

DECEMBER 2024 | JANUARY 2025

# The Bathford Bulletin

For the residents of Bathford, Shockerwick and Warleigh



## MEET OUR NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS!

AT THE HEART OF THE VILLAGE – PAGE 14

BOOK REVIEWS FOR ALL AGES

SEE PAGE 10



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Hillary Carr – Editor & Advertising  
Maureen Breeze – Editor  
Kath Shayler – Creative  
Helen Keelty – Editorial  
Adrian Raybould – Editorial  
Catherine Tait – Editorial  
Charlie Barden – Editorial

We welcome all articles, images and notifications of births, deaths and marriages. Please email for contributors guidelines: [bathfordbulletin@gmail.com](mailto: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 formatting? You would be most welcome! Email [bathfordbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:bathfordbulletin@gmail.com) if you are interested or would like to know more.

## FEBRUARY ISSUE COPY DEADLINE

Contributions and advertisements are welcome, up to but no later than **15 January 2025** via: [bathfordbulletin@gmail.com](mailto: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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## COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Sue Moore and Rachel Wyatt proudly accepting the **'More Than'** award from the Plunkett Foundation.



# WELCOME

December once again. How was 2024 for you? As we approach the season of goodwill, there is plenty to celebrate.

Our next member of the **Bathford Community Heartbeat** to feature is **The Village Shop and Café** in our centrespread on **pages 14/15**. The organisation's inherent qualities and community service ably demonstrate why it was the recent proud winner of the **Plunkett Foundation 'More Than' Award**. Take a look at their Christmas stock which is now on display.

St. Swithun's will be celebrating the **Reason for the Season - the birth of Jesus**, with a full programme of services throughout Christmas to suit everyone, of all ages. See What's On, **page 27** for the listings.

Celebrations are also the order of the season for the **Village Club** which has a full programme of entertainment for you throughout December culminating with their New Year's Eve party. Details on **page 5**.

The Club is also helping host the annual **Christmas Carols on the Village Green** with mince pies and mulled wine. Refer to the What's On listings on **page 27**.

Our Bookmark article on **pages 10/11** offers ideas on what books to choose for Christmas gifts. And if you want to occupy your kids over the holiday, suggest they take up the **Children's Writing Challenge** on **page 11**.

The Bathford Bulletin itself has been in good health throughout 2024, thanks to the continued dedication of the editorial team who all give their time voluntarily. Newcomers **Catherine Tait** and **Charlie Barden** will add a youthful journalistic perspective; and our thanks as ever to the many contributors, advertisers and distributors, without whom we wouldn't exist!

So, it's time to wish you, your family, friends, loved ones and neighbours the warmest wishes for Christmas and the New Year. We'll be back in 2025 with our February edition.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

*Editorial Team*

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We are sad to announce that following a spate of robberies, we will be closing the Mac Shack Farm Shop from **23 December**.

Our thanks and best wishes to all of you who have supported us throughout these years.

hello@newmacdonaldsfarm.co.uk

**Closes Farm, Kingsdown SN13 8DG**  
**01225 519820**

THE VILLAGE CLUB

Bathford

## THIS MONTH AT THE VILAGE CLUB

It's unbelievable that we are heading towards Christmas and New Year again, but as the chilly days and long nights are here, you can always be certain of a warm welcome at the Club, with lots going on to keep you entertained.

**Sat 7 December - 20:30 | Janet James**

Janet is a keyboard vocalist and is certain to entertain

**Fri 13 December - 19:30 | Bingo**

Lots will be lucky!!! Lots of winners, lots of fun. January date to be announced – keep your eye on our Facebook Page

**Fri 20 December – 18:15 for 19:00 | Carols on The Green**

We will be open and serving warm Mulled Wine and Apple Juice as well as the usuals from the bar

**Sat 21 December - 20:30 | Christmas Party Night with Dave C**

Dave is an excellent male vocalist who loves a party atmosphere

**Tue 31 December – 20:30 | New Year's Eve Party**

See the information below for further details.

**Sat 18 January 20:30 | Stage One (Don Tucker)**

Don returns to shake those January blues away

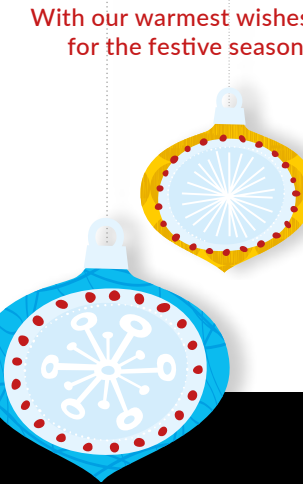


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## NEW YEARS EVE PARTY!

Our New Year's Eve Party is open to all; please be reassured you don't have to be a member to attend. This year we have secured the wonderfully talented Sam Nolan as our live act.

Sam Nolan is a seasoned professional singer with an impressive 30-year career including 14 years in Dubai, where she shared stages with showbiz legends like Shirley Bassey and Tom Jones. Described by The Stage Magazine as "pure showbusiness", Sam has captivated audiences across five-star venues, delivering dynamic performances that span hits from the '60s to today's biggest floor-fillers. Her repertoire, charisma and experience make her a true star, lighting up every stage she graces.

Tickets are available now from behind the bar or by calling Emma on 07588 966 641 – they are £10 for members and £12 for non-members.

We always have great fun so please join us to welcome in 2025 with a bang!



Image by Freepik



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**Tuesday 10th December 10am - 3pm**  
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## VILLAGE SHOP AND CAFÉ

**CHRISTMAS STOCK** – Cookies, cakes, cards, wrapping and much more!  
**Our Christmas stock is on display now!**  
We've been carefully curating festive items since May to make this season at your Village Shop a truly magical experience.

From unique holiday treats to beautifully crafted gifts, there's something for everyone to discover. Remember, quantities are limited, so once they're gone, they're gone - everything is first-come, first-served. Visit us soon to find your holiday favourites and make this Christmas extra special!

**A TASTY NEW SUPPLIER!**  
In our ongoing commitment to providing the **best quality and variety** for our customers, we're excited to announce a new supplier: **Toby Haynes Family Butchers in Corsham**. Established in 2015, Toby, a third-generation farmer for over 14 years, and his team take pride in sourcing high-

quality, fresh ingredients from the region. Toby's deliveries of bacon, sausage, pasties and pies arrive on Thursdays. Order in advance and treat yourself to some of the finest local flavours!

**AWARD WINNERS!**  
**Plunkett UK** is a national charity supporting people in rural areas to set up and run successful businesses in community ownership. Through their annual awards, they celebrate the outstanding achievements of community-owned businesses and the dedicated and inspiring individuals responsible. There were **90 nominations** for the 2024 awards in 8 categories and our own **Village Shop and Café** beat off the competition to receive first prize in the 'More Than' category, recognising how it offers so much more to the community than just as a convenience store.

## DECEMBER AT SHOCKERWICK HOUSE

On **Monday 9 December**, we will be holding a short pub quiz hosted by our very own Chris Constantine. If you would like to join us for a bit of friendly rivalry and some yuletide cheer, we would love to see you! The quiz starts at **18:00** and costs **£1 per person**. Advance booking is essential to make sure we have space for everyone! Please email [laura.bright@bupa.com](mailto:laura.bright@bupa.com) or call **01225 743636 ext 1200**.

We are also hosting a Christmas event at **17:30** on **Wednesday 11 December**. It will include **Christmas carols, mulled wine, hot chocolate** and of course **mince pies!** We would love you all to come join us for this as well. Let us know if you can make it - contact details as above.

Please keep an eye out for updates on these events and more on our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/BupaCareHomeShockerwickHouse](http://www.facebook.com/BupaCareHomeShockerwickHouse)



Shockerwick House Christmas tree

# EVENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE



Supporting  
**'Hope & Homes  
For Children'**  
Registered Charity No 1080990.

**The Silver Ring Choir of Bath**  
for an evening of  
**Christmas Music**  
followed by Mulled Wine & Mince Pies  
at **St. John the Baptist Church**  
**Batheaston**  
(BA1 7EF)

**Saturday, 7th December at 7.00 p.m.**  
(Doors Open at 6.30 p.m.)

Tickets £10.00 (under 16s free admission)  
available from  
Julia & Keith Masdin (01225-858042)  
or Choir Members



**Music**  
at St Swithun's  
Church Bathford

**On a  
Sunday  
afternoon**

The next charity fund raising concert is at:  
**15.00 on SUNDAY 19 January**

Featuring: \*Cwm Bath Male Voice Choir\*  
along with the voices of \*Dan Bryan\* (of  
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FRIDAY 20 DECEMBER  
REFRESHMENTS FROM 18:15  
**CHRISTMAS CAROLS**  
FROM 19:00  
**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.

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**Friday 31st January 2025**  
From 19:00  
Avonvale RFC Clubhouse, Bathford

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<https://bathfordevents.sumupstore.com/>



## FROM ST. SWITHUN'S

Dear Friends,

I am writing this just as all the Christmas preparations are starting - and honestly, I think many of us are more interested in the John Lewis advert than in Jesus - who is after all, 'The Reason for the Season'!

But imagine for a moment that you are living under occupation. You are at the behest of a foreign power to whom you have to pay taxes but who doesn't give your culture any credence. You don't feel that God is present. Life is hard. It does feel like walking through a dark time.

I wonder if this is how it feels to be living in some areas of Ukraine at the moment, or Gaza?

If then there was a glimmer of light in that darkness. If then a baby was born who was hailed as the Prince of Peace, wouldn't that seem like a Hope worth paying attention to? The First Christmas Jesus came as Emmanuel, God with us. Can we re-discover the Hope that he brings, even today? For Ukraine; for Gaza; for Bathford.

Please come and join in the Christmas festivities and find that hope today...

With my prayers in this season, *Lauretta*

### ST SWITHUN'S CHARITY ACTION FUNDRAISING

We were pleased that the delightful 'Music on a Sunday Afternoon' concert given by Wiltshire Rural Music in October raised **£300** for the **Mission Aid Fellowship**. See details opposite of the forthcoming January Concert in aid of Parkinsons UK.

### ST SWITHUN'S FILM CLUB

Join us at St. Swithuns, Bathford, for our **Film Club** on **Monday 27 January 2025 at 14:00**. We'll be screening 'The Miracle Club' (certificate 12) featuring Maggie Smith, Kathy Bates and Laura Linney. Set in Ireland 1967 they win a pilgrimage to Lourdes. With each woman desperately in need of a personal miracle, deep wounds from the past are re-opened and bitter truths exposed which will change them forever. This is a heartfelt story of friendship, family, and forgiveness.

Enjoy complimentary tea and cake after the film (suggested donation £3).

Any questions contact Keith Milner [milner5@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:milner5@yahoo.co.uk)



Image: www.freepik.com \* Designed by pikisuperstar

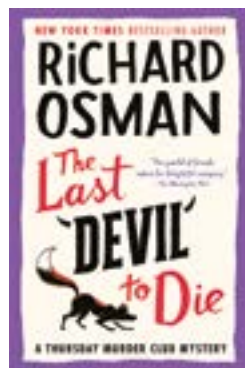
By Isobel Lawes  
and  
Bathford  
Church School

## WELCOME

to the season of fellowship and feasting, of presents and parties, and all kinds of storytelling:

**THE LAST DEVIL TO DIE** by Richard Osman (2023)

This mystery begins at Christmas time. After their celebrations at Coopers Chase Retirement Village, the resident sleuths of the Thursday Murder Club must solve a new riddle: who killed antique dealer Kuldesh Sharma? Their ingenious investigation into their friend's death leads to perilous encounters with drug dealers, fraudsters and hardened criminals. The plot moves fast with humorous intent, but Osman also tackles important questions about the end of life as his leading characters are obliged to face personal sorrow.



**SILAS MARNER** by George Eliot (1861)

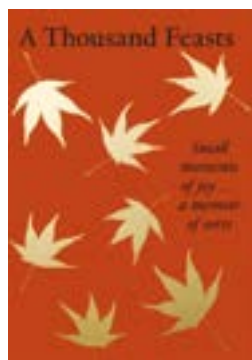
Disgraced and dispossessed, Silas Marner has left his former home to work at his loom in the parish of Raveloe where few understand him, though they value his work. Solitary and miser-like, he cherishes the gold coins he amasses, but one December someone steals that treasure, leaving him in despair. Yet, on New Year's Eve, when the local gentry are enjoying the glorious hospitality of Squire Cass, Silas discovers an unlooked-for gift on his hearth and his life is transformed by the advent of a precious child. As he learns to nurture her, he begins to appreciate the natural world and to trust his neighbours. The healing passage of time reveals



fateful connections between the landowning Cass family and the modest weaver in this lovely village tale.

**A THOUSAND FEASTS** by Nigel Slater (2024)

With his eclectic account of 'moments of quiet jubilation', the food writer Nigel Slater shares a host of beguiling details about the good bits of life which he has enjoyed in many different settings and in every season of the year. He savours breakfast in Japan and pomegranates in Iran, mangoes in a monsoon, and midnight in Mauritius; these small pleasures may be transitory but recalling them is essential to one's happiness. His descriptions of garden delights are equally persuasive. When he has transformed a 'sad, empty roof space' into a magical roof garden, he does admit however, that the only access to this paradise is through a tiny loo window. Slater's light-hearted wit pervades the whole memoir 'to distract, to amuse, to give joy.'



## CHILDREN'S BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

by the Year 5 Reading Ambassadors  
Bathford Church School

**GRIMWOOD** by Nadia Shireen

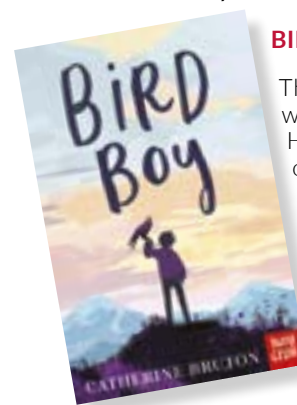
It's about two foxes called Nancy and Ted, who live in a big city and eat leftovers from a fast food place called Speedy Chicken. There is an evil cat called Princess Buttons who wants to banish the foxes. One day, Ted accidentally bites off Princess Buttons' tail, thinking it's a hot dog and she gets angry. Ted also meets a small bunny in the woods called Willow. The story is funny and would make a great gift.



*Recommended by Hattie.*

**BIRD BOY** by Catherine Bruton

This book is about a boy called Will who is sent to live with his uncle. He finds two ospreys but when one of them is knocked out of its nest, Will needs to save her. This book will be great for anyone who loves adventures, animals and the great outdoors. It is a heartfelt and powerful book, and really makes you think. Unputdownable!



*Recommended by Evelyn.*

**ODD DOG OUT**  
by Rob Biddulph

We recommend this book because it is about all types of dogs – football dogs, train dogs, city dogs, street dogs and much more! *Recommended by Joe and Olly.*



### 11 and under Creative Writing Challenge

Calling all budding young wordsmiths and storytellers!

If you're wondering what to do in a quiet moment over the Christmas holidays, why not put fingers to keyboards and enter the Bathford Bulletin's Writing Challenge?

**Theme:** A New Year's Surprise  
**Age limit:** 11 years and under  
**Word Limit:** 200-400 words  
**Deadline:** 13 January 2025

Might the local wizard's bizarre predictions for 2025 come true, with disastrous consequences? Or did your hamster decide to go on a fitness drive for its New Year's resolution? It's up to you, so let your imagination run wild!

If you're feeling super creative, why not include an illustration to accompany your story.

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

Either type your story or send us a picture of the pages you've written, with neat handwriting please! Parents are welcome to help with typing up the story, but make sure the story itself is your own work.

Submit your entry to:  
[bathfordbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:bathfordbulletin@gmail.com)  
Good Luck!!

# SAVE THE DATES

**WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER**  
CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING 19:30

Have fun learning how to make your very own Christmas wreath  
All materials provided and accompanied by a glass of festive cheer  
and a mince pie

**FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER**  
CHRISTMAS FAIR 15:30

Come along and get into the festive spirit with a range of stalls  
and activities – School Choir, Raffle, Tombola, Games and Gifts,  
including our legendary Jingle Jars

Both events take place at Bathford School

For more information please visit [www.friendsofbathfordschool.org.uk](http://www.friendsofbathfordschool.org.uk)

Email us at [info@friendsofbathfordschool.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofbathfordschool.org.uk)



# FRIENDS OF BATHFORD SCHOOL (FOBS)

Our role in the community

In our previous article, we shared some details on FOBS, the official charity that helps to run fundraising events and activities on behalf of Bathford Church School. Today, we are focusing on providing some context to the challenges we face, our plan to address these and outline how you can help.

“Supporting our school, building a community”

This is the tag line we use to underpin all that we do and encompasses our role in providing an essential bridge between the school and the wider community. I'm sure many of you have read about the challenges facing the education sector and the limited budgets that are allocated for the provision of fundamental - and critical - support to our children and families. In Bathford in particular, many of us benefit from the excellent reputation the school has, which attracts new families to the area. However, now more than ever, the role of the traditional village school is under threat, with class sizes becoming smaller and the economics of running the school becoming even more difficult to balance. **Never before has there been a more urgent need for the activities of FOBS to help the school and the community...**

In our mission to help raise funds for the school, we run a series of events and activities throughout the academic year that are open for the pupils, their families and the wider community. In our countdown to Christmas this year, we will be running a wreath making evening on **Wednesday 4 December** and will have our much-loved Christmas Fair on **Friday 13 December** – both of which are great activities to come along and have fun at. Please see our website for further details [www.friendsofbathfordschool.org.uk](http://www.friendsofbathfordschool.org.uk)

Furthermore, if this article has struck a festive chord with you and you think you might be able to help our cause in some way, I would be delighted to discuss further with you – maybe your children have benefitted from attending the school in the past and you would like to make a donation; maybe you run a local business and are interested in sponsoring us in some way; or maybe you have an idea for a specific event that you could help us undertake – please drop us a line at [info@friendsofbathfordschool.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofbathfordschool.org.uk)

Wishing you all a fabulous and healthy countdown to Christmas and looking forward to welcoming you to our events...

*James Richards, Chair FOBS*

Image: by kstudio on Freepik

  
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## CORE PRINCIPLES

Reflecting the spirit of a community cooperative, Bathford Enterprise for All (BEFA) aims to run the business to make its goods and services affordable to all and seeks to make just enough surplus to keep running.

Two things are vital to achieve this challenge: almost everyone is a volunteer to keep staff

costs down; and the Shop and Café need to stay relevant to the community or people will stop using them. This means that they look to provide as many services as you might expect to find in a village shop: ATM, newsagents, 7-day opening, café etc. They always try to offer a 'basic' as well as an alternative higher value choice of product if available, at the lowest prices they can possibly manage.



## INVESTING IN LOCAL PEOPLE

There are a wide range of volunteering opportunities at different levels, complete with training. They offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award as well as Match Mentor programmes (where young volunteers are paired with adult mentors), and they frequently provide work experience and references for the young, old, and vulnerable. Can you remember your first job? The newspaper rounds offer local youngsters the experience of their first paid job.



## OFFERING SUPPORT AND COMPASSION

The Shop delivers grocery orders to anyone in need, who may not be online, or who just can't get out, and their volunteer deliverers will always stop for a chat. They are well placed to keep an eye on people, which non-local relatives sometimes ask them to do, and if they notice that a regular customer hasn't been seen for a while, they always try and check why.



## A WARM WELCOME

As well as somewhere to enjoy the social benefits of volunteering - working with other volunteers and having a catch-up with customers - the Shop and Café offer a plethora of other reasons to entice you in. The Café is a B&NES Council-registered Warm Space; Rachel the manager says, "If you can't put your heating on - come and use ours!" There are craft afternoons, mahjong mornings, and board game and jigsaw libraries. For foodies, there is a monthly buffet lunch, and seasonal buffet suppers. Or you can just pop in to have a natter.



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

As well as organising their own social events and fundraising activities, BEFA lets out the Café to local organisations for social activities and meetings. The Shop acts as a 'Box Office' for tickets for local events, as a coordination centre for the deliveries of the Bulletin, collection of Parish Council surveys and as an information hub with inside and outside notice boards. They can take in packages when people aren't at home to receive them and it's the unofficial village Lost Property Office! Missing something? They might just have it!



## KEEPING IT LOCAL

The Shop and Café use local suppliers where possible. Warleigh Farm Eggs, Solsbury Hill Honey, and Bybrook Yoghurt come from close by, and they look only a bit further afield for Ivy House milk, Hobbs House bread, and Larkhall and Toby Haynes butchers. Additionally, they offer space in the Shop for local artists and businesses to trial and develop their product ranges. If you'd like them to stock something, pop in and have a chat.



# A HEARTBEAT

## BATHFORD VILLAGE SHOP AND CAFÉ

In this second look at our Parish organisations that contribute to our communal heart, we explore the different ways that Bathford Village Shop and Café enriches our community.

We find a busy community cooperative that goes the extra mile (or two!) and a wonderful example of how our community has come together to look after our local needs. No wonder that it recently received the 'More Than' award from the Plunkett Foundation.







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## THE BATH SOCIETY OF ARTISTS ANNUAL OPEN EXHIBITION

The Bath Society of Artists Annual Open Exhibition is now open at the Victoria Art Gallery, running until 11 January 2025. A celebrated highlight of Bath's cultural calendar, this year's exhibition promises an exceptional display of regional talent, and for the first time, includes works by artists under 18.

This year's show sets a new benchmark with a record-breaking **1,400 artworks** submitted, culminating in a selection of almost **400 works** hung in the gallery.

From painting and print to sculpture and mixed media, the exhibition offers an impressive diversity of artistic expression. Among the many highlights are a beautifully detailed rainbow of over 200 birds, a striking sculpted giraffe's head and neck, and a surprising collage of a cat crafted from Tunnock's teacake wrappers.



Victoria Art Gallery, Bath

## MEADOW PARK ACTION GROUP

Since the Action Group first met on 16 October we've been busy investigating several ways in which we can protect our local woodland. The Meadow Park Action Group is a group of local residents who have come together to protect a piece of woodland that sits between Meadow Park, Westwoods and Box Road. For many years, the woodland has been an amenity area and an important site for wildlife (we can often hear owls hooting and observe bats flying around at night!).

If anyone in the Parish can help advise the group, we'd be very grateful for your support. We're looking for people who understand ecology, wildlife conservation and property/land law. We would also especially appreciate any old photos of the area including this woodland that you may have.

Anyone who may be interested in supporting our cause will be most welcome. Please contact Janet Bilton: [janet.bilton@btinternet.com](mailto:janet.bilton@btinternet.com)



Meadow Park woodland bluebells



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## AROUND THE GARDEN

with Kevin Marris



Canada in October by Kevin Marris

What do you write about in the wintertime? Can I repeat advice about not tidying the garden up too much, thereby leaving places for the wildlife to shelter – didn't you listen to me last time?

Anyway, did you notice autumn? Wasn't it stunning. We had been in Canada in October, and although the display of maple leaves was very impressive, it wasn't any better than here in this country, even here in Bathford. It just shows how surprisingly good mother nature can be when she tries – as long as you get out there and pay attention.

In the garden I'm facing my own little hell. It's the one that I mentioned in an earlier piece. There's a bed that is riddled with

couch grass, and I said I was going to get rid of it this winter. The problem is that the couch grass gets among the roots of plants which themselves have been multiplying enthusiastically, and I have to pick away at each clump as it comes out of the ground. Normally, I enthuse a lot about having things for free, and yet here I am with things doing just that, and still I'm complaining. I should be more grateful, shouldn't I?

I am not going to talk about Christmas – there's enough publicity and promotion, almost from the start of October it seems to me. And I won't even bother you with what to give a gardener as a present, (just a bag of compost).

The only festive thing worth mentioning is the AGM for the Bathford Flower Show that I want to turn into a party in the New Year at 19:30 on 15 January in the Bathford Parish Hall – are you up for that?

### BATHEASTON GARDEN GROUP

Talk by Nathalie Mignotte on "Medieval Gardens"  
19.30 on Wednesday 11 December, Bathford Parish Hall

Horticulturist **Nathalie Mignotte** was formerly a lecturer and **Academic Manager of the Horticulture Department** at **Hartpury College**.

Nathalie's talk looks at monastic and apothecary gardens as well as the features, planting styles and symbolism of private gardens of the medieval period.

All welcome. Talks are free to Batheaston Garden Group members, non-members £5, pay on the door no need to book.

**Next Event. Date for your diary** - you are welcome to join us at Bathford Parish Hall for Batheaston Garden Group's next talk at **19.30 on 22 January 2025** preceded our **AGM at 1900**. Please visit [www.batheastongardengroup.co.uk](http://www.batheastongardengroup.co.uk) for information on our 2025 programme and on becoming a member. Batheaston Garden Group welcomes new members from all parts of Bath and the surrounding area.





Mark Ricketts

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## ANN NELSON'S TOMB AT ST.SWITHUN'S

**Did you know that Ann Nelson, sister of Britain's naval hero, Lord Horatio Nelson, is buried in a tomb in St. Swithun's churchyard?**

Ann was born in Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk in 1760, the daughter of the local pastor, the Reverend Edmund Nelson, and his wife Catherine. The Nelson family were physically fragile. Her father had a weak and sickly constitution. Her mother died when she was seven and three of her siblings also died. But she had four older siblings – including Horatio, and three younger. But we know little about Ann, or 'Nan' as she was known by the family.

Although a man of limited means, her father Edmund was concerned to put his offspring in worthwhile positions upon their completion of basic schooling.

In 1775, 14-year-old Ann was apprenticed to a London milliner. Upon completion, she became a Free Woman of the City of London. Her fortunes improved in 1778 when she became the beneficiary of two legacies of around £2,000, a sum roughly equivalent to half a million pounds today.

Ann spent the remainder of her short life with her father, either in Norfolk, or in Bath, where her father increasingly spent much of his time trying to sustain his poor health. One cold evening In October 1783, Ann left a warm ballroom in Bath where she had been dancing and caught a severe chill which quickly turned into pneumonia.

She died on 15 November 1783 and was buried at St. Swithun's with her father and remaining sister present. Captain Horatio Nelson, who



The barely legible inscription on her tomb reads: *In memory of Ann, daughter of Reverend Edmund Nelson (Burnham, Norfolk) who died 15 November 1783. Aged 23 years*

was in France at the time, wrote to a friend "I have been very near coming to England occasioned by the melancholy account of my dear sister's death."

*Stephen Huard*



### CONNECTIONS OVER BOUNDARIES

**In times of crisis, friendship links between people in communities in different parts of the world have a long and inspiring history: Bristol linked with Hannover in 1947 just as Coventry did with Stalingrad.** During the cold war, towns in East and West Germany did the same thing in the spirit of solidarity and support.

Now more than 40 communities in the UK, including neighbouring Bradford on Avon, have a friendship or twinning link with Palestine and many more are working to establish one. A small group of us in Bathford are interested in doing the same. Our group has recently been welcomed into the British Palestine Friendship and Twinning Network and is now on the way to forming a friendship link with a village in Palestine.

If you would like to know more, please email: [gillianbebbber@gmail.com](mailto:gillianbebbber@gmail.com)



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Claverton view

## BATHFORD SOCIETY

Review of October's talk by Glennis Naylor on the History of Claverton

**The Bathford Society enjoyed an absorbing talk on the History of Claverton by local historian and Claverton Parish Councillor, Glennis Naylor. Here's a few facts that emerged:**

1. To the Romans, it was a place for growing wine, a tradition that continued to the seventeenth century.
2. None of the houses in Claverton have numbers and the deliverers still have to deal with a confusing medley of house names.
3. After the Norman Conquest, Claverton was awarded to one of the Domesday Commissioners as a hunting ground, a fact commemorated to this day by the proliferation of rabbit warrens just uphill from the village.
4. Claverton was the site of a significant skirmish before the Battle of Lansdown in the Civil War. General Waller's men dug defensive positions into the hillside, and they are visible to this day.
5. The old Manor House was demolished because it was in poor condition and replaced by what is now the American Museum.

**NEXT PRESENTATION - Andy Nash, Managing Director: Portals - Bathford Mill through the ages to today**

**Monday 27 January at 19:30 for 20:00, Bathford Parish Hall**

Bathford Mill is recorded in the Domesday Book and was probably in operation for many years before that date. It then owned 12 acres of "Meadow" and was worth ten pounds, a sum today that is incalculable. It used to grind, amongst others, corn and fuller's earth and was an important source of employment in the village. Today, it is a high-tech, high-value enterprise, producing security paper for passports, certificates etc for an international market. Andy will tell the story of the Mill; past, present and future.

## BATH SAILING CLUB

**Monday 9 December 2024, Village Club, 19:30 for 19:45**

**GUEST SPEAKER - Bernard Purrier.** Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society. 'Ways of Whales and Dolphins'

The Whale and Dolphin Conservation group is the leading charity dedicated to the protection of whales and dolphins. Their vision is a world where every whale and dolphin is safe and free. Backed by robust research, science and philosophy they are the authority on whales and dolphins and the threats they face.

For the speaker's charity and the Village Club a donation of £4 on the night is welcomed.



# Remembering

SHIRLEY STRANGE (NEE BLANCHARD)  
30/11/1935 - 2/10/2024

Shirley was born at home, 1 Ashley Road, Bathford to parents John and Queenie Blanchard. Her brother Jack was born 7 years later.

Shirley had a vivid memory of visiting Bristol with her mother and grandmother during the war. The air raid siren started, and they ran for cover, spending the night in the cellar of a pub. They emerged the following morning to find utter devastation around them. It was a lucky escape.

Shirley attended Oldfield Girls' School and later the secretarial college. As a teenager she met Ken Strange who lived in High Street, Bathford. They were married in August 1955 at St. Swithun's Church.

Ken joined the Army, and the newlyweds were posted to Singapore - a huge adventure for them both. Later postings included Kenya, Hong Kong and Germany. During these years their three daughters were born - Ann, Lynn and Melanie.

Home was always Bathford and times between postings were spent here with their families. Ken died in 2020, and Shirley lived alone in Ashley Road. She fell and fractured her hip in June this year and became unwell as a result. She died peacefully on 2 October and is greatly missed by her family and many friends.



Shirley Strange (nee Blanchard)

## BATHFORD 2025 CALENDAR

The Bathford Events Team has compiled a 2025 Bathford calendar using a selection of photos taken throughout the year, some by local residents in the Photo of the Month competition on the Bathford Community Facebook page.

Each month has a view from around Bathford Parish and there is provision for ample space on the calendar to make notes. Handy for your kitchen or office, they make a lovely Christmas Gift for family and friends or just to send to those who no longer live here but have a past association and fondness for Bathford.

All proceeds from sales will be reinvested in future events for the community in 2025. You can purchase the calendar either from the Village Shop or by emailing [events@bathford.net](mailto:events@bathford.net). To receive emails about forthcoming events, scan the QR code (right) or email us above.



## ASK THE TRAINER

Your questions answered  
by Ali Creighton at  
Doodle Dogs Training



### Q. What are the pros and cons of raw feeding?

**Canine nutrition is a huge and hotly debated topic, with raw food becoming increasingly popular.**

Commercially produced raw diets are more likely than home-made diets to be complete and balanced, containing all necessary nutrients. As always, consider your own dog: their age, breed, activity level and medical status. Any diet changes should be made gradually. For those with the energy, check out Dr Conor Brady's book: 'Feeding Dogs'. Alternatively, here's a brief overview of some of the potential pros and cons of raw feeding:



### PROS:

- Nutrients are not destroyed by ultra processing.
- No preservatives, additives or fillers.
- Cleaner, healthier teeth from chewing on bones.
- Smaller & firmer poos!
- Improved skin and coat health.
- There are increasing options, including frozen and freeze-dried.
- Can help dogs with sensitive stomachs and allergies.
- Anecdotally, dogs are more energetic.
- May improve behaviour.

### CONS:

- There are bad, as well as good, raw food diets, same as other diets.
- Less convenient to use.
- Contamination risk - humans are at higher risk than dogs.
- Salmonella, E-coli & Listeria cannot be eradicated by freezing.
- Risk of injury from bone fragments.
- Often more expensive.
- Not suitable for dogs with certain medical conditions including liver or kidney problems or those that are immune-compromised. Check with your Vet.

Welcome

## NEW RESIDENT WELCOME PACKS

- Are you new to the Parish?
- Do you have a neighbour who has moved in recently?
- Are you a local group or organisation that wants to promote yourself to new residents?

Then you need to contact Pam at [pampriston@googlemail.com](mailto:pampriston@googlemail.com)

As a gesture of welcome to our community, Pam, on behalf of St Swithun's Church, collates leaflets and information about organisations in the Parish. With these, she creates and then delivers Welcome Packs, to help new residents quickly find out about the wealth of activities on offer in our community. Don't miss out!

Image by Freepik

Pictures from the 2024 Remembrance Sunday Service at St. Swithun's with the procession from Bathford Village Club



## SUPPORTING ROAD SAFETY WEEK

Visit to Bathford by Clare Moody, Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner

Clare was treated to a chilly, early morning roadside speed watch session on the Box Road, followed by lovely hospitality in the Village Shop and Café, for a meeting with co-ordinators from B&NES wide Community SpeedWatch teams, marking the end of Road Safety Week. Clare was invited by the B&NES Community SpeedWatch Association to meet with the co-ordinators to find out about the contribution the teams make to safer roads in their communities. She was able to learn about the work of the team on the Box Road which has been in operation for almost 5 years. In that time, they have reported well over 5000 speeding vehicles on the residential stretch of road to the Police. The road has a high number of high speeders and repeat offenders.



B&NES CSW co-ordinators with Clare Moody (3rd from right)

All photos by Hillary Carr

Bathford Parish Council would like to wish all our residents – and visitors over the festive season – a very merry Christmas, a happy New Year and good health and prosperity in 2025.

We strive to improve the services and quality of life for all our residents throughout the Parish. Residents are always welcome to attend our meetings or to join our committees that administer the parish affairs.

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**  
Monday 20 January 19:00  
Bathford School

Residents are welcome to attend and raise matters with the Council in the first ten minutes.

Contact: [clerk@bathford.net](mailto:clerk@bathford.net)  
Tel. 01225 858220

### WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

- **Bath Christmas Market 2024**  
Thu 28 Nov-Sun 15 Dec  
Bath City Centre
- **Service of Holy Communion**  
Sun 1 Dec | 10:00  
St Swithun's Church
- **Re:Connect for Children**  
Sun 1 Dec | Year 7 at 16:30,  
Year 8 at 17:30  
St Swithun's Church
- **FOBS Wreath Making Demonstration**  
Wed 4 Dec | 19:30  
Bathford School
- **Hope & Homes for Children: An Evening of Christmas Music**  
Sat 7 Dec | 19:00  
St John's Church, Batheaston
- **Live Music - Janet James**  
Sat 7 Dec | 20:30  
Village Club
- **Contemporary Service**  
Sun 8 Dec | 10:00  
St Swithun's Church
- **Short Yuletide Pub-style Quiz**  
Mon 9 Dec | 18:00  
Shockerwick House
- **Bath Sailing Club: Talk on Whales and Dolphins**  
Mon 9 Dec | 19:30  
Village Club
- **Mobile Library**  
Wed 11 Dec | 11:20-12:05  
Dover's Park by School
- **Christmas Carols at Shockerwick**  
Wed 11 Dec | 17:30  
Shockerwick House
- **Batheaston Garden Club: Talk on "Medieval Gardens"**  
Wed 11 Dec | 19:30  
Bathford Parish Hall
- **FOBS Christmas Fair**  
Fri 13 Dec | 15:30  
Bathford School
- **Bingo**  
Fri 13 Dec | 19:30  
Village Club
- **Carols by Candlelight**  
Sun 15 Dec | 18:00  
St Swithun's Church
- **Christmas Carols (Refreshments from 18:15)**  
Fri 20 Dec | 19:00  
Bathford Village Green & Village Club
- **Live Music - Christmas Night with Dave C**  
Sat 21 Dec | 20:30  
Village Club
- **Service of Holy Communion**  
Sun 22 Dec | 10:00  
St Swithun's Church
- **Christingle Service**  
Sun 22 Dec | 15:00  
St Swithun's Church
- **Nativity Crib Service**  
Tue 24 Dec | 17:00  
St Swithun's Church
- **Midnight Mass**  
Tue 24 Dec | 23:30  
St Swithun's Church
- **Christmas Day Service**  
Wed 25 Dec | 10:00  
St Swithun's Church
- **Joint Benefice Service of Holy Communion**  
Sun 29 Dec | 10:00  
St John's Church, Batheaston
- **New Year's Eve Celebrations including live music with Sam Nolan**  
Tue 31 Dec | 20:30  
Village Club

### WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

- **Bathford Flower Show AGM**  
Wed 15 Jan | 19:30  
Bathford Parish Hall
- **Live Music - Stage One (Don Tucker)**  
Sat 18 Jan | 20:30  
Village Club
- **Music at St Swithun's: Including Cwm Bath Male Voice Choir**  
Sun 19 Jan | 15:00  
St Swithun's Church
- **Batheaston Garden Club: AGM and Talk**  
Wed 22 Jan | 19:30  
Bathford Parish Hall
- **Jazzford**  
Fri 24 January 20:00  
Village Club
- **Bathford Society Talk on Bathford Mill**  
Mon 27 Jan | 19:30 for 20:00  
Bathford Parish Hall
- **Quiz Night**  
Fri 31 Jan | 19:00  
Avonvale Rugby Club

### FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Bathford Players Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**  
Thu 20-Sat 22 Feb  
Bathford Parish Hall
- **Bathford Society Talk on Balance Between Preservation & Development**  
Mon 24 Feb | 19:30 for 20:00  
Bathford Parish Hall
- **Twentieth Twinning Anniversary**  
Thu 10-Mon 14 Apr  
Artannes-sur-Indre

You can now publish your event on the Parish Council website calendar.

Email [clerk@bathford.net](mailto:clerk@bathford.net) with the following information:

Event name/date/start time/finish time/venue

To see the calendar visit: [www.bathford.net/local-information/events](http://www.bathford.net/local-information/events)

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