

QUARTERLY ISSUE #5



SPRING 2023 EDITION

# Batheaston Times

Your go-to guide for all the village news & events

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SPRING  
EVENTS  
CALENDAR  
INSIDE!



*Let's Spring  
Forward*

**The King's  
Coronation  
Celebrations!**

Working together  
to create more  
events & support  
for families, kids,  
teenagers & elderly  
people in our village.

**Batheaston's  
French Twinning  
Weekend!**

**PLUS: LATEST NEWS EVENTS FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERING & MORE**



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# Let's build a Village with a greater sense of belonging — for all

This is your Village and planning needs to be shaped in a way that benefits everyone.

**Batheaston Leadership Group** formed to help our community get through COVID and its aftermath. Its membership represents many, varied village organisations. Joining together in this way has helped us to overcome those barriers in organisational and people politics which can sometimes hold back progress. It will help us to build a Village with a greater sense of belonging — for all, not just for the ones that shout the loudest.

**Plans For A Survey:** This is your Village and planning needs to be shaped in a way that benefits everyone. To this end, I passionately believe we need to nurture meaningful inter-group relationships. These will help us to identify our common purpose, to hear the “hidden” voices and to research how things can best be improved. We are currently putting a survey together, and this will shortly reach you. I would encourage everyone to take part. The survey's findings will inform our decision making, and drive forward action. So, please take a little time to share your thoughts with us on what works well in Batheaston, on what needs improving and on what additional facilities you feel we need.

**Coronation Celebrations:** This year's Coronation gives a fantastic opportunity, whatever your views on monarchy, for us to join together and celebrate as a community, just as we did for our late Queen's Jubilee. Our amazing village organisations will be running a large number of great events locally, and I would encourage you to go along and support as many of them as you can.

Best wishes from the Batheaston Leadership Group



**Cllr Kevin Guy**  
Chair of Batheaston Leadership Board



INTERESTED IN A  
GROUP OR LIKE  
TO VOLUNTEER?

contact: [hello@batheastontimes.co.uk](mailto:hello@batheastontimes.co.uk)



# Spring events calendar

A round-up of some of the events that are on in the village this Spring

**NEW EVENT!**

**BATHEASTON  
TWINNING WEEKEND**  
28th April - 1st May

Our French visitors from Oudon in the Loire Valley are visiting, an enjoyable experience, meeting new French friends. And you will be invited to a long weekend in Oudon next year. If you have a spare room and could host please contact Peter. pdavenport@kyrle222.plus.com

**YOUTH CLUB**  
6.30-9pm  
Youth School School Lane  
for 11-21 year olds

Young people can meet their friends in a safe and friendly environment, by just chilling or joining in with activities. Youth workers engaged young people in many different activities and workshops. 07905 905970

**GB FOOTBALL CLUB**  
Every Saturday 9-11am  
Weather dependent  
  
New girls only group for 2023!  
  
It's for girls and boys aged between 4 and 10. Main objectives are for the kids to have fun, get some exercise, and learn about teamwork and respect. Cash only on the day, £5 per 2 hour session.  
  
[growbatheaston.co.uk/gbfc](http://growbatheaston.co.uk/gbfc)

**NEW EVENT!**

**CORONATION PARTY -  
SAVE THE DATE!**  
Sunday 7th May 12noon -  
7pm, Batheaston Riverside

Batheaston Parish Council are organising a Coronation Celebration. This is an opportunity for the whole village to come together for a fabulous day of fun & festivities for all the family. Any suggestions and offers of help gratefully received, please contact Catherine McCarthy 07740 406830

**COMMUNITY LUNCHESES**  
Batheaston New  
Village Hall  
Fridays 17th March,  
21st April and 12th May  
12.30pm

Everyone is welcome, both young and old, and a £5 voluntary contribution is appreciated. A welcome drink, 2 course meal, coffee, tea and biscuits included. [katy@wern.org.uk](mailto:katy@wern.org.uk) / 07876 035600

**CUBS**  
Scout Hut  
Every Monday  
6.30 - 8pm  
  
Being a Cub is all about growing and learning in small but mighty ways. Cubs are young people aged 8-10½yrs. We meet on Mondays from 6.30-8 pm at our Scout Hut School Lane Batheaston.  
  
[23rdbathscouts.org/cubs/](http://23rdbathscouts.org/cubs/)

**NEW EVENT!**

**SEN (SPECIAL  
EDUCATIONAL NEEDS)  
PARENT / CARERS CAFE**  
Fridays 10.30-12.30 term  
time only. Upstairs room,  
Batheaston New Village Hall

If you are a parent or a carer join us for a chance to talk with other parent carers in a happy friendly place with coffee, tea and cake too. Anyone involved in any way caring for a young person with SEND, regardless of a diagnosis, is always very welcome.  
[roxyrussell1985@gmail.com](mailto:roxyrussell1985@gmail.com)

**COMMUNITY  
PLANTING**  
10am - 12 noon the second  
Saturday and last Sunday  
of each month

Email for mobile number to [hello@growbatheaston.co.uk](mailto:hello@growbatheaston.co.uk) to be added to the community planting whatsapp group so we can let you know where we are going to be for each session and what we are doing. A great way to keep fit, have fun and meet new people.

**BATHEASTON  
ALL SORTS**  
Batheaston New Village Hall  
Every Tuesday 9.30-11am  
  
We have a wide variety of fun and educational toys, a weekly craft activity, snack time, story time and music time. There is tea and fresh coffee for grown ups and home-made cake. The cost of the session is £2 per family/childminder.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/170815826444823>



### KUNG FU BATH

Every Wednesday  
Youth Club  
5-11 years - 6-6.45pm  
Scout Hut  
12 upwards - 7-8.30pm  
The Bath Kung Fu Academy is pleased to offer professional step by step instruction for men, women and children of all ages. We guide you from complete beginner to advanced practitioner and pride ourselves on being fun and friendly.  
[www.kungfubath.com/](http://www.kungfubath.com/)

### AVONVALE RFC JUNIORS

Every Sunday  
London Road  
10-11.30am  
Between Sept and April

Come along and enjoy mini rugby at Avon RFC. Fully qualified and experienced coaches with enhanced DBS checks. Our focus is having fun.

[www.avonvalerfc.co.uk/minis-juniors](http://www.avonvalerfc.co.uk/minis-juniors)

### POP-UP PUB

24th March & 28th April

A great way to meet old friends and make new ones across the village. Held in the hall on the last Friday of each month between 6-9pm. Register at [villagepopuppub1@gmail.com](mailto:villagepopuppub1@gmail.com) to book tickets, and then pay on the evening. £15 will get you 3 drinks and nibbles.



### BEAVERS & SCOUTS

Scout Hut, every Thursday

**Beavers** (ages 6-8)  
6-7.15pm  
[23rdbathscouts.org/beavers/](http://23rdbathscouts.org/beavers/)

**Scouts** (ages 10.5-14)  
7.30-9pm  
[23rdbathscouts.org/scouts/](http://23rdbathscouts.org/scouts/)

Activities include cooking, building, problem solving, hiking, camping and adventures.

### AERO-TONE-LATES

Every Monday 6-7pm  
New Village Hall  
20 mins aerobics, 20 mins toning and 20 mins Pilates.  
Contact Jane on 07866604341.

### WALKING FIT CLUB

Daily one hour circular walks from the best pubs and cafes in Bath, 50 different walks.  
For more info contact Jane at [jane\\_braham@hotmail.com](mailto:jane_braham@hotmail.com) or 07866604341.  
[www.walkingfitclub.com](http://www.walkingfitclub.com)

### WALKING FOOTBALL

Rhymes Field  
Wednesdays  
5.30-6.30pm  
Starts back 19th April

Are you looking to stay active and enjoy football at a slower pace? All abilities welcome, aimed at over 50's grass surface, £3 per session  
[info@bathcityfoundation.org](mailto:info@bathcityfoundation.org)



### NEW EVENT!

### COMMUNITY CEILIDH

Saturday 18th March  
6.30-10pm  
Batheaston New Village Hall

This space is free of alcohol and full of beauty, intentionality and care. Babes in arms, young people, elders and those in between are welcome.  
[www.jamiecolston.com/dance](http://www.jamiecolston.com/dance)



### SOLSBURY SINGS COMMUNITY CHOIR

New Village Hall  
Every Monday  
7.30-8.45 pm

A friendly mixed choir for all abilities  
Contact Cathy - [cathy@solsburysings.co.uk](mailto:cathy@solsburysings.co.uk)

### CREATIVE ROOTS -

Mikes Meadow, Northend, Batheaston, BA1 7EP  
Family mornings the last Saturday of each month.

[www.bookwhen.com/creativeroots](http://www.bookwhen.com/creativeroots)

Activities include nature crafts, den building, bushcraft, sewing, simple campfire cooking, singing and storytelling



**HAVE AN EVENT IDEA?**  
[hello@batheaston-times.co.uk](mailto:hello@batheaston-times.co.uk)

# New Village Hall

We've been buzzing with activity with plenty more to come!



**Easier Bookings:** We've moved bookings to the Hallmaster system. Now you can check availability and book directly via <https://www.batheastonhall.org/calendar>. Just click on the plus sign for the date you're interested in. As you will see below, we're now getting increasingly busy with regular bookings and one-off events such as weddings, life celebrations, baby showers and children's parties. Do get in touch if you're looking for a local venue to hire.

**Life Indoors And Out:** With spring approaching we're sure hirers will make the most of our patio area with its new planting. We have also recently acquired new lighting, staging, projectors, screens and furniture. And we have fantastic kitchen facilities.

**Live Music Comes Our Way** with our first gig on March 11th. Meanwhile don't forget we're still keen to find people to start up an amateur dramatics group for the village, something sadly missed since the demise of Encore. Do get in touch if any of you are interested.

## Regular Weekly Classes:

### Mondays

Curious Child 9.30-10.45am & 11.15am-12.30pm

[www.the curiouschild.co.uk](http://www.the curiouschild.co.uk)

Children's Art – 3-4.30pm

[www.orchardartbath.co.uk](http://www.orchardartbath.co.uk)

Aero-tone-irates 6-7pm

[www.aero-tone-irates.com](http://www.aero-tone-irates.com)

Solsbury Sings 7.30-8.45pm

[www.solsburysings.co.uk](http://www.solsburysings.co.uk)

### Tuesdays

Toddlers 9.30-11am

[www.facebook.com/groups/170815826444823](https://www.facebook.com/groups/170815826444823)

Watercolour Art 9.30am-12.30pm

[www.rachelmoyawilliams.co.uk](http://www.rachelmoyawilliams.co.uk)

Pilates – 9.30-10.30am

[www.pure-focus.co.uk](http://www.pure-focus.co.uk)

### Wednesdays

Zumba – 9.30-10.45am

[jess.harding-wyatt@live.co.uk](mailto:jess.harding-wyatt@live.co.uk)

Pilates – 6.25-7.10pm & 7.30-8.30pm

[www.pilateswithgaby.co.uk](http://www.pilateswithgaby.co.uk)

Bath Show Choir – 7.30-9pm

[www.bathshowchoir.com](http://www.bathshowchoir.com)

### Thursdays

Baby Sensory 10.30-11.15am & 11.45am-12.30pm

[www.babysensory.com/bath/](http://www.babysensory.com/bath/)

Pilates 10-11am [www.pure-focus.co.uk](http://www.pure-focus.co.uk)

Yoga – 12-1pm [shenyoga.co.uk](http://shenyoga.co.uk)

Yoga – 6.15-7.15pm

[millie.trinkwon@btinternet.com](mailto:millie.trinkwon@btinternet.com)

Groove Collective – 7.30-9.30pm

[timwatsontim@gmail.com](mailto:timwatsontim@gmail.com)

### Fridays

Singing Tree – 9.30-10.30am – Contact Noeline

Beesley 07583 449200

SEN (Special Educational Needs) parents/carers

Café – 10.30-12.30 – [katy@wern.co.uk](mailto:katy@wern.co.uk)

## Other public events March - May:

Simi's Kitchen – cookery class / demo 4th

March & 9th April 3-6pm

[www.batheastonhall.org/calendar/](http://www.batheastonhall.org/calendar/)

Mick Jogger and the Stone Experience – 11th

March 7-11pm

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mick-jogger-and-the-stones-experience-tickets-504809909027?aff=ebdssbdestsearch](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mick-jogger-and-the-stones-experience-tickets-504809909027?aff=ebdssbdestsearch)

Book Club – first Tuesday of every month

7-8.15pm [juliaj@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:juliaj@hotmail.co.uk)

Community lunch – monthly Fridays 17th March,

21st April, 12th May from 12.30pm

[katy@wern.co.uk](mailto:katy@wern.co.uk)

Singing Mammies – once a month Fridays

10.30am-12noon - Contact Noeline Beesley

07583 449200

Pop-up pub – monthly Fridays 24th March, 28th

April- [villagepopuppub1@gmail.com](mailto:villagepopuppub1@gmail.com)

Community Ceilidh – Sat 18th March -

[www.jamiecolston.com/dance](http://www.jamiecolston.com/dance)

Yoga Retreat Day – Sunday 26th March 10am-

4pm [hello@rachelstacey-mckay.com](mailto:hello@rachelstacey-mckay.com)

Family Constellation workshop Wed 29th March

& 3rd May 10.30am-3.30pm

[www.jamiecolston.com/workshopsandevents](http://www.jamiecolston.com/workshopsandevents)

**Ali Rogers, Bookings Manager**

Email: [booking@batheastonhall.org](mailto:booking@batheastonhall.org)

Tel: 07968 697451



# Batheaston Primary School

We had a busy time in '22 and are now looking forward to our '23 events!

**M**eadowfest '22 was our highlight. Live music, food, bouncy castles and games provided the backdrop for our very own local Festival.

On one sunny day in May we raised a huge £5,526 to spend on the little extras the school needs to make it an amazing place for our local children. We also ran a slightly damp Scarecrow Trail, the Winter Fair, school discos and a variety of other smaller events. In all we raised around £12,000 to spend on school improvements.

**We Got Spending!** As you can imagine, there is never a shortage of projects needing a bit of extra cash. Last year FOBS funded new steps and a handrail for the steepest part of Mike's Meadow. We boosted science and design technology resources, gave a cash pot to each teacher for classroom improvements and bought hoodies for our Year 6 leavers. This sent them off into the world remembering Batheaston Primary School for years to come.

**New '23 Projects:** we have already done some significant playground work. We have also cleared the pond so the children can actually see the wildlife, and built compost heaps in the meadow. We are looking forward to re-roofing the outdoor Larpa classroom and also to creating a much-improved scooter/bike area to encourage green travel to school.

**Spring and Summer '23 Events in the Pipeline:** We are keeping on our fundraising hats! Our beautiful village school needs us more than ever to keep everything in top condition. We'll soon be in touch with a date for Meadowfest '23 and with news of some Royal Coronation fun!

**Can You Help Us Out?** If you run a local business and would like to sponsor any of our events or improvements, please do get in touch with [friendsofbatheaston@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbatheaston@gmail.com)

**Sally Jefferies** Head Teacher,  
Batheaston Church School



# Grow Batheaston

Working together from the ground up



**R**eviewing '22 and Planning '23: The Art Trail was last year's Grow Batheaston highlight, with an increase in people showcasing their talents. This year's Art Trail will be held on 7th and 8th October, and we are planning to grow it even more. Our pop-up markets proved very popular. Thank-you to Bath and West Community Energy for funding this experiment. We learnt a lot, and now realise they were a lot of work for our volunteers. So, this year we are hosting a community market in September.

**Our Twice-monthly Community Planting Sessions**, second Saturday and last Sunday of the month, perfectly capture what GB stands for. Here's a wonderful chance for us all to get to know, and work with, our fellow residents. We gather in the Forest Garden or in the wild space behind the playground. Volunteers have been transforming the scrub land behind the Secret Garden into a truly magical

space. And now we want to reduce the playground's brambles and make a rich habitat for wildlife.

**Our Growers Club Seed and Plant Swap Sessions** take place in the Forest Garden 10-12pm, 8th April, 13th May and 10th June. Bring your seedling spares to share, and meet the like-minded. If you would like to join the club's active WhatsApp chat, please email [hello@growbatheaston.co.uk](mailto:hello@growbatheaston.co.uk)

**Big shout Out For Volunteers!** We only exist because of our committed residents, and we need more of you. Volunteering is all about new opportunities for doing something you enjoy, in conversation with other humans!

**PS. Don't Forget our Football Club** runs every Saturday 10am - noon for our primary school aged children. New this year is a Girls Only footie session!



## Events

**FOOTBALL CLUB**  
Every Saturday  
9-11am  
Rhymes Field

**COMMUNITY PLANTING**  
10am-12noon the second Saturday and last Sunday of each month.  
Forest Garden

**SEED & PLANT SWAP**  
Forest Garden  
10-12pm, 8th April, 13th May & 10th June

**CONTACT US**  
JOIN A CLUB  
OR VOLUNTEER!

Email: [hello@growbatheaston.co.uk](mailto:hello@growbatheaston.co.uk)  
Website: [www.growbatheaston.co.uk](http://www.growbatheaston.co.uk)  
[twitter.com/growbatheaston](https://twitter.com/growbatheaston)  
[instagram.com/growbatheaston/](https://instagram.com/growbatheaston/)  
[facebook.com/growbatheaston/](https://facebook.com/growbatheaston/)





# Batheaston & Bathford Scouts\*

Scouting for young people in Batheaston and Bathford is provided by 23rd Bath (Avonvale) Scout Group. \*aka 23rd Bath Avondale

## **G**rowing your Group... the Scouting Way

Growth is always a buzz word for charitable organisations, and particularly so in Scouting. We are always looking for new adult volunteers to join the team. And what better way than by growing our own leaders! Here is our recipe and ingredients list...

- Introduce **6 years old young people** to Beavers (our youngest section). Nurture them and give them the chance to experience challenges, activities and fun.
- At **8 years old** move them up to Cubs and carry on the good work, fostering both teamwork and leadership skills.
- At **10.5 years old** move them up to Scouts to learn more independence, enjoy more adventurous activities and find new leadership opportunities.
- From **14 years old** encourage them to join Explorers and become Young Leaders, helping the younger sections by running activities and games.
- At **18 years old** they have become Leaders!

Many of our Young Leaders recently turned 18 and are now fully fledged Adult Leaders taking

responsibility for all/part of their section's meetings. Slightly nervous and shy 6-year-olds have grown into confident adults who love sharing their Scouting experience with the current youngsters. It gives us such pride.

**Henry:** *"Many of my best childhood memories were created through Scouting, with some of my closest friends made at Beavers. To be able to continue my Scouting and offer similar (and more) experiences to the next generation is the cherry on the cake."*

**Rory:** *"Scouting has been a major part of my life ever since I can remember. I can't imagine not being involved. Running evenings with the same leaders who had such an impact on my life is great fun, and passing on skills to the new Cubs and Scouts is incredibly rewarding."*

Do get in touch if you'd like to help Scouting in any way. As well as Leaders, we are always grateful for any help to support the Group.

[23rdbathscouts.org/contact](https://23rdbathscouts.org/contact)

Follow on Facebook @23rdBathScouts or visit our website <https://23rdbathscouts.org/>

# Penny's Pantry & Community Café

Penny's Pantry (PP) is a not-for-profit organisation, run by local volunteers to expand affordable food choice and social activity for local residents.



**P**enny's Pantry is in full swing on Wednesday mornings at the Rhymes Pavilion where volunteers serve coffee, tea, cake and a good old dose of Batheaston friendliness.

**A Warm Welcome**  
Anyone can pop in on Wednesdays. All ages are welcome. Bring a friend, a neighbour or someone you know who might feel a bit shy about coming along on their own. We have a kids' corner and some of our guests can be found simply reading, knitting, sharing recipe ideas and more.

**We Need Bakers**  
At the Pantry, you can indulge in home-made cakes, enjoy a cuppa and share local news. We're always on the lookout for volunteer bakers, so get in touch if you can bake a cake now and again.

**We Need Hosts**  
If you enjoy being around people and would like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you. We're expanding our team of volunteers by the day.

**Your Ideas**  
The Pantry is a place where you can share your interests and ideas for local events, services and activities, especially where food is concerned. Why not pop in with yours?

**Signposting Advice**  
At the Pantry, our volunteers can put you in touch with local advisors. They can help with health, safety and money matters as well as any community concerns you might have.

**Get in touch**  
If you have any queries about the Pantry, please pop in to say hello.

**Events**  
Wednesday Café - Every Wednesday 10.30am-12.30pm  
Rhymes Pavilion – just drop in.

**Monthly Community Lunch:**  
Our next dates are Friday 17th March, Friday 21st April, Friday 19th May, 12.30 arrival for 1.00pm. Book via the Pantry team or call Katy Lunn (WERN agent) on 07876 035600.



## Events

**COMMUNITY LUNCHES**  
Friday 25th November  
and Friday 9th December  
New Village Hall.  
Book via the Pantry, St John's or Katy on 07876 035600

**WEEKLY WEDNESDAY DROP-IN CAFE**  
Rhymes Pavilion  
10.30pm-12.30pm

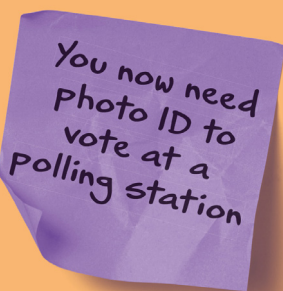
# Batheaston Parish Council



Batheaston Parish Council provides recreation and other facilities, maintains some of the local environment, and represents the community



The Electoral Commission



Find out more at

[electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID)

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

## Events

### COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Tuesday 21st March &  
Tuesday 18th April 7.15pm  
Rhymes Pavilion Coalpit Road  
**Elections for Parish and  
Banes Councillors**  
Thursday 4th May,  
Batheaston Youth Club,  
7am - 10pm.  
Please remember to bring ID.  
**Annual Meeting of Electors**  
Tuesday 23rd May venue TBC

**P layground Update:** Our Working Group is now tackling the Under-5 playground area. We are talking to companies that can provide and install a replacement climbing frame and other things that toddlers love to play on. The aim is to have these installed on a new play surface by June. We will then turn to other playground areas, replacing the larger climbing frame and bringing in other equipment. Then it's on to the skate ramp, and the all-weather court! In parallel, I will soon be commissioning repair of the fence and replacement of the yellow gate.

**Volunteers Needed!** We are still keen to hear from people who want to help – could you roll your sleeves up and help dig out the overgrown bark surface, or perhaps raise funds for our playground's next phase?

**Streetlight News:** This year quite a few of the Council's remaining streetlights have needed attention, and so far over £5,000 has been committed to their repair or replacement. In a couple of cases, we decided to de-commission the light, to save money.

**Precept for Next Year:** At a special meeting on 1st February, the Parish Council agreed to increase this to about £90 for a house in Council Tax middle band D. This is a large increase but the assets the Council manages for the community - Riverside, Playground, and sports facilities – need substantial investment. The Chair of Council, Cllr Hannah Squire, published this statement on behalf of Councillors:

<https://www.batheaston-pc.gov.uk/news-article/the-parish-council-precept-for-2023-24>

### Election for Parish Councillors

These will occur on 4th May, coinciding with elections for Bath and North East Somerset (BANES). Although we have rarely had a full complement, we can have up to 15 Councillors, who collectively represent the community and oversee the important Council services. Please contact the Chair of Council, Cllr Squire, or the Clerk, Richard Maccabee, if you would like to know more.

*For all enquiries contact the Clerk, Richard Maccabee, at [clerk@batheaston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@batheaston-pc.gov.uk). See our website for more information.*



# Batheaston Youth Club



Batheaston Youth Club (BYC) is a place for young people to enjoy, learn and to plan activities together for the future in a supportive, purpose-built environment.



**GET IN TOUCH!**  
BE A VOLUNTEER,  
RUN A WORKSHOP?  
OR HELP FUNDRAISE

01225 859 324

**B**atheaston Youth Club (BYC) is a place for young people to meet, learn and plan activities together in a supportive, purpose-built environment.

## What's New?

We're delighted to tell you that lots of our young residents have started coming to BYC for the first time. They have been enjoying each other's company, playing games and music and trying out some new activities. This is an exciting opportunity after lockdown for our young folk to put forward their ideas.

## The Club

BYC gives a space to relax and have some fun locally. Most importantly it gives young people a chance to share time together outside school hours. BYC offers:

- Sofa Lounge area
- Sports Hall
- Tuck shop and kitchen

- Computer Corner
- Outings
- Talks/workshops
- Confidential support from staff or school nurse
- BYC can be hired for parties/events

BYC is led by two qualified youth workers, Julie Russell and Belinda Milsom, and runs drop-in evenings on Tuesday and Thursday during term time, 6.30pm – 9.00pm.

## Fresh Ideas

We want to learn from our young people about what activities they would enjoy in the months ahead. So, if you are a young person reading this, or can put ideas forward on behalf of the young people you know, send these ideas to [hello@batheastontimes.co.uk](mailto:hello@batheastontimes.co.uk). We'll do our best to make interesting plans for the future.

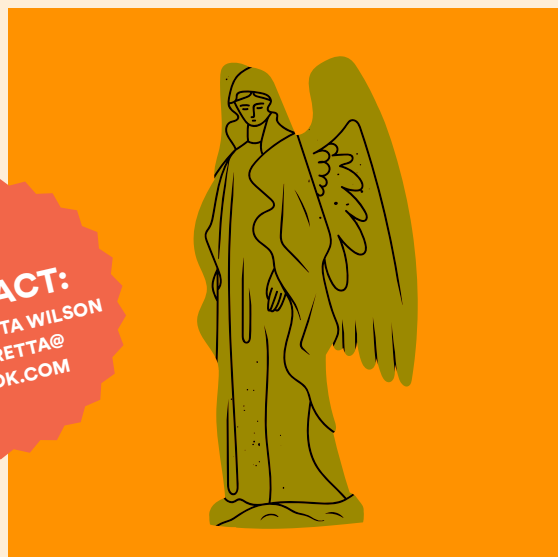
**Contact us:** 01225 859324,  
Batheaston Youth Club, School Lane,  
Batheaston BA1 7EP.







**CONTACT:**  
REV'D LAURETTA WILSON  
REVLAURETTA@  
OUTLOOK.COM



## St John's with St Catherine's

If you live in Batheaston, then this is YOUR church, and we'd like you to take advantage of that fact, and continue to support it.

**H**ello, I am Laurretta, the new vicar in Batheaston and Bathford. I have been in post since October and am really enjoying getting to know the two villages - thanks to everyone who has made me, and my husband Ed, so welcome. I have been ordained for 17 years and I've had a lot of experience of different parishes, but there are always surprises and things to learn, so please let me know your thoughts and concerns. You will already know some of the team at St John's, Batheaston and St Catherine's - do tell us how we can help you. This is your church, and everyone is always welcome.

**Pausing with God:** Throughout March Christians are in Lent, a season when we pause with God and notice what matters most. This isn't a navel-gazing exercise, but one that gives renewed energy and focus. It helps us re-discover the joy that may get hidden beneath layers of distraction and worry. **Archbishop Desmond Tutu's words** remind us that discovering this joy is not a superficial feeling but a life-affirming and indeed life-changing revelation:

Discovering more joy does not save us from the inevitability of hardship and heartbreak. In fact, we may cry more easily, but we will laugh more

easily too. Perhaps we are just more alive. As we discover more joy, we can face suffering in a way that ennobles rather than embitters. We have hardship without becoming hard. We have heartbreaks without being broken.

**Do look out for our Lent and Easter calendar of events** that will soon be going out online and in printed form. Meanwhile you are warmly invited to join in our midweek Lent meetings with outside speakers. Please bring a picnic lunch. We will be meeting in St John's Church at 12:30pm.

- Weds 8th March – Imagination in faith
- Weds 22nd March – Faith in action in Zambia
- Weds 5th April – Jesus was a Refugee

Meanwhile I look forward to seeing you and hearing your thoughts,

Laurretta

**Rev'd Laurretta Wilson**  
revlaurretta@outlook.com  
07840753202

# WERN

Batheaston Village Agent – WERN  
(West of England Rural Network)

CONTACT  
katy@wern.org.uk



**C**urrent Financial Pressures: As we finally head (hopefully!) towards some warmer spring weather, everyone is hoping that financial pressures from the cost of living crisis/rising energy bills will ease somewhat. Over the winter I've been supporting more people than ever, helping them access financial support, benefits and one-off payments when times have been particularly tough. No one is immune in the current situation, so don't be afraid to ask for help.

**A very special Christmas Community Lunch,** hosted by Penny's Pantry, gave a lovely and festive day for us all. It was held at Batheaston New Village Hall, the choir from Batheaston Primary School entertaining everyone with Christmas carols. We are offering lunches on a monthly basis, the next one being on **FRIDAY 17th MARCH**. It will have an Irish theme to mark St Patrick's Day. Everyone is welcome, both young and old, and a £5 voluntary contribution is appreciated. A welcome drink, 2 course meal, coffee/tea and biscuits is all included. If you would like to attend you can sign up at Penny's Pantry, call and leave a message on 07876 035600 or e-mail [katy@wern.org.uk](mailto:katy@wern.org.uk).

**Could you lend a hand?** If you have a few hours to spare and fancy doing something fun and sociable, would you consider volunteering to help either cook, prepare food or help clear up at our monthly lunches? Again, just contact me. All volunteers are welcome to join for lunch too.

**Accessing Help:** Finally, just a reminder that I am here to support anyone over the age of 18 in the village. I can help with a range of issues such as:

- Struggles with finances, bills or debt
- Help needed for benefit applications
- Support in living independently at home
- Changing care needs

I am always happy to have a cup of tea and a chat, either at your own home or over the phone, and help find a solution. This service is entirely confidential and free to all residents of B&NES.

I also have contact with many local agencies that can help with more specialist needs.



# National Trust

The National Trust is delighted to announce the creation of a ‘green corridor’ at Bathampton Meadows, linking the historic city centre to surrounding countryside.

**A Year's Progress:** It's now almost a year since the National Trust took on Bathampton Meadows, its first “green corridor”. We promptly set to work surveying the land so that we could understand it better. We took soil samples, analysed the fungi, did a bat count and studied all the natural habitats so that we could monitor any changes over time. This has put us in a great position to move forward over the next year and develop the Meadows both for nature and for visitors.

**Forging Local Links:** We are engaging with the local community, finding out what's important to you, and what you specially like about the Meadows. On Friday 23rd December we took twenty people on a guided - and rather wet - walk from Batheaston through to Kensington Meadows. Afterwards over some mince pies rangers shared their discoveries of the last year. It was a lovely way to meet local residents. Look out for more events like this one in the coming months.

**An Ancient Tree:** You may know the oak that stands in one of the Meadow fields where we graze sheep. We have called in one of our National Trust tree experts, who confirms that the tree is at least 850 years old, though it's hard to give its exact age.

**Calling All Volunteers!** I am delighted to tell you that we are now recruiting. Firstly, we are looking for coast and countryside volunteers to support our rangers in a practical way, and allow us to keep the Meadows in great condition. Work will include hedge laying, wildflower meadow maintenance and scrub clearance. Meanwhile we also need walking and talking volunteers who will regularly walk the Meadows to check on their condition, meeting with the local community as they do so. So please say hello if you see our volunteers out and about.

**Sarah Dann**  
Community Ranger

**GET IN TOUCH**  
email: [bathskyline@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:bathskyline@nationaltrust.org.uk)



# Friends of Batheaston School

We had a busy time in '22 and are now looking forward to our '23 events!



**M**eadowfest '22 was our highlight. Live music, food, bouncy castles and games provided the backdrop for our very own local Festival. On one sunny day in May we raised a huge £5,526 to spend on the little extras the school needs to make it an amazing place for our local children. We also ran a slightly damp Scarecrow Trail, the Winter Fair, school discos and a variety of other smaller events. In all we raised around £12,000 to spend on school improvements.

**We Got Spending!** As you can imagine, there is never a shortage of projects needing a bit of extra cash. Last year FOBS funded new steps and a handrail for the steepest part of Mike's Meadow. We boosted science and design technology resources, gave a cash pot to each teacher for classroom improvements and bought hoodies for our Year 6 leavers. This sent them off into the world remembering Batheaston Primary School for years to come.

## New '23 Projects:

we have already done some significant playground work. We have also cleared the pond so the children can actually see the wildlife, and built compost heaps in the meadow. We are looking forward to re-roofing the outdoor Larpa classroom and also to creating a much-improved scooter/bike area to encourage green travel to school.

## Spring & Summer '23 Events in the Pipeline:

We are keeping on our fundraising hats! Our beautiful village school needs us more than ever to keep everything in top condition. We'll soon be in touch with a date for Meadowfest '23 and with news of some Royal Coronation fun!

## Can You Help Us Out?

If you run a local business and would like to sponsor any of our events or improvements, please do get in touch with [friendsofbatheaston@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbatheaston@gmail.com)