

**St Brandon's Church,
Brancepeth
Newsletter: May 2020**



Also online at: www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter



Parochial Church Council

Priest in Charge	Rev'd Anna Brooker (3780578) or rector@stbrandon.org.uk or anna.brooker@durham.ac.uk	
Associate Minister	Rev'd. Alison Hobbs (3789670) alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk	
Curate	Revd Sabine Tenge-Heslop (01388 730855) s.u.tenge-heslop@durham.ac.uk	
Lay Reader	Geoff Moore – co-opted member of P.C.C. (3735674)	
Church Wardens:	Hester Higton	(5974675)
	James Morgan	(4476520)
Secretary	Carole Beeby	(3847431), (07592 975002)
Treasurer	Mike Higton	(5974675)
Deanery Synod	Robert Scott-Biggs (3735907).	
	David Eltringham	(01388 746058)
	John Roberts	(01388 748287)
Other members:-		
	Jayne Cook (01388 731417)	Steve Hodgson (3780289)
	Peter Cook (01388 731417)	Sue Morgan (3781172)
	Tom Hobbs (07857437860)	Isabel Rae (9039145)
	Jean Hodgson (3780289)	
Pastoral Assistant	Deborah Hodge (01388 745455)	
Prayer Team	Deborah Hodge (01388 745455), Alison Hobbs (378 9670), Alison Moore (373 5674), Myrleen Stewart (378 0862).	
Sunday School	Martin Peacock (07503242074)	
Messy Church	Liz Thomas (3784465)	
Organist	Richard Hird	
Village Choir	Jean Merrington (3780952)	
Sacristans	Carol Beeby (3847431), Deborah Hodge (01388 745455), Jean Hodgson (3780289), Valeria Dietz.	
Safeguarding Officer	Geoff Moore (3735674)	
Flower Guild	Lynne Hastie (3781871)	
Churchyard	Edward Staines (3780858)	
Youth Club	Geoff Moore (3735674), Martin Peacock (07503242074)	
Worship Team	Hester Higton, Rev'd Alison Hobbs, Rev'd Fiona Eltringham, Deborah Hodge, Jean Hodgson, Jean Merrington, Geoff Moore, Sue Morgan.	
SMD Team:	Hester Higton, Alison Hobbs, Alison Moore, Martin Peacock.	
Fabric:	James Morgan (chair), Peter Cook, Alison Hobbs, Tom Hobbs, Steve Hodgson, Geoff Knott, John Roberts, Robert Scott-Biggs, Edward Staines.	
Website	www.stbrandon.org.uk	

June Newsletter entries – no later than May 15th

Please send to Sue Morgan – sueatpeppermires@gmail.com

Dear friends

It seems far more than four weeks since I wrote last month's letter! I ended then with these words:

Whatever the situation by Easter Day, let us rejoice that Christ is alive and hold on to God's hope to strengthen, sustain and inspire us:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15: 13)

I begin with thanks to God for the abundant hope which we see in evidence in our community. Thanks to everyone who is keeping hope alive and well through shopping, delivering, phoning, 'zooming' sharing greetings, waves and smiles at a distance, checking on neighbours, looking beyond themselves, praying and caring. There is much to be thankful for in Brancepeth in this Easter season.

At church it was a remarkable 'online' Easter, with moving and joyful services, a deep sense of God's presence among us as we met virtually, and many people sharing their gifts in music, speaking, art and IT. I am so grateful to them all.

The coming month may bring hardship and tragedy, and will certainly mean further limitations and isolation, but the hope in which we abound is based not on wishful thinking but on the love and power of God, which raised Jesus to new life and destroyed death's power.

We had planned this May to mark together the 75th anniversary of VE Day, but that celebration will wait, and will be all the more joyful when it comes. There were plans too, as every year, to collect house to house around the village for Christian Aid Week. Whilst that fundraising will be impossible, the needs of those whom Christian Aid supports are greater now than ever, so please do read the announcement later in the newsletter and give generously online instead. Thank you.

In my schooldays in Liverpool, we held a special assembly in early May each year, when the cherry trees were blossoming in the school yard. Those trees had been planted at the end of the second world war, as symbols of peace. By the time I was there, the boughs were heavy throughout May, their abundant pink flowers making a carpet of petals, which lasted many weeks into the summer term and transformed the usual dreariness of our surroundings. Whenever I see cherry blossom it evokes such memories and prompts me to pray for peace.

This year especially, let us all pray for peace in our world, which begins in our respect and care for one another in our own homes and communities, and extends to our national and global relations. We pray for those facing life and

death challenges every day and for all our neighbours, here and across the world.

Before Jesus ascended and returned to heaven, forty days after Easter, he said this:

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.

(John 14: 27)

With all good wishes

Anna

Anna Brooker

Priest in Charge, St Brandon's Church

Your Kingdom Come

The season between Ascension Day and Pentecost, 21-31 May this year, is set aside by churches all round the world as a special time for prayer, entitled *Thy Kingdom Come*.

Many of us now say The Lord's Prayer in its modern form, which makes that phrase *Your Kingdom Come*. Here is an edited version of a prayer with the same title, from David Adam, written when he was Vicar of Holy Island.

In the stillness of this morning
In the day that is newly dawning
O Lord, your kingdom come
Into a world that cries for peace
to the earth that wars may cease
O Lord, your kingdom come
Into our hearts and into our wills
To our lives which the Spirit fills
O Lord, your kingdom come
To the lonely and the sad
To the tortured and driven mad
O Lord, your kingdom come
To all who have lost hope today
To all who are too ill to pray
O Lord, your kingdom come

Amen.

St Brandon's response to changes imposed by the Covid- 19 situation

As face-to-face meeting for worship has been suspended by the Church of England, St Brandon's is developing new ways to worship together remotely on a Sunday morning. If you have not heard from us and would like to be involved, please send an email to hesterhigton@phonecoop.coop or call Hester or Mike on 0191 597 4675. Details will also be posted on the church website at stbrandon.org.uk.

St Brandon's May 2020 – Services and readings

All services will be held online via Zoom and everyone is welcome.

In addition to the services below, each day Monday - Friday Morning Prayer is shared online at 8.15am and there is a midday Eucharist from Brancepeth Castle at 12noon.

*Meeting invitations are sent via NAVIGATOR, St Brandon's email link.
Please phone or email for further details.*

3rd May, Easter 4

Parish Eucharist – 10.15

Readings: First:	Deborah Hodge	Acts 2: 42-end
Gospel:	Steve Hodgson	John 10: 1-10
	Doris Dobson	Intercessions

Thursday 7th May, Evening Prayer 7.30pm

10th May, Easter 5, *Christian Aid Week* begins

Parish Eucharist – 10.15

Readings: First:	Jayne Cook	Acts 7: 55-end
Gospel:	Robert Scott-Biggs	John 14: 1-14
	Gillian Smellie	Intercessions

Thursday 14th May, Evening Prayer for *Christian Aid*, 7.30pm

17th May, Easter 6 and St Brandon, Parish Eucharist – 10.15

Readings: First:	Ulrike Hobbs	Acts 17: 22-31
Gospel:	James Morgan	John 14: 15-21
	Caroline Middleditch	Intercessions

Thursday 21st May, Ascension Day Eucharist 7.30pm

Readings: First:	Sue Morgan	Ephesians 1: 15-end
Gospel:	Hester Higton	Luke 24: 44-end

24th May, Easter 7 Parish Eucharist – 10.15

Readings: First:	Gillian Smellie	Acts 1: 6-14
Gospel:	Mike Higton	John 17: 1-11
	David Eltringham	Intercessions

Thursday 28th May, Evening Prayer for *Thy Kingdom Come* 7.30pm

31st May, Pentecost Parish Eucharist – 10.15

Readings: First:	Edward Staines	Acts 2:1–21
Gospel:	Wilfred Foxe	John 20: 19-29
	Geoff Moore	Intercessions

Thursday 4th June, Evening Prayer 7.30pm

7th June, Trinity Parish Eucharist – 10.15

Readings: First:	Evelyn Aitken	Isaiah 40: 12-17, 27-end
Gospel:	Janette Foxe	Matthew 28: 16-20
	Edward Staines	Intercessions

Do you know anyone who, for any reason, would appreciate a prayer or a friendly chat?

Please tell Deborah Hodge, Authorised Pastoral Assistant, and she will get in touch. 01388 745455

Assistance in Brancepeth during Coronavirus

Recent developments in the predictions of the escalation of Coronavirus could perhaps leave some people in the village without help in the weeks to come for those without family or other local support.

The Parish Council working with the Brancepeth Community Association and Saint Brandon's church have put together the listing below of those, health permitting, who could help with shopping, picking up medicines, or other vital errands.

Coronavirus is predicted to run for a few months so if there are any others in the village that would be prepared to help in these circumstances let me know and I'll add you to the contact list in the next newsletter edition.

Thank you to those who have put themselves forward in these difficult times.

Dave Armstrong, Peter Aitken, Rev. Anna Brooker

<i>Jessie Brown</i>	<i>0191 378 2748</i>	<i>Sheila Chapman</i>	<i>0191 378 4408</i>
<i>James Dalton</i>	<i>0191 378 0771</i>	<i>Jo Dalton</i>	<i>0191 378 0771</i>
<i>Dave Armstrong</i>	<i>07843 343846</i>	<i>Josie Armstrong</i>	<i>07882 233118</i>
<i>Geoff Harrison</i>	<i>0191 378 9908</i>	<i>Margot Harrison</i>	<i>0191 378 9908</i>
<i>Ian Stoker</i>	<i>0191 378 4986</i>	<i>Gillian Smellie</i>	<i>0191 373 9420</i>
<i>Vivienne Lowe</i>	<i>0191 378 0974</i>	<i>Deborah Hodge</i>	<i>01388 745455</i>
<i>Anna Brooker</i>	<i>0191 378 0578</i>	<i>Nick Brooker</i>	<i>0191 378 0578</i>
<i>Jayne Gardarsson</i>	<i>0191 378 1483</i>	<i>Jeanette Metcalfe</i>	<i>0191 3781646</i>
<i>Martyn Jones</i>	<i>0191 378 9297</i>	<i>Christine Jones</i>	<i>0191 378 9297</i>
<i>Peter Aitken</i>	<i>0191 378 9908</i>	<i>Evelyn Aitken</i>	<i>0191 378 9908</i>
<i>Hester Higton</i>	<i>0191 5974675</i>	<i>Mike Higton</i>	<i>0191 5974675</i>
<i>Amy Gooding</i>	<i>07753606115</i>	<i>Richard Gooding</i>	<i>0191 3869651</i>
<i>Carol Beeby</i>	<i>07592 975002</i>	<i>Caroline Middleditch</i>	<i>07729277074</i>
<i>Sue Morgan</i>	<i>0191 3781172</i>		

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING DIARY May 2020

You are invited to use this diary to share in our prayers offered daily

‘Only God can move mountains, but faith and prayer can move God’

E.M. Bounds

- 1 Pray for God’s protection against the fast-spreading coronavirus worldwide
- 2 Oakenshaw Road area
- 3 **EASTER 4 Pray and give thanks for the Village Support Network and all who improve our isolation**
- 4 Pray for all those who are victimised because of their faith
- 5 Scription, Peppermires, Holywell and East Parks area
- 6 Pray and give thanks for spiritual advisors and all who are called to minister to others
- 7 The Rectory, Thornberry Garth, Hoppy Acres, Rectory Cottages and Constable Meadows
- 8 VE Day As we recall the sacrifices made during the Second World War we also celebrate the arrival of peace in Europe
- 9 Foxes Row, Russell Close and North Field View
- 10 **EASTER 5 May we remember that faith is often tested in the fire of affliction**
- 11 Give thanks for God’s ongoing forgiveness despite our faults and failings
- 12 Church members outside the parish
- 13 Pray for those in local government wrestling with limited resources yet numerous demands
- 14 Goodwell Lea
- 15 Give thanks and pray for all working in the NHS in these unprecedented circumstances
- 16 Quarry Hill, the cottages and Goodwell Field area
- 17 **EASTER 6 Give thanks that God’s Love is not performance-related**
- 18 Littlewhite Farm, cottages and Morley Farm
- 19 Pray for the police and all involved in the prevention and detection of crime
- 20 The Village North of the crossroads, Railway House and cottages
- 21 **ASCENSION DAY We give thanks for our Risen Saviour and all it means in our lives**
- 22 In our fast-changing world we pray for wise discernment from our Government
- 23 Durham Road and The Forge
- 24 **EASTER 7 Give thanks that God’s resources never run dry**
- 25 Pray and give thanks for those who foster abused or homeless children
- 26 Wooley Grange, Spring Farm, High Wooley, Weather Hill, South Brandon Farm and Brawns Den
- 27 Give thanks and pray for those who donate their organs to save the lives of others
- 28 The Village South, Castle and Lodge, The Bothy, Golf Club, Park Lodge, Nursery and Garden Houses

- 29 Pray that we may protect this God-given planet
30 Stockley Grove, Bridge Lane, Tanglewood, Whitworth Lane and Black House Farm
31 **PENTECOST May we open ourselves more fully to the living presence
of the Holy Spirit**

For June entries contact Alison Moore 0191 373 5674

.....



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

10 - 16 May 2020

Christian Aid week will be different this year - but our help is needed more than ever!

There will be no red envelopes appearing through your door

BUT YOU CAN STILL GIVE :

Online at: www.christianaid.org.uk

By phone: **020 7523 2269**

Direct to the Christian Aid bank account: **020 7523 2226** for details

By direct debit: **020 7523 2046**

For more information call Deborah Hodge 01388 745455 or text 07791 241 608

Thank you (virtually) from the Refuge,

Obviously Mothering Sunday didn't pan out quite as we had expected this year. A massive understatement!! However I would like to say a big thank you to all those who, either gave me personally toiletries for the women's refuge or who left them in the box in church.

I have contacted the refuge and they are not accepting anything at the moment. However, they seemed very touched that we had remembered them. I have the stuff safely stored in my spare room, so it will get there one day.

In the meantime, I read that domestic abuse has gone up during this difficult time, so it might be good to occasionally spare the women a thought or a prayer.

Fiona Eltringham

The Children's Society

May is usually the month when I collect in the boxes from the society and have fun counting up all that lovely cash.

However I have just received a letter from the society headed "**Box activity on hold till further notice**".

So please hold onto your box and keep popping the cash in.

Fiona Eltringham

A MESSAGE FROM THE FLOWER GUILD

We would like to thank everyone who generously donated money towards the cost of the Easter flowers before the coronavirus led to the church being closed. We hope it will be acceptable if on this occasion we put these anonymous donations towards the cost of the Christmas arrangements instead. If you would like to discuss this further please contact either Jessie, Christine or Lynne.

Thank you for your continued support.

Lynne Hastie.

Garden Club.

Walkabout Friday 3rd July. Stockley Grove. More details next month.

Annual Show Saturday 12th September.

Further events in later newsletters.

Brancepeth Youth Club

April - July 2020

We're meeting weekly by Zoom for the time being, 6pm on Sundays starting on April 19th. All young people in the Village (and beyond, and their friends) are warmly welcome. The age range is from 11 to 17 years inclusive. If you haven't yet joined one of the Zoom meetings and would like to, then please phone or email Geoff for details.

On April 26th the Diocese is putting on a virtual 'Pulse' event at 7pm – we'll join that, rather than hold our own meeting that night. Further details when we have them.

As and when the situation changes and we can start to meet in the Village Hall again, we'll be in touch. It would be great if we could have our annual BBQ on 12th July – the last meeting before the summer!

Leaders

Geoff Moore 373 5674 durmoores@btinternet.com

Martin Peacock 07503 242074

Jonny Dobson, Sabine Tenge-Heslop, Tom Hobbs and Alison Hobbs will also be helping to lead.

St. Brandon's Church – Grass Cutting Rota 2020

Dear all,

The current guidance from the police to the church is that the church should not arrange for the church grass to be mowed until the restrictions are eased. The rota for the next few weeks is included below in case there is any easing in the restrictions as the month progresses before the next newsletter is published.

26 th Apr – 9 th May	James Morgan Lester Ball
10 th – 23 rd May	James Dalton Nick Brooker
24 th May – 6 th June	Steve Hodgson Geoff Harrison
7 th - 20 th June	Tom Hobbs Richard Hobbs

Book Club

The next meeting is arranged for the 8th May and the book to read is:
'The Salt Path' by Raynor Winn. Meeting by 'Zoom' at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Val Gibbons.

BRANCEPETH QUIZ

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Date of birth: _____ Age: _____

1. Brancepeth recently celebrated the 450th anniversary of the Great Northern Rebellion. In what year did it take place?
2. When did the battle of Neville's Cross take place?
3. What is the name of the female social reformer of the 19th century who was born in Wooler and was a cousin of the Northumberland born Prime Minister, Earl Grey?
4. The main road through Brancepeth is the A...?
5. The town of Peterlee is named after whom?
6. The three main rivers in the North East run through Newcastle, Sunderland and Middlesbrough.
 - a. What in order are their names?
 - b. Which one is the longest?
7. Which classical composer in the 19th century wrote, in answer to a hostile critic, "I'm sitting in the smallest room in my house. Your review is before me. Soon it will be behind me."?
8. What is the singer Sting's real name?
9. Which Northumbrian monk wrote *The History of the English Church and People*?
10. Which Durham author wrote *The Silence of the Girls*?
11. What does the term "marra" mean?
12. For the Red and Whites:
 - a. In what year did Sunderland last win the FA Cup Final?
 - b. What team did they beat in the final?
13. For the Black and Whites
 - a. In what year did Newcastle United beat Manchester United 5-0?
 - b. Who scored the fifth goal?
14. What was the name of the famous darts commentator, born in Ashington, who said, "when Alexander the Great was 33 he cried salt tears because there were no more worlds to conquer ... but Eric Bristow is only 27!"?
15. In which city was the cricketer Ben Stokes born?
16. Who invented the self-righting life boat in South Shields in 1789?

17. Who invented the windscreen wiper after driving through the snow back to Newcastle after watching the Toon in the 1908 Cup Final? His view was also restricted because he was crying ... the Toon had lost.
18. Which Sunderland chemist invented the incandescent light bulb and made his house in Gateshead the first in the world to be lit by electricity?
19. George Stephenson and his son Robert built the first locomotive in the world to carry passengers when their train ran on the Stockton to Darlington railway.
 - a. What is the name of the locomotive?
 - b. In what year did Robert open the works to build locomotives in Newcastle?
20. How many of the girl band 'Little Mix' are from the North East? What are their names?
21. And a bit of culture to finish!
 - a. Who wrote the play 'The Pitman Painters'?
 - b. What town did these miners/painters live in?
22. Another bit!
 - a. What is the name of the museum in Barnard Castle?
 - b. What are the first and second names of the two founders?

Please answer, in one sentence each, the following three questions to enable the judge, Richard Jackson, to choose three prize winners in the event of a tie.

- A. What is the best aspect of living in Brancepeth?
- B. What suggestion/s do you have for improving life here?
- C. Which of these questions did Richard Jackson set?

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The quiz is open to all people under 18 years of age and living in Brancepeth.
2. Entries should be emailed to me (f.coffield@ucl.ac.uk) on or before two weeks from the quiz in the Parish Newsletter being posted on line. -**3rd May**
3. There will be three prizes of £10, £8 and £5 for the three best and most accurate answers. Winners can choose between cash or a token/voucher.
4. The judge will be Richard Jackson and his decisions will be final.
5. Those over the age of 18, and I understand there are a few in this category in the village, are welcome to enter the quiz and submit their entries to me but they will not qualify for the prizes.
6. Answers and the names of prize winners will be given in the following issue of the Parish Newsletter.

Garden Club.

Notice from Shincliffe Mill Nursery

IMPORTANT UPDATE REGARDING COVID -19 OUTBREAK

Because the nursery is closed, we have tried a local delivery service.

It has proven to be very popular, and we are happy to deliver plants for a minimum order of £75.00 including delivery, within 10 miles of Shincliffe.

We are also happy to deliver further for much larger orders. Just email us your requirement.

Payment to be via a bank transfer.

The two plant variety lists below are the full lists now available.

To order, simply email your requirements to

shincliffemillnursery@gmail.com

Remember to include your full address + postcode and contact number.

We will confirm your order, give you our payment details and arrange delivery within a few days once the payment is received.

There will be a kerbside/ driveway delivery

Please be patient with us as we trial this plan to get our plants to you.

Thankyou for your understanding and support.

AVAILABILITY LIST (NUMBER 1)

LETTUCE: LITTLE GEM, LOLLA ROSSA, ICEBERG, ASHBROOK. PEAS, SUGAR - PEAS, BEETROOT, SPROUTS, CAULIFLOWER, CALABRESE, POINTED CABBAGE, ROUND CABBAGE, SAVOY CABBAGE, RED CABBAGE, CURLY KALE, SWEDES, BROCCOLI SUMMER PURPLE, BROCCOLI RUDOLPH, ONIONS RED + WHITE AND SALAD ALL £2.40/12

BROAD BEANS , PARSLEY CURLED, PLAIN PARSLEY £2.40/9

CORIANDER, ROCKET , DILL £2.40/6 POT LEEKS £2.40

TOMATOES VERY LIMITED SUPPLY SO ONLY 20 PLANTS PER ORDER: ONE LITRE POT : UPRIGHT VARIETIES SHIRLEY, MONEYMAKER, ALICANTE, GARDENERS DELIGHT, GOLDEN SUNRISE, SUNGOLD, AILSA CRAIG, MODUS (RED PLUM), BIG RED AND CHERRY BABY. ALL AT £1.40 EACH BUSH/TRAILING VARIETIES : TUMBLING TOM RED , TUMBLING TOM YELLOW, TOPSY TOM RED, MANDURIO (PLUM RED) AND TOTEM. ALL AT £1.40 EACH.

TRAILING PANSY MIXED £2.40/4

UPRIGHT PANSY : WHITE BLOTCH, MORPHEUS, LAVENDER SHADES, PINK SHADES, MIDNIGHT GLOW, MARINA, TRUE BLUE, PURPLE WHITE, LEMON, YELLOW BLOTCH, ORANGE, YELLOW , MIXED £2.40/6

VIOLAS : PINK WING, YELLOW JUMP UP, YELLOW BLUE JUMP UP, WHITE JUMP UP, YELLOW PINK JUMP UP, DENIM JUMP UP, ORANGE, TRUE BLUE, YELLOW -- £2.40/6

SWEET PEAS £2.40/12 ,

ANTIRRHINUM ROSE, WHITE, YELLOW, CRIMSON, MIXED , TWINNY - MIXED, £2.40/9

PETUNIAS FRENZY MIXED, EXPRESS MIXED, PIROUETTE MIXED £2.40/9

LOBELIA TRAILING MIXED, TRAILING WHITE, TRAILING ROSE, TRAILING SAPPHIRE, UPRIGHT : WHITE LADY, CRYSTAL PALACE, CAMBRIDGE BLUE, MRS CLIBRAN, STRING OF PEARLS £2.40/12

SILVER CINERARIA £2.40/9

GAZANIA DAYBREAK MIXED, GAZANIA TIGER STRIPE MIXED ALL AT £2.40/6

DIANTHUS MICROCHIPS (PERENNIAL) £2.40/6

SENETTI DEEP BLUE +MAGENTA + VIOLET + BICOLOUR - £3.00 EACH

SENETTI BOWLS DEEP BLUE, MAGENTA , VIOLET BICOLOUR ALL AT £12.50 EACH

3 LITRE CORDYLINE AUSTRALIS GREEN £3.00 EACH

1.5 LITRE SCENTED GERANIUM ORANGE FIZZ .

PELARGONIUMS : BURGHI (PURPLE), CYNTHIA (LAVENDER SHADES), TONY (PINK), LILAC, DAVID (PINK), ROYALTY WHITE, LAVENDER, SALMON ORANGE, CHOCOLATE.

ZONAL GERANIUMS FANTASIA(DARK LEAF) CHERRY, PINK, DARK RED,

DESIGNER (LIGHT LEAF) DARK RED, DARK PURPLE, LIGHT SALMON, ALL AT £3.00 EACH

HANGING POT 27 CM VIOLAS £4.00 EACH, HANGING POT 30 CM TRAILING PANSY £5.00 EACH, SMALL ROUND TRAILING PANSY CONTAINER £6.00 EACH.

VIOLA 3 LITRE POT - £1.00 EACH

10.5 CM POTS – STRAWBERRY , SURFINIA : BLUE, HOT PINK, WHITE, DEEP RED, SWEET PINK, BLUE VEIN, OCEAN BLUE. TRAILING PETUNIA : FANFARE PURPLE, YELLOW, DARK LAVENDER. UPRIGHT

PETUNIA : BLACK VELVET, PINSTRIPE. PETCHOA FRENCH VANILLA, SUNRAY PINK. TRAILING

PETUNIA CASCADIA : INDIAN SUMMER, RIM MAGENTA, RIM CHERRY. TRAILING PETUNIA DESIGNER:

BLUE STAR, TANGO, RED STAR. TRAILING PETUNIA : GLACIER SKY, LAVENDER SKY, RASPBERRY STAR, BABY DOLL, QUEEN OF HEARTS. DOUBLE TRAILING PETUNIA : ANNA, DIANA, CHERRY RIPPLE, CRAZY RIPPLE, BELLA, PRISCILLA, OXALIS BURGUNDY ALL AT £1.70 EACH
 MILLION BELLS DEEP BLUE, BRIGHT RED, DEEP YELLOW, CHERRY BLOSSOM, ORANGE, SUNLIGHT (WHITE) , NEON PINK, SUNRISE, STARLIGHT BLUE, STARLIGHT PINK, ALL AT £1.70 EACH
 FUCHSIA TRAILING : ANNABELLE, KIT OXTOBY, SIR MATT BUSBY, PINK GALORE, LA CAMPANELLA, BLUE SARAH, JACK SHAHAN, DARK EYES, DAWN STAR, PURPLE FOUNTAIN, ALL AT £1.70 EACH
 FUCHSIA UPRIGHT : DOLLAR PRINCESS, HAPPY WEDDING DAY, WINSTON CHURCHILL, MANDARIN CREAM, CARMEL BLUE, HEIDI ANNE, SNOWCAP, WALTZ JUBELTEEN, ALL AT £1.70 EACH
 FUCHSIA HARDY : HAWKSHEAD(WHITE), DELTA SARAH ALL AT £1.70 EACH
 9 CM POTS - IVY, NEPETA, BACOPA SNOWFLAKE ,BACOPA BLUE, BACOPA GIANT WHITE, BACOPA PINK,BRACHYSCOME BLUE, BRACHYSCOME MAGENTA DELIGHT, BIDENS BLAZING FIRE,TRAILING PETUNIA WHITE , BLUE, BURGUNDY STAR, YELLOW, BUBBLEGUM, RED IMPROVED. HELICHRYSUM SILVER MIST. MARGUERITE DEEP PINK. VERBENA SHOWBOAT DARK RED, VERBENA SHOWBOAT MANGO ORANGE, VERBENA SPARKLE PURPLE BLUES, VERBENA SPARKLE RED. DIASCIA DIAMOND ORANGE, DIASCIA DIAMOND WHITE BLUSH. ISOTOMA GEMINI BLUE, NEMESIA CHERRY ON ICE. SWEET PEA CUPID . ALL AT £1.40 EACH

RHS advice for May.

Apply mulch to borders. Re-pot house plants in slightly larger pots. Repair damaged areas of lawn. Plant bulbs and corms of Summer flowering plants

Photos

Front cover © Alison Hobbs – Setting up the Castle ready for Palm Sunday. We processed the cross the length of the Armour gallery to the 'temple' (the palms are giant bamboo).

Inside front cover © Denise Jackson – An early morning walk at the Golf Club.

Back cover © Jean Cotton – May countryside looking towards Littlewhite Farm.

Inside back cover © Richard Jackson – The Garden railway project supervised by Kemmy the dog.

www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter

June newsletter entries no later than 15th May

Please send to Sue Morgan at sueatpeppermires@gmail.com

Brancepeth Community Association - Management Committee

Peter Aitken	<i>Chairman</i>	Ian Stoker	
Martyn Jones	<i>Vice chairman</i>	Jean Merrington	<i>Choir & Church</i>
Jo Dalton	<i>Secretary (& Website)</i>	Geraldine Jennings	<i>Bookings & Garden Club</i>
Margot Harrison	<i>Treasurer</i>	Joan Taylor	<i>Subscription, Wednesday</i>
Josie Armstrong	<i>Social Secretary</i>		<i>Coffee & Cinema Club</i>

<http://brancepethcommunityassociation.btck.co.uk/> Tel: 0191 3783952

Parish Activities

Chairman B.C.A.	Peter Aitken, The Copse, Foxes Row (3789908)
Secretary	Jo Dalton, 1 Rectory Cottages (3780771)
Treasurer	Margot Harrison, Downsgarth (3784813)
Membership	Joan Taylor, 5 The Village (3783630)
Hall Bookings	Geraldine Jennings, 6 Goodwell Lea (3781583)
Archives & History	Vivienne Lowe, 17 The Village (3780974)
Badminton	Peter Hodge, (01388 745455)
Brancepeth Allotment & Leisure Gardeners' Club	Sue Morgan, Carole Reed & Liz Burdess baacommittee3@gmail.com
Book Club	Val Gibbons (3784200)
Choir	Jean Merrington (3780952)
Drama	Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Flower Guild	Jessie Brown (3782748)
Garden Club	Barry Dickinson (3782398)
Snooker Bookings	Geraldine Jennings (3781583)
Wednesday Coffee	Joan Taylor (3783630)
Yoga	Lynne Hastie (3781871)
Youth Club	Geoff Moore (3735674)

Parish Council

Chairperson	Dave Armstrong – chair (07843 343846)
	James Dalton – vice chair (3780771)
	Christine Jones (3789297)
	Jessie Brown (3782748)
	Michael Lowe (3780974)
	Sheila Chapman (3784408)
	Ian Stoker (3784986)
Parish Clerk	Geoff Smith 07986197346
County Councillors:	olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk

www.brancepeth-parish-council.org

Steam Hauled Trains to Return to Brancepeth

After a break of over 50 years steam hauled trains will be shortly returning to Brancepeth. Not on the Bishop to Durham line which was closed to passengers in 1964 and lifted in 1968 but at Pinetops in the back garden.

Like most small boys, I was fascinated by railway trains. Though never a train spotter, seeing the living beasts that are steam locomotives and looking at the lines they ran on held more attraction. Unfortunately, as work and other commitments took hold, interest temporarily waned. It didn't help that the national railways by 1967 had moved first to diesel and then electric power to provide traction to the trains. Hardly a steamer in sight.

Then, about twenty years ago, whilst travelling with Jean, we started to be aware of the number of disused lines there are about the countryside. These held a curious fascination and the introduction of Google Earth meant we could identify the lines and where they went to. Our imaginations started to run riot.

Our line through Brancepeth was the victim of Doctor Beeching. As was the line near where we originally lived, in Wharfedale. The good doctor is blamed for the destruction of the railway network but, in his defence, more lines had closed before he wielded his axe than he terminated. Tracks laid in the boom years of railway development, often primarily for carrying freight, coal, iron, etc., and with passengers being an afterthought, were closed because the original purpose had long gone and were no longer economic.

About fifteen years ago, I suggested to Jean that perhaps we could put a railway into the garden. She was all for it even when she realised that the garden would not be big enough for a ride-on train. I think she was more relieved that it meant I was not going to make a bid to take over a spare bedroom to erect a model railway and also pleased that I might start to take an interest in things horticultural.

The next five years were taken over by her failing health and, despite her encouragement, it was still to be nine years after her death that construction started on the J&R JR (i.e. the Jean and Richard Junction Railway). Inspiration and help came from my neighbour Tony and niece, Lynda and her husband, Barry. We had some great help, too, from neighbours, Hassall, Jim and Robin.

With the first sod dug last March, by the end of May, we were 80% done but events transpired to seriously impede process and by the end of the year we were not much further forward. As soon as the good weather came this year, I started again determined to complete it - but found that some ideas had not been successful and needed rework.

Nevertheless, by the time you read this I will hopefully be running my steam powered loco round the tracks and starting to complete stations, halts, signal boxes and all the other extras needed to dress the line.

The line is based on Narrow Gauge railways prevalent all over the UK and used to carry slate, coal and other materials. Most of them now carry passengers as part of the tourist industry. It is also a complete departure from the other railway that I am involved with, the magnificent NYMR from Whitby to Pickering. The J&R JR will never be finished. It will continue evolving but, like the build, will give a lot of fun.

As the epidemic that has so dominated our lives this year begins to subside and life returns to normal we are looking forward to organising a little party for anyone who is interested to come and play trains, celebrate the opening of the new line and our freedom from Covid 19.

Come and have a go at driving my loco or if you have your own, be it steam or battery powered and is 32mm gauge, you will be very welcome. As a bonus, my neighbour Bob, who has a wonderful OO layout in his garage (many will have seen it on the 2019 Garden Club walkabout) has also agreed to open that up on the day.

Richard Jackson's amazing back garden project !



1 First day of the build with technical expert Tony. Logistical Consultant Hassall and Site Manager Barry.



2 The client's representative giving her needs to the SM



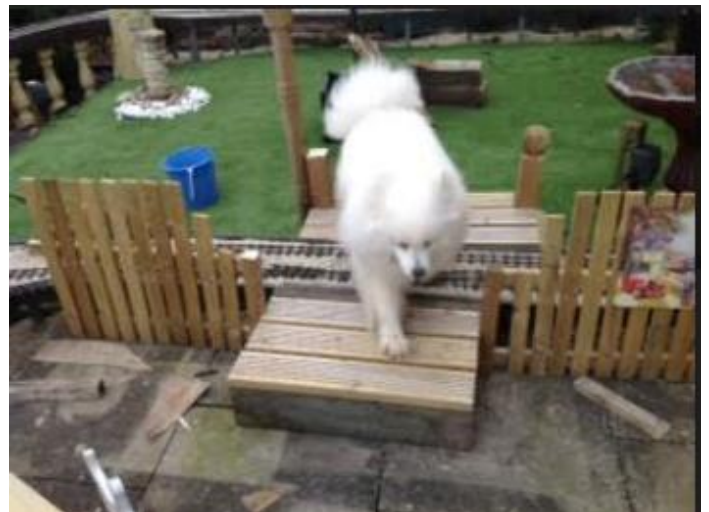
3 Track ballasted and construction of viaduct under way.



4 Track test for Katie the steam loco



5 Station building underway.



6 And this is what Kemmy was asking for in picture 2.

