

# **Bathampton Parish Council**

## **Newsletter August 2025**

### **Chairman's Notes**

**Moira Brennan**

The Annual Parish Assembly took place in May. It was great to see so many of you there, with several new faces. Our ward councillors, Kevin and Sarah, provided an update on the consultation on making the New Sydney Place closure permanent. They also told us that, following the election of a new WECA Mayor (and Kevin's appointment as Deputy Mayor), working relations were greatly improved and they hoped this would result in opportunities to improve bus services in BANES. We asked them what the de trunking of the A36 would mean in reality. Kevin advised that sat nav systems would be updated and it was expected that this would reduce HGV traffic on the road by up to 30%.

A resident raised a concern that local foxes etc. had learned how to open food bins meaning that they were often a cause of food being scattered around on bin collection days. The ward councillors raised this concern with BANES officers. We now understand that they are looking into new designs for food bins and they have asked if Bathampton would like to be the trial area. There was also feedback that the number 11 bus had become more reliable in recent months.

Regular bus users will know by now that the D1 bus is currently not running to the village due to the closure of the railway bridge in Limpley Stoke. The bridge is expected to be closed until the end of August. To try to provide at least a few more services to Bathampton the number 94 bus has been diverted via the village. We have raised concerns that this leaves the village with no evening or Sunday services at all.

We are continuing to talk to KES about events on their playing field following their licence application. One thing they stressed to us in our early conversations was that they wanted events to be open to local people where possible. We have put posters in our noticeboards for an outdoor film event on 30 August. Tickets are available on [KESBath.com/box-office](https://www.kesbath.com/box-office).

In the last newsletter I appealed for some new councillors as our numbers are depleted. We have had some expressions of interest but we would welcome anyone who is interested in becoming a councillor to come to our next meeting on Thursday 18 September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Hopefully we will see many of you at the Village Show on Saturday 13 September.

### **Village Hall**

**[bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com](mailto:bathamptonvillagehall@outlook.com)**

The new solar panels are doing really well. In May and June we received more from exporting our surplus electricity than the cost of the electricity that we bought. It is very nice to have our electricity supplier owing us money. It all helps us to keep hire prices reasonable. We have not increased our hire charges since 2014 in line with our aim to make the hall affordable for all users.

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

### **Share & Repair**

**Lin King**

The Share and Repair team were welcomed back again to accompany the annual Plant Sale on June 7th and did a sterling job to successfully address the repairs presented to them. A big thank you to the volunteers including Fred for the tool sharpening and to the local helpers. Fred will be on hand again at the Village Show on September 13th and we hope to get the team back again for the Plant Sale next year.

## **The Playground project**

**Liz Daly**

We're excited to share that just over **£96,000** has been raised towards the Bathampton Playground Project—thank you to everyone who has contributed so far!

We are now beginning the formal tender process to obtain quotes from suppliers and ensure we meet all legal and regulatory requirements. Once the Parish Council has reviewed the design proposals and quotes we will bring the shortlisted designs to the community for consultation where your view and feedback will help shape the final design. We will update you as we move through this process.

We are still fundraising to ensure that we can provide the best possible play area with out budget based compromises. We are also exploring upgraded surfacing options such as green or flecked options rather than the current grey wet pour. The alternatives would be slightly more expensive but would offer a more attractive look in keeping with the village green setting.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact the Clerk Liz Daly by phone on 07980 627391 or at [bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com). Every contribution, no matter the amount, brings us one step closer to creating a wonderful new play space for children and families to enjoy for generations to come. Thank you for your continued support!

## **Highways**

**Tony Purpuri**

We continue to monitor the impact of the works around the canal bridge, in particular monitoring any increased congestion. Since the works were completed we have had lots of positive feedback, especially from pedestrians. One of the bollards was damaged by a vehicle, which BANES has promptly repaired.

You may have noticed the latest Traffic Regulation Orders, consulting on some planned parking restriction. These were requested after significant resident comments raised on dangerous parking, in particular blocking access to streets or causing potential road hazards. Please do comment directly to BANES through their formal consultation process.

## **Hedges and junctions**

**Jan Helps**

Thank you so much to those residents who have looked after their hedges to keep paths passable and junctions safe to exit. We have so many difficult junctions in Bathampton making it challenging for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. Please continue to monitor and maintain hedges and trees throughout the growing season to keep everyone safe.

## **Footpaths Flooding and Drainage**

**David Beard**

The Parish Council has been working closely with several BANES departments and National Highways to resolve the long-standing problem of flooding on the A36 at St George's Hill. Forensic cameras were used to identify drainage issues, which have now been rectified; overflowing ditches leading from Bathampton Down have been repaired and the loose rubble surface on the steep track below the pumping station will be removed in August to prevent stones washing onto the main road.

Volunteers have cleared a number of local footpaths over the summer, including the Dry Arch path, the tramway to Bathampton Down, the path to Bathford and two paths within the housing area of the village. We would also like to thank local landowners who maintain footpaths alongside the railway line towards Grosvenor and from Holcombe Lane to the swing bridge.

In June the Parish Council contacted Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT) with a request for restoration of the historic canal sign located on the canal bridge; the response was positive and we are now waiting to find out if the local CRT volunteer team are able to take on this project.

## **St Nicholas Church – Temporary footpath closure**

The Church footpath (between The George and the school) will be closed for 2 weeks from 11th to 22nd August. This is because it will be dug up to connect the 3-phase electric supply for our new

heating system. We are sorry for any inconvenience which we have tried to minimise by arranging it for the school holidays. Many thanks.

### St Nicholas Church – Re:Generations Project update

Rusted pipework and failed wiring have posed questions about how best to provide a warm and well lit space within the church building that can be used flexibly and accessibly now and by future generations. A sustainable solution is to replace the gas fired heating system with infrared electrical heaters. The resulting increase in demand for electricity requires provision of a new 3-phase supply with greater capacity. The installation of new and more effective heaters and of enhanced and more controllable lighting will happen soon. Subsequent phases of the project will consider options for re ordering the interior fixtures to allow for better disabled access and adaptability for use by all ages both for worship and for other events of benefit to the community.

### Swifts in Bathampton

**Dan Cossins White**

We are lucky in Bathampton to enjoy an abundance of wildlife, including a thriving population of swifts. These fast-flying birds are easily spotted in summer, darting and screeching in groups just above the rooftops. Many of them return year after year to nest under the eaves of our homes often using the same small holes for generations.

Sadly swifts are in national decline, down by 62% between 1995 and 2022, largely due to roof renovations that block access to their nesting sites. To help protect them, it's vital that any roofing work is done outside of their breeding season, which runs from mid April to mid July. If you are repairing or replacing a roof, fitting a swift box is a simple and effective way to support these remarkable birds. They're a joy to watch and a vital part of our natural heritage so let's help keep them here for future generations. For further information call Dan on 07508722345

<b>Parish Councillors</b>		<b>Parish Clerk (Liz Daly): 07980 627391</b> <b>bathamptonparishclerk@gmail.com</b>
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Tony Purpuri	335978	Kevin Guy 07365 916114 or Kevin_Guy@bathnes.gov.uk
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Website [bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk). You can also find us on Facebook (Bathampton Parish Council) and Twitter (Bathamptonpc).



Fine & Country are pleased to support  
Bathampton Parish Council and  
Bathampton Village Show by funding  
the printing of this newsletter.

## 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
Bathampton Village 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	Stuart Burroughs	07092944007
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 Northwest Clog Morris Dancing Village Hall	Thursday 8 - 10 pm	www.mrwilkinsshilling.org.uk mws_morris@hotmail.com www.facebook.com/mrwilkins shilling	
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 Dancing 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 rector@stnicholasbathampton .org.uk Natalie - office office@stnicholasbathampton .org.uk	07905 883075  01225 442311
Table Tennis Scout HQ	Every Saturday in Autumn and Spring 6 – 8pm	Ray Bennett	866880
Bathampton WI Village Hall	First Saturday of the month 10-12am. £5 for non members	Enquiries to vgsurgey@gmail.com	07788117875
Yoga Village hall	Friday 12.30 – 2.00	Suzy Lovegrove <a href="mailto:suzy@lovegrove.com">suzy@lovegrove.com</a>	07980008672

This guide is also available on the Parish Council website.