

# Bathampton Parish Council Newsletter January 2012

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

### **New Parish Councillor**

At our November meeting we were pleased to co-opt George Ardrey who is retired and lives in the Chestertons. On behalf of the Parish Council George will be taking a special interest in the Localism Act and the various things stemming from it, such as neighbourhood plans.

### **Park & Ride East of Bath**

The B&NES Core Strategy is being examined by an independent inspector, Simon Emerson. One of his first decisions was that since B&NES had removed the Bathampton Meadows Park & Ride from the Transport Package, mention of it should be removed from the Core Strategy. This means it is no longer part of B&NES plan for the area.

### **Jubilee Celebrations**

There are various ideas being mooted as to how we should celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. There may be some joint celebrations with Batheaston and Bathford. More ideas are welcome as are offers to help with the organisation. Please contact Cllr. Sue Christley on 338116.

### **Hedges**

It isn't the time of year for things to be growing much but nevertheless some hedges do overhang footpaths and pavements. This is particularly the case on the north side of Warminster Road where the footpaths are very narrow and young mums with buggies go in fear of their lives as the 44-tonners speed by. If you have such a hedge please make sure that it is not obstructing the pavement.

### **B&NES Library Consultation**

With the need to cut costs, B&NES are reviewing their library services. The proposal most likely to affect the village is the withdrawal of the Mobile Library service. If you wish to comment on their proposals you can do it on-line at [www.bathnes.gov.uk/librarynewsandevents](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/librarynewsandevents) or you can write to the Library Customer Services Manager, Bath Library, The Podium, Bath BA1 5AN.

### **Affordable Housing**

At this year's Annual Parish Meeting we intend to focus again on the need for affordable housing in the village. The great difficulty is understanding the level of demand. If you know anyone with Bathampton connections who wishes to live in the village but cannot afford to do so, please talk to Cllr. Susanne Wing on 465359.

### **Village Hall**

Bathampton Village Hall needs a Booking Secretary from May 2012! This is a voluntary position that must be filled if the Hall is to continue to serve the Village and surrounding area. It is an interesting and rewarding way to contribute to the community. Please call Janet George on 463767 for more information.

**Tony McCann**

## **Leisure & Amenities**

**Mike Richards**

### **Jubilee Garden**

Following the report in the October Newsletter, no response has been received regarding the possible removal or renovation of the fitter's hut. Readers will recall that the hut in the wall was where dockets were issued along this section of the canal to allow the working narrow boats to pass with their cargoes. So a question for any local canal and history enthusiasts is, should the hut be removed or feature as a reminder of the past commercial nature of the canal? If there is any interest, please respond to a member of the Parish Council as British Waterways plan to start work shortly.

### **Allotments**

Over the wet and dark period of the last 3 three months, most of the allotment holders have been cropping what vegetables have remained and begun to prepare the ground for the New Year. Letters have been sent to all the plot holders explaining an adjustment to the allotment year. This will allow any change over to take effect from January rather than April and would allow a new tenant time to prepare the ground for new sowings when a past occupier relinquishes that plot.

The dead trees along the Down Lane border have been removed and the Parish Council agreed to a low cost solution for some groundwork to take place at the lower entrance to provide additional space to park a few cars off the road.

The annual renewal of contracts for cutting the allotment grass is now due and quotations from various contractors are being sought.

### **Playground and playing field**

Since the last report, it has been agreed to have the necessary repairs carried out to some play equipment and surfaces. Meanwhile after a consultation with the regular users, a plan to consider ways of replacing less popular equipment and the introduction of fresh items is due to take place.

### **Other areas**

My thanks to a volunteer living near the Holcombe Lane / Holcombe Close junction who has come forward to look after the local flower planter. That's the spirit of community involvement! Two new households have taken up residence on Hantone Hill. Welcome to Bathampton!

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## **Planning and Conservation Report**

**Lin King and Susanne Wing**

We have received the usual crop of applications for extensions and alterations, but of more general interest are the following;

### **Raft Café**

We have not yet received the application for retrospective planning permission discussed in the last newsletter, but maybe this is because there is much less activity during the winter. No-one objects to the development but it does need to be formalised.

### **Mobile home**

A retrospective planning application has been made for the mobile home and smallholding on the parcel of land by the canal at the bottom of Meadow Lane. The Parish Council has objected to this application. It is currently being considered by B&NES.

### **New Leaf Farm (with holiday cottages, alongside the river)**

Applications have been received for

- A pontoon so that the boats between Bath and the weir can pick up and drop off holidaymakers. This will be in place mid-March to mid-November only. It has been approved.
- A permanent dwelling for an agricultural worker. This is to replace the temporary dwelling which is currently in place. The council has no objection to this.

### **Bathampton School**

The new classroom has been formally opened and is a resounding success.

Plans are in hand to further extend the school so that it can take in more pupils, so the temporary classroom will remain; an application has been received to re-locate it.

### **B&NES Core Strategy**

As we write (w/c 16th Jan) B&NES are in the middle of a consultation programme with all interested parties re the Core Strategy. Details can be found at [www.bathnes.gov.uk/corestrategy](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/corestrategy).

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## **Highways Group**

**Sue Christley, Kate Jones and Keith Rossiter**

### **A36**

The Valley Parishes Alliance (9 parishes including Bathampton) will hold its first meeting with the Highways Agency on 8th February. In the past, individual parishes have found it difficult to develop effective communication with the Highways Agency. Our objective is to improve communication and highlight our joint concern about the management and safety of the A36. We see this as the first meeting in an ongoing regular dialogue with the Highways Agency.

### **Canal**

In April, 2012 the Canal & River Trust will take over responsibility for inland waterways from British Waterways. The VPA continues to press for a seat on the Kennet & Avon Canal Local Partnership Board. At this stage – apart from the appointment of Cllr. Fleur de Rhe-Philippe (Wiltshire CC) as Chair - no decisions on the composition of this Board have been made.

Final submissions have been made to British Waterways on a new mooring strategy for the western end of the K&A Canal. The VPA has been an active participant in this process – with representatives from Bathampton and Claverton parish councils involved at every stage. We expect a final report from British Waterways in the very near future.

## Village News and Events

Please let Jan Helps know if you would like anything included in this section

### The Pulteney Practice.

Not all readers will be aware that our local surgery has a very informative web site. To help improve their service, the practice is currently requesting patients to complete an online questionnaire.

Have a look at <http://www.pulteney.co.uk/index.aspx>

The questionnaire remains 'live' until Tuesday 31st January 2012.

### Dry Arch Growers

We now have a wonderful poly tunnel which is already growing winter salad leaves and nurturing our plants for growing outside later in the year. Thanks to all the "Dry Archers" and everyone who turned up to help with the apple harvest, we now have bottles of delicious organic apple juice for sale. Call down to the site on Sundays or call Jan Helps if you would like to purchase some. During the coming months, we will be designating the last Sunday of the month as a special work day and social. Look out for posters or check the blog at [www.dryarchgrowers.com](http://www.dryarchgrowers.com). By the time you read this we will have had our "Wassail and bramble bash"! We've been delighted to give talks to local community groups and have the opportunity to spread the word about growing and eating local. All visitors and new members are welcome. There are lots of ways to become involved. If you would like to become a member, and receive a regular supply of vegetables, please contact Hannah Isaac on 07766 876918 or email [hanzibar1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hanzibar1@hotmail.co.uk).

**If you would like to publicise any activities or events of interest to Bathampton Residents please contact Tony McCann or any of the Parish Councillors who will be happy to pass them on for inclusion in the next newsletter.**

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Please let Jan Helps know if there are changes to any of the information in  
**"What's on in Bathampton"**