Village stocks

The overwhelming response was positive for displaying the stocks and to budgeting the funds in the 25/26 Council precept to erect a display site and for the Brunel Shed to build a 'lych gate' style cover.

The suggested site is along the bank and footpath that borders Tyndale between the Village Shop and Village Green which provides illumination.

FOUL DOGS AND OWNERS

Why does a minority of our residents think it is acceptable to allow their dogs to foul around the village and not dispose of it in bins or at home? No excuse! Bins are located all around the parish, please use them! If you are visiting Avonvale rugby club, please keep your dog in the club house. Dogs may cross from the Ashley Road gate down to the Bridleway only via the footpath.



DECEMBER 2025

- Cwm Bath Male Voice Choir
Wed 3 Dec | 18:30
Shockerwick House
- Chloe's Farm Visit to Shockerwick
Thu 4 Dec | 14:00
Shockerwick House
- Crib Festival Opening
Fri 5 Dec | 16:00
St Swithun's Church
- Grow Batheaston Christmas Fayre
Sat 6 Dec | 14:00
Batheaston Village Hall
- Live Music: 'Play It Again Sam'
Sat 6 Dec | 20:30
Village Club
- Holy Communion
Sun 7 Dec | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- Crib Festival Closing Service (no Children's Reconnect)
Sun 7 Dec | 15:00
St Swithun's Church
- Bath Sailing Club Talk on Titanic
Mon 8 Dec | 19:15
Village Club
- Bingo!
Fri 12 Dec | 19:30
Village Club
- Bathford Repair Café
Sat 13 Dec | 09:30
Bathford Parish Hall
- Avonvale RFC 1st XV vs Warminster
Sat 13 Dec | 14:00
Recreation Ground
- Bathford Village Choir at Shockerwick
Sun 14 Dec | 14:00
Shockerwick House
- Carols by Candlelight, with mulled wine and mince pies
Sun 14 Dec | 18:00 (No morning or afternoon services)
St Swithun's Church
- Batheaston Garden Club Talk, Christmas Social & Quiz
Wed 17 Dec | 19:30
Bathford Parish Hall
- Coffee Morning
Thu 18 Dec | 10:30
Shockerwick House
- Carols, Mulled Wine and Mince Pies
Fri 19 Dec | 18:15
Village Green
- Live Music: Jazzford
Fri 19 Dec | 20:00
Village Club
- Live Music: Christmas Party – Sally Vinyl!
Sat 20 Dec | 20:30
Village Club
- Festive Front Door Competition closes (see page 13)
Mon 20 Dec | 23:59
- Contemporary Service
Sun 21 Dec | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- Santa visits Shockerwick House (booking required see page 17)
Sun 21 Dec | 11:30
Shockerwick House
- Christingle Service (Children welcome)
Sun 21 Dec | 15:00
St Swithun's Church
- Nativity Crib Service (Children welcome)
Wed 24 Dec | 17:00
St Swithun's Church
- Midnight Mass
Wed 24 Dec | 22:00
St Swithun's Church
- Christmas Day Service Holy Communion (Family friendly)
Thu 25 Dec | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- Joint Benefice Carols Songs of Praise (with St John's)
Sun 28 Dec | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- New Year's Eve Party Live Music: Neil Stephenson (Ticketed Event)
Wed 31 Dec | 20:30
Village Club

JANUARY 2026

- Holy Communion
Sun 4 Jan | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- Reconnect
Sun 4 Jan | 16:30 (Yr 7) 17:30 (Yr 8)
St Swithun's Church
- Quilt Group
Mon 5 Jan | 10:00
Mountain Wood Community Room
- Bingo!
Fri 9 Jan | 19:30
Village Club
- Bathford Repair Cafe
Sat 10 Jan | 09:30
Bathford Parish Hall
- Avonvale RFC 1st XV vs Combe Down II
Sat 10 Jan | 14:00
Recreation Ground
- Contemporary Service
Sun 11 Jan | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- Avonvale Ladies XV vs TBC
Sun 11 Jan | 14:00
Recreation Ground
- Come & See! (Especially for children 4-11)
Sun 11 Jan | 16:00
St Swithun's Church
- Bath Sailing Club 'Sailing for a Living'
Mon 12 Jan | 19:15
Village Club
- Batheaston Garden Club AGM and talk: Nathalie Mignotte
Wed 14 Jan | 19:15
Bathford Parish Hall
- Live Music
Sat 17 Jan | 20:30
Village Club
- Holy Communion
Sun 18 Jan | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- Bissboro Flute Trio and Doves Peace Choir
Sun 18 Jan | 15:00
St Swithun's Church
- Live Music: Jazzford
Fri 23 Jan | 20:00
Village Club
- Welcome Church
Sun 25 Jan | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- Avonvale Ladies XV vs TBC
Sun 25 Jan | 14:00
Recreation Ground
- Evening Prayer
Sun 25 Jan | 16:30 (Refreshments 16:00)
St Swithun's Church
- Bathford Society: 'Bathford School, then and now'
Mon 26 Jan | 19:30
Bathford Parish Hall
- Live Music
Sat 31 Jan | 20:30
Village Club

FOR YOUR DIARY

- Bathford Repair Cafe
Sat 7 Feb | 09:30-12:00
Bathford Parish Hall
- Music on a Sunday Afternoon
Sun 15 Feb 2026 | 15:00
St Swithun's Church
- The Wizard of Oz
19-21 Feb
Bathford Parish Hall
- Concert: 4th Anniversary of Ukraine War
Tue 24 Feb 2026
Bath Abbey
- Music on a Sunday Afternoon
Sun 22 Mar 2026 | 15:00
St Swithun's Church

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
20 January 2026, | 19:00
Mountain Wood Community Rooms

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