

Bathford Bulletin



DISCOVERING
BATHFORD'S TWIN
IN THE BEAUTIFUL
LOIRE VALLEY

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Bathford

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BATHFORD

SHOCKERWICK

WARLEIGH

FESTIVE IGLOOS

Our enchanting feasting pods are back..

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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.

NOVEMBER ISSUE COPY DEADLINE

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

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Château de Candé by Robin Horn

WELCOME

to our October edition

We have a bumper edition for you this month! Bathford parish thrives on the many voluntary groups and societies that abound in our community.

The **Bathford Players' Pantomime** is back for 2026... Oh yes it is! But work starts NOW. Get yourselves and/or your children to the all-important auditions and see what wizardry is in store! See **page 17**.

This year's **Flower Show** provided yet another wonderful display of talents. A review of the Show and winners is on **pages 14/15**.

'Twinning' has a prominent part in this issue. This month, **Bathford Society** welcomes local resident Zhenya Shkil, who has played a central role in the Friendship Agreement between Bath and Oleksandriya, Ukraine. Zhenya will explain her charity work, share her thoughts on the current situation, and set out her hopes for the future.

Bathford has a vibrant **Twinning Association** and a great friendship with Artannes-sur-Indre in France. The Horn family were holidaying near Artannes so... connected with hosts from the village, they enjoyed the customary, generous hospitality and saw the sights. Find out more on **page 21**.

A former Bathford resident was the founder of the **twinning between Bath and Alkmaar**. It's a remarkable story of Elias Prins, an escapee from the German occupation of the Netherlands. Prins generated a massive benevolent response from communities in and around Bath to help support the population of Alkmaar during and post-WWII. See **page 20**.

Jamie's Farm, founded by Warleigh's Jamie Feilden, recently opened its latest location in Shockerwick. The charity provides week-long programmes for young people who struggle in life, particularly at school. Their Open Day showcased their work and activities and included some of the past participants who have gone on to champion the cause.

Finally, please look at the article on **page 26** about the **renovated village stocks**. The Parish Council is giving you the opportunity to voice your opinion on their future in the village.

Editorial Team



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ST. SWITHUN'S FILM CLUB



St Swithun's Church, Bathford, 27 October 2025 at 14:00 for a screening of HOPE GAP starring Bill Nighy (Edward) and Annette Bening (Grace).

Edward and Grace have been married for 29 years and live in a small seaside town called Hope Gap.

During a visit from their son Jamie, Edward informs them both that he plans to leave Grace and walks out of the door that very same day. With the whole family now in disarray, Grace has to find a way through this new life which she least expected and, with the help of her son, achieve hope once again.

Hope Gap tracks the emotional unravelling of a tight-knit family going through divorce and walking the thin line between love and hate.

Stay after the film for complimentary tea and cake (suggested donation: £3).

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



Oh, my goodness! Autumn has well and truly shown its face but whilst there is nothing we can do to change that, we can ensure we continue to entertain you and enjoy ourselves by providing the entertainment.

Saturday Night Live Music – 20:30 to 23:30 – £5 entry

Saturday 11 October – Dave C – always very welcome at the Club – loves to entertain by covering hits from across the decades

Saturday 25 October – Janet James – a great keyboard vocalist – again keeping us entertained with some big hits from the 60s to date

Bingo – Friday 10 October – 19:30

Always such a popular night, always so much fun and always so many winners. September's winnings were the best to date – the more that play, the more we can pay. £5 for a book of 4 games and 2 flyers – 12 opportunities to win with a line and a full house in each game.

After the raffle there is a further opportunity to play – this time £5 for a book of 4 games but just playing for full houses – generally for a much larger win. Again the more that play, the more we pay.

Jazzford Jam – Friday 24 October – 20:00

Come along and join our House Band and play some fabulous tunes – all levels are welcome. It's a great opportunity to practise your skills.

New Year's Eve – Tickets Available

We have managed to secure the hugely popular and talented male vocalist Neil Stephenson as our Act for New Year's Eve – tickets are about to be released so be sure to secure yours asap – remember, you don't have to be a member to come along – a great celebration right on your doorstep. Please call Emma on 07588 966641 to secure your tickets.

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BATHFORD VILLAGE SHOP & CAFÉ



As the autumn evenings draw in, it's a wonderful reminder of how important it is to support our local producers and businesses. We're delighted to share some exciting updates from the Shop this month...

Local produce continues to shine as more of you choose fresh, local produce - Warleigh Farm eggs are proving more popular than ever, with sales steadily increasing. Mo's homemade jams, marmalades, and chutneys have also become firm favourites – each new batch is quickly snapped up.

From small beginnings to nationwide success – you may remember when we first introduced Charley Rabbit greeting cards, with just a handful of designs? Since then, not only have we been gifted one of their first spinning display racks, but we've learned that Charley Rabbit card spinners are now in every Waterstones across the UK – and being shipped abroad! What a journey, and we're proud to have been part of the story from the start.

Home-grown generosity in abundance – this summer, we received more home-grown produce from village residents than in any previous year. Pears, apples, grapes, plums, figs, garlic, leeks, and chilli peppers – all lovingly grown in local back gardens – were donated to the Shop. We were able to offer this produce back to the community at half the market price, meaning the Shop benefitted from the income donated, while everyone else enjoyed beautiful, fresh produce at much lower prices. It was such a joy to have these treasures in the Shop, and we are so grateful to all of you who contributed - whether by donating or by purchasing and enjoying these gifts of the season.



A growing selection for every taste – alongside these local favourites, don't forget we stock the full range of Cavendish and Bistro Chef ready meals and Bath Fine Cheeses.

As always, thank you for supporting the Village Shop and Café. Every purchase you make helps sustain us and local suppliers and keeps our community thriving.

Local Sparkle: We are now stocking two sparkling wines produced by Bathford's own Tennygrove Vineyard. You can now pick up a bottle of their fresh and elegant 2018 Somerset Brut (£32) or the beautifully balanced Blanc de Blanc Sparkling (£30) without leaving the village! Pop in to discover them and raise a glass to supporting local producers!



After the summer break, the Bathford Repair Café got off to a flying start again in September with 18 items brought in for repair.

A wooden statue with a broken arm, the usual crop of small electrical appliances, garden equipment and some serious sewing kept our repair team busy throughout the morning.

Particular thanks go to the Bathford Parish Hall committee for providing a Portable Appliance Tester (PAT), so if you need something tested, please bring it along to one of our sessions and we'll do the rest.

Once again, **Bathford Village Shop** provided everything necessary for our wonderful volunteers to be able to offer delicious refreshments. Why not join us for a cuppa while you wait for your item to be repaired or simply come along and marvel at the ingenuity of our repairers at work? Who knows, you may even be able to spot the 'Bathford Formation Parasol Repair Team' in action again!

The next Bathford Repair Café will be held on **Saturday 11 October (09:30 to 12:00)** at **Bathford Parish Hall**, when we hope to begin offering a knife and small garden tool-sharpening service. If you'd like to get something sharpened, please get in touch beforehand at bathfordrepaircafe@btinternet.com to book a slot as the numbers will be limited.

Let us try to fix it before you bin it! **Martin Hobbs, Café Lead**



BATHFORD SOCIETY

27 October 19:30 for 20:00 in the Parish Hall.
Ukraine – What is happening locally and in Ukraine

Zhenya Shkil

Zhenya is Ukrainian and has lived in Bathford for the last nine years, from before the start of the war. She has worked in Bath and North East Somerset helping Ukrainian refugees to settle and assisting BANES with its Friendship Agreement with Oleksandriya, a pretty city in central Ukraine. The purpose of the agreement is to show solidarity, but it has also included raising funds to supply generators, ambulances and other equipment. Zhenya will talk about how local refugees are managing their lives over here, and with their families and friends back in Ukraine. She will talk about her charity work and how those who so wish can get involved; she'll discuss her understanding of the current situation in Ukraine in this fourth year of the war, and what she thinks Ukraine would like from a peace agreement and how her country might be rebuilt.



THE PENNY-PINCHER'S GUIDE TO BUDGETING AS A YOUNG PERSON

As someone who breaks out into a cold sweat at the mention of spreadsheets, I cannot offer as much sage advice on this as I'd like. But thankfully our old friend **The Internet** can. Managing your money effectively, whether it's from a part-time job or your great-aunt Mabel, is a very useful skill to have. Because the habits you build now are the kind that come in handy for adulthood later, like buying a house.

by Catherine Tait

Best tips we've found:

Divide your money up according to use: Essential (50%), Fun (30%) and Savings (20%), and put the savings part in a savings account. Your parent/carer can open one for you if you're under 18 or 16. Do this as soon as you've received the money, so it doesn't mysteriously go AWOL a week later. Or go old-school and put it in a piggy bank stored in your nearest nuclear bunker. But the interest rates* aren't great for the latter option. If you're school-aged, you probably won't have as many 'essentials', like rent or food, so play around with the percentages to suit your situation (e.g. 50% fun, 50% savings).

Have savings goals to work towards. Think about what you'd like to save up towards (e.g. a holiday with friends), whether it's a long-term, mid-term or short-term goal, work out how much it will cost, and track your progress each month for a sense of achievement and motivation.

Track your spending weekly to see whether you're staying on-budget. This will also help you identify unnecessary spending habits that are hindering progress – you can easily end up splurging on things like hot drinks when you could use your own thermal flask instead.

Think before you buy. This is wise for any big decision in life, but take 24 hours to mull it over before purchasing something expensive. Do you really want/need it? Why? Could you save the money for something better?

Shop second hand. When you do buy something, it's worth considering eBay or Vinted, or checking a charity shop. Alternatively, shops like TK Maxx can be a good place to look for new things at lower prices.

**An amount of money added to your savings by a bank, based on how much you put in (it's a percentage of your savings).*



Batheaston Garden Group's October talk, a change to the previously advertised speaker.

Wednesday 15 October at 19:30 at Bathford Parish Hall. Dean Peckett will be giving a talk on **Mixed Borders and Herbaceous Perennials**.

Dean is a horticulturist and garden designer. During his forty-year career in horticulture he has worked at RHS Wisley and RHS Harlow Carr followed by ten years as Garden and Projects Manager at Fort Belvedere in Windsor Great Park. Dean now runs his own garden advisory and design company in Usk.

All are welcome, talks are free to members, non-members £5.

For information about Batheaston Garden Group please visit our website www.batheastongardengroup.co.uk

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From St Swithun's

Listening to a scientist talking about the urgent need to develop a machine that converts carbon dioxide into oxygen, I was very amused when his colleague piped up - "We already have one - it's called a tree!"

Of course, this is not the whole solution but certainly trees can play their part in fighting climate change... you may have read how farmers in Africa are finding that planting acacia trees creates a barrier preventing sand encroaching onto their farmland.

With this in mind, we are looking at Creation in our school assemblies (Collective Worship) this term – to celebrate the amazing goodness of trees, water, insects, birds... and to highlight what a gift they are. For Christians, this leads us to wonder at God's creativity and wisdom, and for all of us this leads to gratitude for the goodness of the earth. We talked in assembly this week about the huge variety and adaptability of trees in different environments, we looked at the different seeds, like acorns (and marvelled at how small they are compared to oak trees) and we all noticed how beautiful autumn is because of the trees.

Children had their own ideas about how amazing trees are too - a home for insects and creatures, a place for shade, a source of wood and paper, and perhaps most joyfully these two comments, 'trees are amazing because their leaves die back every year and yet come the spring they're covered in new leaves' and 'trees change with the seasons, they just know what to do.'

I'm thanking God for trees today, the chance to be in school assemblies, and for the creativity that we all share.

With every blessing this autumn,

Lauretta

Our **School Harvest Festival** is on **Thursday 2 October**, and our church celebration on **Sunday 5 October**. We will be collecting tinned and dried goods for the Bath Foodbank as usual so please feel warmly invited to add your contributions - the church is open during daylight hours.

We are delighted to have a full autumn/winter series of **Music on a Sunday Afternoon** concerts lined up. All are designed to raise money for worthy causes, but also importantly to celebrate community music making. All performers are local, talented musicians and giving their time freely to support our fundraising efforts. Concerts are followed by refreshments, so do take the opportunity to stay on for a chat and a cuppa!

St Swithun's Charity Action Group

St Swithun's Church, Bathford

19 October 2025
Concert at 15:00
followed by
refreshments

**Music on a
Sunday
Afternoon**

Retiring collection in
aid of
Wiltshire Rural Music,
Bath Youth for Christ
and
Mission Aviation
Fellowship

Ebonite Clarinet Ensemble
A community clarinet group based at
Wiltshire Rural Music in Trowbridge. The
ensemble will perform a varied
programme showcasing the beautiful
blended harmony of the range of clarinet
instruments.

Daisy Chapman

Daisy is an accomplished singer,
songwriter, lyricist and composer. She
performs her songs across the UK and
Europe, but also as far as the USA
and China. She has produced 5 studio
length albums.

St Swithun's Charity Action



Q. My dog wriggles and doesn't seem to enjoy having his harness put on, even though he enjoys his walks. Is there anything I can do?

A. Rest assured, this is a common problem. We tend to think that dogs will love their harnesses if they love their walks, but it's not as simple as that. It is often their initial introduction to a harness that can cause problems, which are then exacerbated with daily harness use. We, of course, completely understand that we're using a harness to walk our dog comfortably, without damaging their throat. Your dog, on the other hand, often experiences an item they've never seen or smelt before, coming towards and then over their head, without warning. The harness is then clipped (sometimes loudly) around them so they can't see it or escape it – what would you think, put in a similar situation? With new puppies, introduce their harness slowly, over a number of days, letting them investigate it in their own time before you even start to put it on. This can be done before their vaccinations are complete, when they're not going out anyway. For older dogs, they ideally need a break from wearing their harness before re-introducing it slowly, as for a puppy. Alternatively, you could buy a different harness and start again. It can also help to choose a harness that doesn't need to be pushed over the head, but can instead, be clipped around the neck. Good luck!

Alison Creighton www.doodledogs.uk

Royal British Legion,
Bathford, will be
holding their Annual
General Meeting on
Thursday 23 October
2025, at 20:00 hrs.

All are welcome to join us.

The Village Club Bathford RBL
58 High St, Bathford,
Bath BA1 7SN



THE BATHFORD QUILT



We were able to show
our work in progress at
the Flower Show.

Marilyn and Ohla cut out flowers, which we handed to people to embroider for the quilt, to represent the Flower Show. We also recruited some new members for our group. We have now finished the background, which represents land, fields and sky. We will be asking people to make representations of village features to apply to this. Ruth is now producing lettering for people to embroider and Heather is going to gather handprints from the children at the school to make the border. We are so pleased how this project is materialising, really enjoying our collaboration and exchange of ideas, and looking forward to sewing bees as we start to assemble the next layer. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 7 October (first Tuesday) at 10:00 in the Community Room, Mountain Wood**, but you are also welcome to come along to sew on Monday afternoons in the Village Shop Café. For information on this, contact **Wendy Freebourne 07814 016962**.



High Bannerdown O.I.E.O £1.5m



Morris Lane, Bathford O.I.E.O £1m



Bathford Flower Show

Not just a flower show!



The colour was there, the sunshine was there, the people were there – everything to make it another successful day.

The displays in every category were cheerful, or interesting, or scrumptious; I wish that I could have been allowed to take a knife fork and spoon in with me, but I think chairman's privilege doesn't stretch that far. Which brings me neatly on to tea on the veranda, always an enjoyable experience especially in fine weather.

Thank you to everyone who turned up, it's always good to see the village getting together to celebrate even the smallest achievement. A bigger thank you to the ones who entered their work in the different categories. And the biggest thank you goes to those who helped make it happen. A show like this depends on so many people, all of them volunteering to keep the show on the road.

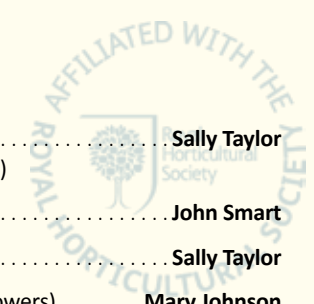
After the 'exceptional' summer, I felt we were lucky to get as many entries as we did. The continuous dry weather made life very difficult for us gardeners, but then again there are always the non-growing classes that will always be there 'come rain or shine' if you will excuse me overplaying the pun.

And did you pay attention to the Bathford School children's contribution – the wonderful artistic endeavours which were displayed using the features of the hall and the gym equipment rather than stuck to the wall – even hanging from the basket-ball net! What an imaginative use of space, and what brilliant execution.

Kevin Marris

CUP WINNERS

- Jean Law Cup Sally Taylor
(overall winner of all categories)
- Cup for all growing categories John Smart
- Cup for floral arrangements Sally Taylor
- Colegate Cup (for allotment growers) Mary Johnson
- Cup for Homecraft (home-made edibles) Julia Pointing
- Cup for Handicraft (arts & crafts) Joe Evans
- Cup for Photography Ruth Holding
- Cup for Children under 10 Myles Gurney
- Cup for children under 15 Lydia Morris





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**READING
 WITH
 CHILDREN**



Everyone loves a good story! There's something really special about going on this journey with a child. Snuggling up on the sofa with a picture book when they're small or with a longer book when they're older is a joy.

I love their excited anticipation of the next chapter. With my 8yr old twin grandsons we are reading 'The Ghost of Thomas Kempe' by Penelope Lively at the moment. In the future I look forward to reading 'Tom's Midnight Garden' by Philippa Pearce with them. My all-time favourite, with such a moving ending that my voice catches.

Listening to young readers in school is a delight which I would recommend. From the hesitant sounding out by the beginners to the fluent telling of a tale by the more experienced, it is so easy to give encouragement and help them discover a wonderful world in books.

Image by freepik

Jenny Matthews



It's Panto time again
 - oh yes, it is!



Bathford Players are holding auditions for their next production - **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz**, a pantomime by Nigel Holmes.

We are lucky to have our director from our last two very successful pantomimes - **Emma Sanchez** - returning once again for this production.

If you've enjoyed watching our past shows and thought you'd love to be part of a future cast, don't be a cowardly lion but come along to the auditions and give it a go! They're being held for both adults and children on **Sunday 12 October 2025 15:00** in the **Parish Hall**, Church Street, Bathford.

The production will take place the week beginning **16 February 2026** - which is during the school half term holiday. If you'd love to be there but can't make the audition date, please leave a message with helenbevan@live.co.uk

Photo from the 2025 Panto Snow White

Helen Bevan

Shockerwick House Care Home

Laura Bright



What a fabulous summer we've had here at Shockerwick House! We've truly made the most of the glorious weather by taking our activities outdoors onto the formal lawn. A real highlight has been our Garden Club, where we've enjoyed growing sunflowers, sweet peas, and cosmos. A special mention goes to our new Veg Trug, which has been a fantastic addition - making it easier for residents in wheelchairs to get hands-on with planting and enjoy the garden up close.

In August, we had our summer fête, and what a day it was! Full of laughter, smiles, and even a few water fights, it was so heartwarming to see families and the wider community come together. Between us, we raised over £300 for the incredible local charity **Jamie's Farm** - a huge thank you to everyone who contributed!

As autumn approaches, we're already seeing the seasonal colours shift and the darker mornings roll in. But the fun isn't over! Starting 1st October, we're launching a Spooky Community Competition in the lead-up to Halloween.

We're inviting everyone in the community - of all ages and abilities - to take part in our Pumpkin Colouring Competition. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, chosen by our residents on Halloween! To take part, simply email laura.bright@bupa.com and we'll send you a pumpkin template. Decorate it however you like, then either email back a photo of your finished masterpiece or drop it off at the home.

And don't forget - every month we host live entertainment, exercise classes, arts and crafts, coffee mornings, and more. We'd love you to join us for a cuppa and a chat! For details on upcoming events, visit:

www.facebook.com/BupaCareHomeShockerwickHouse

News from Batheaston Medical Centre

Extended Hours clinics

The Surgery is open **every Monday evening between 18:00 and 20:00**, also once a month on a **Friday evening, 18:00 to 20:00** and **Saturday all day from 09:00 to 17:00**. These appointments are specifically aimed at patients who are working during our normal opening hours.

PCN Teledermatology Clinic

This new service is for any patients with a suspected skin cancer lesion, who can now be booked into a clinic here at Batheaston or at Widcombe Surgery, whichever is sooner. A photograph of the lesion is taken and reviewed by a Dermatologist who discharges most patients or books the patient in for removal of the lesion.

Flu and Covid Vaccination Autumn Campaign

Invitations are being sent for Covid and/or flu vaccination to eligible patients. **The criteria for the flu vaccine are any patient over the age of 65 years, at risk patients, pregnant women, and children aged 2-3 years.**

Patients can attend either of two clinics on **Saturday 4 or 18 October**. If you have not yet been invited, please contact reception. Parking for these Covid/Flu clinics is free.

Blood Tests

Please be aware that if you are attending for a blood test **it is really important that you are well hydrated**. Drink a large glass of water at least **45 minutes before** your appointment.

From 1 September women will be reminded when their cervical smear is due and will be sent a negative result via the NHS App. If you would like to download the NHS App to your phone but are not confident to do this, please ask at reception to book some time for assistance.

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



CREATING CHANGE FOR VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE

Local charity Jamie's Farm recently invited the public to their Open Day at their HQ at Ditterridge, near Box to learn more about their programme of activities and the positive outcomes for young people.

The brainchild of Jamie Feilden and his mother Tish, who lives in Warleigh where Jamie grew up, he recognised that social and academic exclusion are serious problems affecting the young. Children not engaging fully with their education can't see their potential as successful people and the consequences likely to impact on future employability, wellbeing and relationships.

"Our powerful five-day residential and rigorous follow-up programme, is designed specifically to improve wellbeing, boost engagement, improve behaviour and develop essential life-skills such as communication and self-awareness. It's also valuable professional development for visiting teachers who renew relationships with their young people and sustain the changes back in the classroom."

As well as enjoying healthy refreshments and seeing some of the activities enjoyed by participants – nurturing livestock (cows, sheep and horses), chopping wood, crop husbandry, picking vegetables, cookery and fun activities – we got to meet some of the charity's **Youth Champions** who gave a candid view of their background and how Jamie's Farm had transformed their lives.

Riley was a child in social care; reluctant, not well behaved or academic in school. From his very first visit to the farm, he learned to interact with his peers and staff.

Ahmed is a Syrian refugee. He was allocated a place at Jamie's Farm by Sussex Social Services. He was emotional about how wonderful his experience has been and was profuse in his thanks to the charity... and to Britain.

Adele first came to Jamie's Farm when she was 13. *"I come from a family of 6. It was so easy to get lost in school and labelled as naughty and disruptive. It was only when I climbed a hill in Monmouth with the group that I started to feel worthwhile."* Adele is now 23 and an ardent supporter of the charity.

Now, over 16,000 young people have experienced a visit and the positive benefits to find ways to stay involved and help them to maximise their potential at school and home.

To find out more about Jamie's Farm visit: <https://jamiesfarm.org.uk>

Hillary Carr



Ahmed, Adele, co-CEO Jake Curtis and Riley



BATH AND ALKMAAR – AN 80-YEAR ASSOCIATION WITH A LOCAL TWIST

Our thriving Twinning Association which connects Bathford with Artannes-sur-Indre in France has been well established for over 20 years. But less well known is Bathford's connection with the twinning of the cities of Bath and Alkmaar in the Netherlands.

It came about when Elias Prins, a Jewish playwright and theatre producer, who was one of the last escapees from Alkmaar under the advancing German military forces, crossed the North Sea and headed to Bath to meet his sister Rosa who had already settled here.

Sharing stories of the travails of life for the families and children under occupation with everyone, he formed a friendship at the Rotary Club with Jimmie Wills who convinced Elias to establish a twinning of the two cities – a concept that was unknown then – as they were both cultural centres, of similar size and associated with water.

The resulting alliance inspired the residents of Bath and surrounding towns to hold concerts, auctions, jumble sales, stunts and collections of clothing for the citizens of Alkmaar. In weeks they had raised the modern equivalent of £250,000.

Alkmaar welcomed a party from Bath in August 1945 following liberation. The report of the sight of bedraggled children there, some barefoot, led to 50 of the severely malnourished children coming to England and Bath to convalesce – and to enjoy Christmas with a family. So began the association between our cities that endures today.

Elias married Ida, from Cornwall, and they settled in Ostlings Lane, Bathford where they lived for nearly 50 years. Elias was bestowed a knighthood by the Dutch monarchy, and he and Ida are buried together in St. Swithun's churchyard.

In July, visitors from Alkmaar and the Twinning association made the pilgrimage to St. Swithun's. A short service of remembrance and thanks for the life of Elias was conducted by Rev. Lauretta Wilson. The group included Alkmaar's Burgemeester (Mayor) Anja Schouten and Elias' son Prof. Gwythian Prins.

For more information visit <https://bath-alkmaar.org.uk>

Hillary Carr



Alkmaar Mayor Anja Schouten and Gwythian Prins



Elias Prins



CHÂTEAUX, TWINNING, AND TEA



A day in Artannes-sur-Indre

Our family holiday in France this summer included a few nights in the stunning medieval town of Chinon in the Loire Valley. Mentioning this plan to our neighbours the Bevans, they recommended we visit our twin village, Artannes-sur-Indre, a short drive away. I have driven past the Bathford road sign thousands of times and have been vaguely aware that our parish is twinned with one in France, but I couldn't tell you more.



The Horn family with Jacques and Corinne (Centre)

We connected with Maureen Breeze from the Bathford Twinning Association, who put us in touch with her counterpart in Artannes, Jacques L'Hôte, and along with his partner Corinne and a friend Marie-Francois, they kindly offered to show us around the area. I was a little concerned before meeting up about my appalling French. My three teenage children had been berating me for speaking loudly in a French accent up to this point! Fortunately, our hosts spoke perfect English and the conversation flowed.

We started at a historic troglodyte farm at Les Goupillières followed by lunch at a local restaurant. **We were then taken to one of the highlights of our holiday, the Domaine de Candé.** Corinne has a deep knowledge of the history of the place and walking around the historical château proved such a wonderful experience which you can read about here: www.domainecande.fr **It's here where the Duke of Windsor and Wallis Simpson often stayed and were married,** as they were good friends of the owners, Charles and Fern Bedaux, an admirer and friend of Adolf Hitler. You can find out more about Charles Bedaux and the conspiracy around his suicide in 1944 here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Bedaux



Copies of the wedding outfits worn by Duke of Windsor and Wallis Simpson

Next, we were taken to Artannes where we had afternoon tea with Sir Robert Young, the former British High Commissioner to India, and his wife Catherine. A walk in the beautiful grounds of a nearby private château followed before seeing the English roses in the village square, gifted from Bathford.



'Graffiti' carvings of their names on the fire surround

After a full day we said our goodbyes and thanks of gratitude. Artannes and the surrounding area is one of the most stunning and historical areas I have been to. We now look forward to welcoming visitors from Artannes to our house and showing them our parish when they next visit. I cannot recommend visiting Artannes highly enough!

Robin Horn

All photos: Robin Horn



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



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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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HELPING KEEP OUR ROADS SAFE

Many of you might have spotted Ady Humphries, our local Avon and Somerset Police **Road Safety Enforcement Officer (RSEO)**, keeping an eye on speeding vehicles from his motorcycle on the Box Road and High Street. He has also dropped in to Bathford school on several occasions and attended the Annual Parish meeting.

Maureen Breeze caught up with him recently to find out a little more about his role.

Bathford has two of the 120 sites that Ady attends across a large area, from South Bristol to Glastonbury. His role is to enforce road safety by getting photographic evidence of drivers committing road traffic offences, as well as attending public meetings and shows to engage with the public and provide information and education.

The Enforcement Sites that Ady attends are determined by there being a history of serious collisions, or the Road Safety Unit receiving a request from the local community about persistent anti-social driving - if the situation warrants it, a site is set up.

He said "In a typical shift, I try to visit five locations and would expect to detect between 60 and 100 offences. Although the majority of these will be for speeding, RSEOs are also able to detect and prosecute careless driving, not wearing a seatbelt and distracted driving (mobile phones etc)."

Drivers detected committing a speeding offence can typically expect to be sanctioned depending on the severity of the offence and the driver's previous history of committing offences. Sanctions can be from a fine and points on their driving license to court attendance, an unlimited fine and loss of license. Eligible drivers may be offered attendance at a 'Speed Awareness Course' which doesn't carry any points on their licence.

Speeding is one of the 'Fatal Five' contributing factors that cause road traffic collisions... and though often not the main cause, it can contribute to making injuries more serious. On average 5 people are killed on UK roads every day as a result of speeding, as well as the impact anti-social driving has on the wellbeing of communities.

Can Ady offer Bathford Parish Council any advice or tips on helping reduce speeding through the Parish? "People power is the key to interacting with public bodies, such as B&NES and the Police. The more people who express a concern, the more pressure can be applied to these bodies to examine and look to solve that issue. Also, supporting and maintaining Community Speedwatch Teams ensures that drivers are constantly reminded of their antisocial behaviour by driving too fast through communities."

With the great challenges, what gets Ady out of bed in the morning? "I love being outside through all the seasons and helping make communities safer by reducing road casualties. I meet people from all walks of life and I get to ride a motorcycle - what's not to like?!"

Report road related issues and concern to: www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/

Maureen Breeze



Ady Humphries on the job!

Avonvale RFC

– Your Local Community Rugby Club

Looking to get involved in rugby or simply become part of a welcoming local community? Avonvale Rugby Club is proud to be a village-based club offering rugby for **Men, Women, Minis, and Juniors** - and we're always happy to welcome new faces!

Whether you're a seasoned player or completely new to the game, there's always a place for you. We offer:

- **Senior Men's Rugby** – Competitive, social rugby in Counties 3 Tribute Ale Dorset & Wilts Central Division
- **Senior Women's Rugby** – Friendly fixtures throughout the season
- **Minis & Juniors** – From Under 6 to Under 14, training and playing every Sunday from 10am

We pride ourselves on our **family-friendly atmosphere, high-quality coaching, and vibrant social scene.** From weekly training and weekend matches to fun-filled events, there's always something happening at Avonvale. Our social calendar includes Santa's Grotto for the kids, Easter Eggs-travaganza, Auction nights, Quiz nights, Family Games nights, Club dinners, and end-of-season Fun Day and Awards.

And you **don't** have to be a rugby player to be part of the Avonvale family! We warmly welcome **social members** who simply want to connect with others, enjoy the events, or support the club. Our facilities are also available for **community-focused activities** such as yoga classes, charity events, and private parties. If you'd like to join us, whether as a player, supporter, or social member, or to hire our facilities, please get in touch via:

[facebook.com/AvonvaleRFC](https://www.facebook.com/AvonvaleRFC) | [instagram.com/AvonvaleRFC](https://www.instagram.com/AvonvaleRFC) | Website: www.AvonvaleRFC.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you to Avonvale RFC - Where rugby meets community.

Aaron Woodland



MAYOR OF BATH'S HONORARY GUIDES

Congratulations to **Anna Chippendale-Budd** on qualifying as a Mayor of Bath's Honorary Guide. Bathford now has four Mayor's Guides Ken Tatem, Trevor Johnson, Steve Hughes, and Anna. Have you been on one of these fantastic tours? People who have lived for many years in Bath find themselves saying *"I've walked down this street numerous times but never noticed that building"* or *"I didn't know the story of that person living in Bath"*.

Walks start at 10:30 and 14:00 in Abbey Church Yard (next to the Abbey) and last for two hours. There's no need to book and they are completely FREE. Ken walks on Monday afternoons, Anna and Steve on Tuesday afternoons and Trevor on Wednesday afternoons. Come and join us and find out more about this wonderful city in which we live.



Anna Budd



BATH SAILING CLUB

Bath Sailing Club is over 40 years old; having originated from yacht cruising, it has interests in all things sailing, boating and marine.

Cruising trips are the summer highlights - generally on the South Coast and Channel. Boat owners often invite other members to crew, and we charter yachts together. But not all are active boaters - we don't just sail!

Outside of summer sailing, members meet on the second Monday in the month from September to April, at the Village Club, Bathford.

The social winter season presents speakers whose talks range from sailing stories, technical matters, stirring adventures and 'water-related' activities; plus, training courses, visits and events. The club makes a small contribution to a charity of the guest speaker's choice.

The club is eclectic and unique, so come along and see for yourself. Members are not all active boaters - we don't just sail! Members pay a modest £25 annual fee, but non-members are always welcome for our talks for a small contribution.



Monday 13 October 2025

– **Nick Tobin: The Falklands War.**
19:15 for 19:45 start at the Village Club (RBL), Bathford.

Memoir of Captain Nick Tobin DSC MA RN (ret.) whose ship, HMS ANTELOPE, was tragically sunk, but his other battle had only just started. Nick will recount the ups and downs of his ship's unique involvement in the campaign to recover the Falkland Islands in 1982. HMS Antelope assumed command of a large group of amphibious ships for most of their passage south. Nick was also responsible for the safe transportation to Ascension Island of not only 180 Argentine Prisoners of War, captured when British forces retook South Georgia, but also the British Antarctic Survey Team, two female wildlife documentary filmmakers from Anglia TV... and two South Georgian pintail ducks!

And Nick will also tell of what happened to him and his ship's company after their return to England.

To learn more, visit: <https://bathsailingclub.org.uk>

BATHFORD TWINNING ASSOCIATION

QUIZ Night

Bathford Parish Hall
19:30 Friday 7 Nov 2025
£12 per person to include snacks and a 2 course supper. Bar available

Book a table of 6 or come on the night and join others in the fun and test your knowledge!

Tickets available from the Village Shop from 13 October or by calling 01225 859353

Proceeds to the Eker Fund, which helps young people from Bathford to visit Artannes

David Le Lohé

BATHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

VILLAGE STOCKS UPDATE

The village stocks that were retrieved from Bathford Manor have been restored courtesy of the Brunel Shed in Corsham at minimum expense. The woodwork has been repaired and the wood treated with lime. The wheels have been restored and the metalwork cleaned up. They are now ready to be placed on display as part of the heritage of the parish.

In order to provide some protection from the elements, the Brunel Shed has suggested that a 'lych gate' style shelter could be built over the stocks on a solid base. The estimated materials cost could be up to over £2,000.



Before approving the work, the Parish Council would like to poll residents to assess whether the community would like to see the stocks on public display in the village and agree to the expenditure to build a shelter, or not.

Please go to the site <https://forms.gle/4nnpHAKvJtphBF8R6> to cast your vote online

or email the **Parish Clerk** on clerk@bathford.net with your answer:

YES I agree
NO I disagree
To build a shelter and display the village stocks

If approved, the suggested site is in the Dovers Lane passage leading from the Village Shop to Dovers Park, but the final destination is yet to be selected.

Thank you, in anticipation, for your participation.

VILLAGE DIRECTORY

Avonvale Rugby Club
01225 858295

BANES
01225 394041

Bathford Cricket Club
01225 858007

Batheaston Medical Centre
01225 858128

Batheaston Dental Practice
01225 859394

Bathford Bulletin
bathfordbulletin@gmail.com

Bathford Church School
01225 858776

Bathford Link
07870 666582

Boots Pharmacy
01225 858753

Curo
01225 366000

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

Parish Council
01225 858220

Shockerwick House Nursing Home
01225 743636

St Swithun's Church
01225 920050

Village Club
01225 858072

Village Shop and Café
01225 859186

WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

- Mobile Library Service
Wed 1 Oct | 13:00 - 13:45
Dovers Park by School
- Avonvale Ladies Rugby v Chew Valley Cats
Sun 12 Oct | 14:00
Rugby Club, Recreation ground
- Bathford School Harvest Festival
Thu 2 Oct | 09:30
St Swithun's Church
- Avonvale RFC 1stXV v North Devon II
Sat 4 Oct | 15:00
Rugby Club, Recreation ground
- Bathford Quilt Group
Tue 7 Oct | 10:00 - 13:00
Community Room, Mountain Wood
- Bingo!
Fri 10 Oct | 19:30
Village Club
- Service of Holy Communion and Harvest Festival
Sun 5 Oct | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- Reconnect
Sun 5 Oct | 16:30 (Yr 7) and 17:30 (Yr 8/9)
St Swithun's Church
- Bathford Repair Cafe
Sat 11 Oct | 09:30 - 12:00
Bathford Parish Hall
- Live Music: Dave C
Sat 11 Oct | 20:30
Village Club
- Contemporary Service, Joint with St John's
Sun 12 Oct | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- Bathford Players Auditions for the Panto
Sun 12 Oct | 15:00
Bathford Parish Hall
- Come & See! Children's Afternoon Service
Sun 12 Oct | 16:00
St Swithun's Church
- Avonvale Ladies Rugby v Chew Valley Cats
Sun 12 Oct | 14:00
Rugby Club, Recreation ground
- Bath Sailing Club Talk: The Falklands War
Mon 13 Oct | 19:15 for 19:45
The Village Club
- Auctioneum Valuation Day
Tue 14 Oct | 09:30 - 13:30
Bathford Parish Hall
- Mobile Library Service
Wed 15 Oct | 13:00 - 13:45
Dovers Park by School
- Bathaston Garden Club Talk: Mixed Borders and Herbaceous Perennials
Wed 15 Oct | 19:30
Bathford Parish Hall
- Community Coffee Morning
Thurs 16 Oct | 10:30-12:00
Shockerwick Nursing Home
- Avonvale RFC 1stXV v Trowbridge III
Sat 18 Oct | 15:00
Rugby Club, Recreation ground
- Service of Holy Communion
Sun 19 Oct | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- Music on a Sunday Afternoon
Sun 19 Oct | 15:00
St Swithun's Church
- Parish Council Meeting
Tue 21 Oct | 20:00
Community Room, Mountain Wood
- Royal British Legion Bathford AGM
Thu 23 Oct | 20:00
The Village Club
- Live Music: Jazzford
Fri 24 Oct | 20:00
Village Club
- Live Music: Janet James
Sat 25 Oct | 20:30
Village Club
- Welcome Church
Sun 26 Oct | 10:00
St Swithun's Church
- Evening Prayer
Sun 26 Oct | 16:30 (with refreshments from 16:00)
St Swithun's Church
- Film Club: HOPE GAP
Mon 27 Oct | 14:00
St Swithun's Church
- Bathford Society: Talk on Ukraine
Mon 27 Oct | 20:00
(Coffee available from 19:30)
Bathford Parish Hall
- Mobile Library Service
Wed 29 Oct | 13:00 - 13:45
Dovers Park by School

FOR YOUR DIARY

- Bathford Twinning Association Quiz Night
Fri 7 Nov | 19:30
Bathford Parish Hall
- 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 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 21 October, 20:00
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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