

Bathampton Parish Council

Newsletter May 2025

Chairman's Notes

Moira Brennan

The Annual Parish Assembly will take place in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 28 May. We have decided to repeat last year's format as it worked well and we had lots of debate and discussion on things that effect the lives of local people. These events really help us to focus on the things that matter to you and to try to represent your views as best we can. If you have never been to an Assembly before it is a great opportunity to meet other Bathamptonians and to chat over a drink. All are welcome. If there is something you would like to discuss please drop Liz an email on bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com.

We have lots of great news in this issue of our newsletter including an update on Playground funding and the news that the A36 will no longer be the official trunk route from the M4 to the south coast ports.

We are really happy with the works that have been done on the pavement from the Village Hall to the surgery. For years BANES have been patching the area and any upgrade is made more complicated by the fact that the pavement outside the shops is owned by several different parties. Given this, we were delighted when BANES agreed to complete the work on the whole area, not just on the bits that they own. They also agreed to replace and extend our bike racks (which are already being well used) and to put bollards on the corners to try to avoid the damage done to the pavement when people park across the pavement. Hopefully this has made the whole area look a bit more inspiring and will encourage everyone to do their bit to keep it looking great.

We had expected that the D2X bus route would be restored once the A36 reopened. Sadly First announced that they were reducing the service and not running it via Bathampton. Along with Claverton we have expressed our concern about this but as the service is a commercial unsubsidised one First are not obliged to run a service through the villages.

Whilst this has been a very busy time for us as a Council our numbers are very depleted. There are currently only 6 councillors when we should have 9. Many of us have served as Councillors for well over a decade and the reality is that we are getting older. We really need some new Councillors, to help with some big projects eg the Playground and upgrading our website and social media presence, but also to ensure that Bathampton Parish Council can continue to add value to life in the village for the decades to come. We have all done it for so long because it is a very rewarding role and we enjoy it. If you have ever thought about one day becoming a Councillor then now is the time, because we need you. We have put posters in all the noticeboards and on line to tell you what it involves. Why not come along to the Annual Parish Assembly or come to a monthly meeting.

We have had to change the date of the May Council meeting from 15 to 22 May to ensure we have enough Councillors available to allow us to make decisions. If you plan to come along please check on our website or in noticeboards where we post the agenda the Friday before each meeting takes place.

Village Hall

bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com

We are very pleased to be able to tell you that the Village Hall Management Committee have installed solar panels on the hall roof. (Although they are almost invisible from the road). We sourced them via the WECA Solar Together scheme and have put 12 panels on the roof for just under £5,000. We were concerned that panels might not be viable as the roofs face East and West but we learned that with modern panels these roofs get 80% as much free energy as a south facing roof. The energy we do not use at the hall will be exported locally and create an income for the hall.

The eco friendly hall is available for private events. If you want to book an event, contact Katie at **bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com**. Prices for parties are from £36 for a 3 hour booking (including time for you to set up and clear up).

The Playground project

Liz Daly

We are pleased to report that real and exciting progress is being made on the much anticipated playground improvements. The playground has been awarded £20,000 from the National Lottery and we are now actively collaborating with suppliers on design plans and securing updated quotes. The

Playground renovation is projected to exceed £95,000 with £78,000 currently allocated towards the project to date. Your Donations matter! We still need your help! Your donation will directly impact the creation of a fantastic, inclusive new playground for Bathampton's children and families, ensuring enjoyment for years to come. Every contribution, regardless of size counts towards replacing ageing equipment and surfaces and creating a modern, safe and inclusive play space. We're planning to reach our fundraising goal later this year, and then we'll hold a community consultation, giving you the opportunity to view and provide feedback on the proposed playground design. To donate contact the Clerk, Liz Daly, at bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com or on 07980627391. Get Involved and help shape our village play area for your children / grandchildren and future generations. We are recruiting new Councillors to actively participate in the Playground Project and other community projects. Contact the Clerk for more information.

Hedges and junctions

Jan Helps

Now that trees and hedgerows are coming into leaf, it's that time of year to ask residents with hedges, trees and shrubs growing next to paths or junctions to check that they are not impeding paths or affecting sight lines. It is particularly important to check that pedestrians, cyclists and drivers have as clear a view as possible when trying to cross or exit roads safely. Thank you, in anticipation of your help in this matter.

We have had some tree and hedge management taking place on the playground and the allotments in recent months. Sadly we have had to remove some dead or dying trees, mainly cherries. In some cases it has just created space for other larger trees to have more room but we aim to replace some in the autumn. After consultation with More Trees BANES and local tree surgeons, we are aiming to plant hawthorn trees. Why? They are a British native species, bees love the flowers, birds love the berries and they are climb resistant. If you only think of hawthorn as a hedgerow plant, the tree by the entrance to the playing field and playground (which produces deep pink flowers) is a hawthorn.

Highways

Tony Purpuri highways.bathamptonPC@gmail.com

By the time you receive this newsletter the safety work on the canal bridge should be complete and the road opened. There were a couple of days delay, primarily due to the damage caused by a vehicle to the wall and vandalism of newly laid pavers.

We'd like to thank the workers for their efforts in minimising the impact of the damage caused. If anyone has any information regarding the damage to the wall, or the vandalism, please get in touch.

We would also like to thank those that attended the engagement event at the end of January for their feedback, both positive and constructive. This resulted in a changed start date and some change to the design. We will monitor the impact of the changes, particularly any adverse traffic behaviours and feed them back to BANES.

Wild Waters Festival Saturday 31st May to Sunday 15th June inclusive

You may have noticed posters around the village advertising the Wild Waters Festival. Many events are planned to highlight the importance of our natural waterways - featuring everything from educational talks and nature walks, to art activities, music and outdoor events that explore the river's rich history and ecology. There is a website where you can find out more and express an interest in getting involved <https://www.wildwatersfestival.com>

As part of the festival, The Bathampton Art Group are organising a family event in partnership with Bathampton Mill using the river and weir as inspiration for an art activity. This will take place on the evening of Wednesday 11th June. Look out for more details on social media and posters.

Footpaths Flooding and Drainage

David Beard

BANES Highways team are working on a solution to the longstanding problem of flooding and debris on the A36 at St George's Hill and opposite Down Lane. The problem is caused by poor drainage along the two footpaths leading to Bathampton Down, resulting in surface water run off onto the A36 during periods of heavy rain. In May the Highways team will use CCTV to investigate potential problems with underground drains at St George's Hill and also remove loose stones from the footpath and road; this will require temporary traffic lights on the A36 whilst work is carried out. The two footpaths have been added to a programme of regular maintenance so that associated ditches and gullies are kept clear of obstructions and flood risks are reduced.

A generous donation from Bathampton Footpath Association will greatly assist in maintaining and improving the 11 miles of public footpaths which cross the parish. Some of the donation will be used to install a short flight of steps on the playing field embankment near to the allotment gate. This will greatly reduce health and safety hazards for volunteers on village show days, when carrying equipment from the allotment hut to the show ground. Work should be completed in time for this year's show on 13 September.

Would you be interested to help with some maintenance of the footpaths during the summer months? If you are interested in joining the volunteer team, contact David for more information.

Community, company and sustenance in Bathampton

Coffee mornings at the Methodist Chapel hall Holcombe Lane

These take place every Wednesday morning from 10 until noon. Come along and enjoy conversation, topical discussions, quizzes and laughter. All are welcome including children and well behaved dogs. There is a £2 fee and free parking. For more information contact Glynis Hull on 07747 150203

Hello from Café 25 Holcombe Lane

The café is a hub for the local community to gather and many residents enjoy the opportunity to meet and eat together. Our licensed Café is open from Tuesday to Sunday and does a range of toasties, jacket potatoes and things on toast. We have an all day breakfast as well as a cottage pie on a Wednesday. Sunday Roast dinners are freshly cooked and we have a choice of 3 meats and a selection of fresh vegetables, Yorkshire pudding and roast potatoes (parsnips too when they are in season!) followed by a home made crumble. All our food is available to eat in or takeaway.

The café is a welcoming space for those seeking company, an opportunity to meet others and to enjoy a home cooked meal. Cafe 25, Holcombe Lane, Bathampton. 01225 542739

Come and dance with Mr Wilkins Shilling

Come and give North West style Morris dancing a try! We are always looking for adult dancers and musicians - beginners welcomed. We meet most Thursday evenings to practice at Bathampton Village hall from 8-10pm. Pop along to meet us; there is no commitment - just give it a try. It's a great way to keep fit and make friends. For more information e-mail us on mws_morris@hotmail.com or check out our Instagram page [mr_wilkins_shilling](#)

Your Bells Need You! Help keep a centuries old tradition alive in Bathampton

Bell ringing at St Nicholas's Church has taken place for almost 500 years with two of the church's bells, which are rung regularly, dating from 1540. This makes them some of the oldest in the area while a brand-new set of bell ropes has just been installed. Since the Covid lockdown we have been training up a team of ringers and hope to ring every Sunday morning if we can!

If you have an interest in an ancient tradition, in keeping fit (physically and mentally) and helping fill the village air with joyful sound – at least some of the time, then contact the Tower Captain Stuart Burroughs on director@museumofbath.org for more details. Full training given and so on

Parish Councillors		Parish Clerk (Liz Daly): 07980 627391 bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com
George Ardrey	424270	Newsletter Editor and What's On Jan Helps can be contacted on 01225 336656 or newsletter.bathamptonPC@gmail.com
David Beard	336722	
Moira Brennan	07850037737	Your BANES Councillors Kevin Guy 07365 916114 or Kevin_Guy@bathnes.gov.uk
Jan Helps	336656	
Lin King	460998	Sarah Warren Sarah_Warren@bathnes.gov.uk
Tony Purpuri	335978	

PC Website www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk You can also find us on Facebook (Bathampton Community) and Twitter (Bathamptonpc).

What's On in Bathampton

Organisation	Times	Organiser	Contact
Art Groups Village hall	Monday 1.30pm Monday 6.30pm Thursday 9.30am	Brent King	07967167300
BathamptonVillage Show	bathamptonvillageshow.co.uk bathampton.show@gmail.com	David Mayo	07779 54 59 56
Beavers	Monday 6 – 7 pm	Louise Madden	427682
Bell ringers	Mondays 7.30pm Sundays 10.15am	Candy McCabe	465564
Bridge Club Village hall	Monday 1.30 – 4.30 pm	Ken Jefferies	460800
Brownies	Wednesday 6.00 -7.30 pm	57thbrownies@girlguidingbath.org.uk	
Cricket Club	Tuesday & Sunday	Stephen Dalley Smith	460395
Cubs	Tuesday 6.30 – 8pm	Louise Madden	427682
Dance, Ballet and Modern Curtis School of Dance	Friday pm – call for times Village hall	Deborah Curtis	01761 437004
Dry Arch Growers. Bathampton community co-operative	Thursday mid morning and pm (while light) Sundays 11 – 3pm	Alex Robertson	07793056448
Chair Keep Fit Standing Keep Fit Village Hall	Wednesday 3pm Wednesday 4pm	jackiebrangwyn@yahoo.co.uk	840850
Mr Wilkins' Shilling North- west Clog Morris Dan- cing Village Hall	Thursday 8 - 10 pm	www.mrwilkinsshilling.org.uk mws_morris@hotmail.com www.facebook.com/mrwilkinsshilling	
Outdoor Fitness Classes Bathampton recreation ground	Thursday 9.15am Friday 9.15am	Nikki Andrews	07717 175149
Pilates (mixed gender) Village Hall	Tues 7.15 - 8.15pm	Renu Khosla Renu.physio@hotmail.com	07815868252
Playgroup Village Hall	Mon, Tues, Wed, Friday	Lisa Nash bathamptonplaygroup@yahoo.co.uk	07716 600269
Scouts Scout HQ	Friday 7.30 to 9.30pm	www.bathamptonscouts.org join@bathamptonscouts.org	
Scottish Country Dance Village hall	Thursday 1.30 to 4.30pm	Jane Hammond	833411
Senior Table Tennis Scout HQ	Tues mornings 10.00-12.00	David Plumbridge George Malcolm	429979 07789 961848
St Nicholas Church	Sundays 10.45am. Other times see stnicholasbathampton.org.uk	Jonty Frith - minister Kay Rees – office office@stnicholasbathampton.org.uk	338055 442311
Table Tennis Scout HQ	Every Saturday in Autumn and Spring 6 – 8pm	Ray Bennett	866880
WI Bathampton Village Hall	First Saturday of the month 10-12am.	Enquiries to vgsurgey@gmail.com	07788117875
£5 for non members			
Yoga Village hall	Friday 12.30 – 2.00	Suzy Lovegrove suzy.lovegrove @lovegrove.com	07980008672

This guide is also available on the Parish Council website.