

# ST BRANDON'S CHURCH BRANCEPETH



## NEWSLETTER: JULY/AUGUST 2023

ALSO ONLINE AT  
[WWW.STBRANDON.ORG.UK/NEWSLETTER](http://WWW.STBRANDON.ORG.UK/NEWSLETTER)

# Building 25t Brandon's

1998-2023

**To mark 25 years since the devastating fire  
which transformed Brancepeth Church**

**Weekend of 16/17 September**



Displays in Church

**Saturday Evening**  
Presentation



**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>**

Dawn Vigil

Anniversary Service

Lunch, Brancepeth  
Village Hall

## Parochial Church Council

Priest in Charge	Rev'd Anna Brooker (0191 3780578) or <a href="mailto:rector@stbrandon.org.uk">rector@stbrandon.org.uk</a>
Associate Minister	Rev'd. Alison Hobbs (0191 3789670) <a href="mailto:alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk">alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk</a>
Lay Reader	Geoff Moore – co-opted member of P.C.C. (0191 3735674)
Church Wardens:	David Eltringham (07779938611) Carol Beeby (0191 3847431), (07592 975002)
Secretary	Colin Waterman (07713637128) <a href="mailto:colinwaterman069@gmail.com">colinwaterman069@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Mike Higton (0191 5974675)
Deanery Synod	Caroline Middleditch (0191 378 1400)

### Other members:-

Janette Foxe (07587 225 200) Ken Howe (07710098705, 0191 3840589)  
Tom Hobbs (07857437860) Sue Morgan (0191 3781172)  
Catrin Morgan (0191 4476520)

Prayer Team	Alison Hobbs (01913789670), Sue Hope, Alison Moore (0191 373 5674).
Sunday School	Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Messy Church	Rev'd Anna Brooker
Organist	Richard Hird
Village Choir	Martyn Jones 0191 3789297)
Sacristans	Carol Beeby (0191 3847431), Valeria Dietz, Pat Sharples.
Safeguarding Officer	Geoff Moore (0191 3735674)
Events coordinator	Janette Foxe <a href="mailto:events@stbrandon.org.uk">events@stbrandon.org.uk</a> .
Flower Guild	Lynne Hastie (0191 3781871)
Churchyard	Edward Staines (0191 3780858)
Youth Club	Geoff Moore (0191 3735674), Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Worship Team	Carol Beeby, Rev'd Anna Brooker, Janette Foxe, Richard Gooding, Rev'd Alison Hobbs, Alison Moore, Geoff Moore, Sue Morgan.
PMC Team:	Anna Brooker (ex-officio), Nick Brooker, Carys Funnell, Alison Hobbs (ex officio), Tom Hobbs, Alison Moore, James Morgan, Sue Morgan, Jane Stout, Colin Waterman.
Fabric:	David Eltringham (chair), James Morgan, Rev'd Alison Hobbs, Tom Hobbs, Steve Hodgson, Edward Staines, Rev'd Anna Brooker, Nick Brooker.
Website	<a href="http://www.stbrandon.org.uk">www.stbrandon.org.uk</a>

***Newsletter entries no later than August 18th please.***

**Please send to Sue Morgan – [sueatpeppermires@gmail.com](mailto:sueatpeppermires@gmail.com)**

If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter, please contact  
Hester Higton on [hesterhigton@phonecoop.coop](mailto:hesterhigton@phonecoop.coop).

How do you forgive a building?

For many people, what we lost in 1998, in the fire at St Brandon's was grievous: precious associations of weddings, dressing it for festivals, meeting with God in joy and in sorrow. Irreplaceable intricate carvings and ornamentation destroyed and nowhere to direct the anger. No cause was ever established, no theory ever emerged: no person(s) to blame, no careless or criminal intention to dump the anger on.

Formal investigations were followed by formal meetings at every level of local, financial and ecclesiastical minds: What Next? More 'righteous anger' and soul-searching: did Brancepeth deserve a church like they'd lost, or would a modern building in the grounds of the ruin suffice? What would be justified – and what was desired?

Desire and persistence gradually established a commitment of the highest order: to rebuild, honouring Cosin's sentiment, 'Beauty in Holiness', using local, skilled artisans where possible.

It takes seven years to train as a doctor, or for ordained ministry: it took seven years before St Brandon's could again be used for worship. During those seven years worship in the building was legally forbidden: an unusual arrangement with tax laws, testimony to the complex work the people of St Brandon's were prepared to offer to achieve this vision. Exhaustive and exhausting relentless attention to acquiring funding, approving designs and over-seeing the management of the project.

It was a project with a long tail – isn't that so with every building project? From post-builder cleaning, slow delivery of furnishings, worshipping with scaffold in the nave, a requirement for committees to continue pushing on for almost another decade.

A relentless, seemingly open-ended task undertaken by volunteers. It took years to recover from the tiredness. It is uncertain how much individuals have recovered from the wounds. The direction of vision has been upward and onward: look to God and look ahead. No-one abandoned responsibilities, no-one was lost. But the inevitable wounds, are they scars or just thick scabs?

This September we will be looking back to that momentous fire and 25 years building and renewing. It will be a delicate exercise if we are to avoid the scabs and hold our sights only on God, who moves in such mysterious ways.

With love, Alison Hobbs

## St Brandon's July and August 2023– Services and readings

**Sunday services are at 10:15am every week.**

*If you are unable to join in person, you are welcome to join online,  
or to view the recording later, at <https://www.facebook.com/StBrandons>*

*In addition to the services below, each day Monday – Friday,  
**Morning Prayer** is shared at **8.15am**- **all are welcome to attend**-  
and there is a **Midday Eucharist** in Brancepeth Castle Chapel at **12noon**.  
**Thursday Evening Prayer at 7.30pm** is shared via Zoom fortnightly.  
**- please phone or email for further details***

<b>July 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 5</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist 10.15am</b>	
Readings:	First:	David Eltringham	Romans 6: 12-end
	Gospel:	Jean Hodgson	Matthew 10: 40-end
	Psalm 89: 1-4, 15-18		
		Edward Staines	Intercessions
<b>July 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 5</b>	<b>Morning Worship with Baptism of Saoirse Lucas, 10.15am</b>	
Reading:	Gospel:	Nick Brooker	Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-end
		Hester Higton	Intercessions
<b>Thurs 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Online Evening Prayer 7.30pm</b>		
<b>July 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 6</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist 10.15am</b>	
Readings:	First:	Colin Waterman	Romans 7: 15-25a
	Gospel:	Alison Moore	Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23
	Psalm 65		
		Nick Brooker	Intercessions
	<b>Messy Church: Summer Picnic at Brancepeth Castle, 3-5pm</b>		
<b>July 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 7</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist 10.15am</b>	
Readings:	First:	Linda Waterman	Isaiah 44:6-8
	Gospel:	Gillian Smellie	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
	Psalm 86: 11-end		
		Geoff Moore	Intercessions
<b>Thurs 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Online Evening Prayer 7.30pm</b>		



<b>July 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 8</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist 10.15am</b>	
Readings:	First:	Edward Staines	Romans 8: 26-end
	Gospel:	Sue Morgan	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
	Psalm 119: 129-136		
		Colin Waterman	Intercessions

## AUGUST

<b>Aug 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Transfiguration</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist 10.15am</b>	
Readings:	First:	Martin Peacock	Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14
	Gospel:	Tom Hobbs	Luke 9: 28-36
	Psalm 97		
		James Morgan	Intercessions

<b>Aug 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 10</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist 10.15am</b>	
Readings:	First:	James Morgan	1 Kings 19: 9-18
	Gospel:	Hester Higton	Matthew 14: 22-33
	Psalm 85: 8-13		
		Alison Moore	Intercessions

<b>Aug 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 11</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist 10.15am</b>	
Readings:	First:	Mike Higton	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
	Gospel:	Wilfred Foxe	Matthew 15: 10-28
	Psalm 67		
		Josie Armstrong	Intercessions

<b>Aug 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 12</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist 10.15am</b>	
Readings:	First:	Janette Foxe	Romans 12: 1-8
	Gospel:	Ken Howe	Matthew 16: 13-20
	Psalm 138		
		Geoff Moore	Intercessions

## SEPTEMBER

<b>Sept 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 13</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist 10.15</b>	
	<i>Special readings sheet to be printed:</i>		
	First:	Carys Funnell	Nehemiah 1: 1- 11
	Gospel:	David Eltringham	Matthew 16: 21-26
	Psalm 102: 1-2, 11-14, 25-28		
		Wilfred Foxe	Intercessions

## **Sidespersons**

July 2nd Jane Stout & Josie Armstrong  
July 9<sup>th</sup> Annette Johnson & Bonny Bainbridge  
July 16<sup>th</sup> Pat Sharples & Nick Brooker  
July 23<sup>rd</sup> Jean Hodgson & Sue Morgan  
July 30<sup>th</sup> David & Fiona Eltringham  
Aug 6<sup>th</sup> Jane Stout & Annette Johnson  
Aug 13<sup>th</sup> Josie Armstrong & Bonny Bainbridge  
Aug 20<sup>th</sup> Pat Sharples & Sue Morgan  
Aug 27<sup>th</sup> Jean Hodgson & Nick Brooker  
Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> David & Fiona Eltringham

## **Coffee**

July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jeanette Metcalfe
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	Jane Stout
July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Alison Moore
July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Catrin Morgan
July 30 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Morgan
August 6 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Hodgson
August 13 <sup>th</sup>	Annette Johnson
August 20 <sup>th</sup>	Diane Coles
August 27 <sup>th</sup>	Hillary Moss
Sept 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Gerry Jennings

## **Church Cleaning**

*July – Team C*

Carol Beeby, Vickie Jackson, Sarah Nicholson, Nick Brooker

*August – Team A*

Alison Moore, Anne Elliott, Jane Stout, Sue Hope

*September – Team B*

Sue Morgan, Fiona Eltringham, Annette Johnson, Hillary Moss

## **Flowers**

Christine Dodd  
Nick Brooker  
Gerry Jennings  
Wedding + Tuesday  
June Robson  
Hillary Moss  
Eileen Crawford  
Lynne Hastie  
Sheena Murray  
Jean Hodgson

## **Tech Team**

Higtons + Peter  
Higtons  
Higtons + Peter  
David & Fiona  
Geoff & Alison  
Higtons  
Higtons + Peter  
Geoff & Alison  
David & Fiona

## **Grass Cutting Rota 2023**

26th June – 9th July	Simon Elliot, David Jackson
10th July - 23th July	Dave Armstrong, David Eltringham
24th July – 6th Aug	Mark Gazzard, Doug Lamb
7th Aug - 20th Aug	Barry Dickinson, Michael Stephenson
21st Aug – 3rd Sept	David Wilks, James Morgan



Come and join the fun.

Activities and stories from the Bible.

Sundays during term time

We get together after the first hymn and re-join the service for communion.

*NOTE - there will be no Sunday School during the month of August.*

*However there will be colouring sheets available during the service.*

## **Brancepeth Youth Club**

### **July 2023**

All young people in the Village (and beyond, and their friends) are warmly welcome. The age range is from 11 to 17 years inclusive.

We meet fortnightly on Sundays 6-8pm. The remaining dates for this term are:

July 2            Village Hall

July 16          Annual BBQ - Castle

*Leaders*

Geoff Moore                      373 5674    [durmoores@btinternet.com](mailto:durmoores@btinternet.com)

Martin Peacock                07503 242074

*A great way to start the day...*

**Morning Prayer** is a short, informal service which is said in church at 8:15am Monday- Friday. Everyone is welcome to come along occasionally, weekly or every day! It is also possible to join online on Thursdays, when the church prayer team gathers and includes requests left in the Neville Chapel. Please contact Alison or Anna for more info and to let us know you are coming. We look forward to seeing you.





**Picnic!**



**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 3-5pm**  
**in Brancepeth Castle courtyard.**  
please bring your own food and a rug to sit on

**All welcome**

**NEXT MESSY CHURCH will be Sun 10 Sept.**



Thanks to James Morgan & Charlotte Brown for pictures of Messy Church busy filling their tub with flowers as part of 'Brancepeth in Bloom' and making Scarecrows in preparation for the Garden Club Scarecrows competition.



## PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING DIARY month 2023

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

*The prayers in italics are extracts from the ordination service*

### **We pray for:**

1 Amy Gooding, & all ordinands priested & deaconed this weekend. Come, Holy Spirit

**2 *For all who minister, that they may hunger for truth & thirst after righteousness***

3 Thomas the Apostle, 'the doubter': may our questions bring deeper understanding

4 Castle and Lodge

5 Goodwell Lea

6 Safety for summer cyclists on busy roads.

7 Unity in our Churches, local and global, inter-personal & interdenominational

8 Park Lodge, Nursery Hse, Garden Hse, East Bothy, Scripton Lodge, Scripton Farm

**9 *That in faithful witness we may proclaim the gospel of reconciliation***

10 The Village South

11 Those who hear and are pondering what God might be calling them to next.

12 Durham Road and The Forge

13 Littlewhite Farm, Morley Farm, Quarry Hill, the cottages, and Goodwell Field

14 Prison Chaplains, staff, visitors and all who support and promote prisoners' welfare

15 Woolley Grange, High Woolley, Weather Hill, South Brandon farm, Springwell farm and Brawn's Den

**16 *For those who do not yet believe, that they may receive the light of the gospel***

17 Whitworth Lane and Black House

18 Summer holidays: that children be safe & nourished, cherished & free to explore

19 Peppermires, Nafferton Farm, Tudhoe Lodge, Culmaran, Holywell, East Parks area

20 Stockley Lane

21 All who feel life is pointless.

22 Mary Magdalene: The woman's refuge; dignity & safety for women who are fearful

**23 *For our brothers and sisters who are persecuted for their faith***

24 Stockley Grove, Bridge Road and Tanglewood

25 James the Apostle: what it might mean for us to be fishers of people

26 The Village North, Station House and Railway cottages

27 All who communicate through arts and crafts, that their work may inspire us.

28 The Messy Church tent at the castle craft fair, that volunteers & visitors may enjoy it

29 Rectory, Thornberry Garth, Hoppy Acres, Rectory Cottages, Constable Meadows,  
and Bridleway

**30 *For grace to repent & amend our lives, pardoned and absolved from all our sins***

31 Foxes Row, Russell Close and North Field View

*If you would like something included in the Prayer Diary, please contact Alison Moore*

*[durmoores@btinternet.com](mailto:durmoores@btinternet.com)*

## Prayer and Thanksgiving Diary August 2023

*You are invited to use this diary and share in the prayers offered daily in church.*

**Sunday quotations are from the appointed readings for the day**

1 For all who are on holiday this month, for rest and for renewal, for fun and for family life  
2 Goodwell Lea South  
3 For the war-torn areas of the world, Ukraine, Sudan...and for all who broker peace  
4 Goodwell Lea North  
5 Stockley Grove, Bridge Road, Tanglewood

**6 The Transfiguration of our Lord 'This is my Son, my Chosen: Listen to him!' Luke 9:35**  
7 Village South, Castle and Lodge  
8 For the 'outsiders', the poor, the homeless, the refugees: may they find shelter and  
'home'  
9 Village North, Station House, Railway Cottages  
10 For the recently bereaved, may they know the comfort of Christ and his people  
11 Quarry Hill, The Cottages, Morley Farm, Littlewhite Farm, Goodwell Field  
12 For the long-term sick, for courage, for faith and for resilience

**13 Trinity 10 Jesus said, 'Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid' Matthew 13:27**  
14 We give thanks for the presence of Christ with us, through good times and bad  
15 Spring Farm, Wooley Grange, High Wooley, Weather Hill, South Brandon, Brawns Den  
16 For those who feel themselves alone, isolated, unable to share their deepest feelings  
17 Holywell, East Parks  
18 That our hearts and minds may be warmed and stretched by the love of Christ  
19 The Rectory, Rectory Cottages, Bridleway, Constable Meadows, Hoppy Acres, Thornberry  
Garth

**20 Trinity 11 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples' Isaiah 56:7b**  
21 Oakenshaw Road, Village South, Castle and Lodge  
22 Scampton Lodge, Scampton Farm, Peppermires, Culmaran, Tudhoe Lodge, Nafferton Farm  
23 For our personal walk with God, our life of prayer, faith and self-discipline  
24 Durham Rd and the Forge  
25 For our health workers and practitioners and the life of our local hospitals  
26 Whitworth Lane, Black House

**27 Trinity 12 'Be transformed by the renewing of your minds' Romans 12:2**  
28 Foxes Row, Russell Close, North Field View  
29 May we know the love of Christ in our hearts – and be thankful  
30 The Golf Club, Park Lodge, Garden House, Nursery House, East Bothy

*If you would like something included in the Prayer Diary, please contact Alison Moore,  
[durmoores@btinternet.com](mailto:durmoores@btinternet.com)*



If you would welcome a short time of Christian worship with friends and neighbours, we would love to see you.

You are invited to join us for a small and friendly 'home Eucharist service' in the Castle Chapel.



Tuesdays 11 & 25 July 2023 at 11:00  
Tuesdays 8 & 22 August 2023 at 11:00  
Tuesdays 5 & 19 September 2023 at 11:00

For more information, please email [alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk](mailto:alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk)  
Rev. Alison, St Brandon's Church

**Do you know anyone who, for any reason, would appreciate a prayer or friendly chat?** Please tell Alison Moore of the Prayer Team on 0191 373 5674 or 07890 733 757 or email [moorealisonm21@gmail.com](mailto:moorealisonm21@gmail.com)

### **Christian Aid Collection Total 2023**

A big "thank you" to residents of Brancepeth and St Brandon's Church for your generosity in donating a total of £2,216 to enable Christian Aid to continue much needed support to communities across the world and in particular parts of Africa where climate change is having a significant impact. Those who were able to Gift Aid their contribution added a further £432 to the total.

Thank you to everyone who helped with collection and to the many who responded so warmly; typical of our village community.

Thank you again.

Nick Brooker (Christian Aid Coordinator, St Brandon's Church)

### **Vestry Report**

#### **Baptism**

Percival John Albert Layfield      28 May 2023

### **Catriona Freebairn –nee Longstaff**

It is with great sadness Allee Longstaff announces the death of her daughter Catriona on Monday 19th June 2023. Catriona died peacefully at home at Ickleton in Cambridgeshire. R.I.P.

**Summer Students!** Two 'trainee vicars' will be joining us this summer as part of their training: Lydia and Claire. Do say hello to them as you meet them in church and out and about in Brancepeth.

**July: Claire**



*I am an Ordinand at Cranmer Hall in Durham. I've just finished my first year of training. I am married to James and have three children: Catherine, Emily and Rachel. Before I started training I was mostly raising my children and volunteering at my church running toddler groups, holiday clubs, Sunday school and being church warden and treasurer. I volunteered at a Christian charity and am on the trust board of two Newcastle charities and a school governor. I also worked as a freelance actress for a theatre company, mostly performing Shakespeare in the Park. Before the children were born I worked in BBC Radio as a producer and reporter. I have a post grad in journalism and a degree in drama.*

**June/September: Lydia**



*Hello! For those of you who I haven't met already, my name is Lydia and I'm a second year ordinand training at Cranmer Hall. I spent a couple of weeks with you at St Brandon's in June and will be coming back to do another two weeks in September. On Sundays you'll also meet my husband Sam, who is a teacher.*

*Alongside my training I'm writing a PhD looking at theologies of music in worship, so I'm usually reading, writing, and talking to people about music. I love to talk about hymns and songs whenever anyone is happy to humour me. When I have time, I play the piano and French horn, and very occasionally the flugelhorn. I also enjoy walking, running and camping, and have a relatively recent, and getting slightly out-of-hand, interest in model railways. Thank you for your welcome so far; we're really looking forward to seeing you again in September.*

## **St Brandon's Music Co-ordinator**

As many of you will know, Richard Gooding will be leaving us soon to join Amy as she begins her curacy. This is a great loss!

As well as leading the Choir, there were a lot of other things that Richard did as part of his role to maintain and enhance the musical dimension to our regular worship. We are therefore looking to appoint to the role of Music Co-ordinator to carry out that range of tasks.

However, we have been speaking with Martyn Jones, known to many in the Village, who has agreed to lead a Village Choir. This will provide music for Easter, Christmas and other significant one-off events in Church. As a result, the new role is different in that it will involve liaising with Martyn and the Village Choir, but not running the Choir itself.

If you are interested, a role description is available from Anna or me, and both of us are very happy to discuss the role further.

Geoff Moore

Chair of Worship Team

## **Calling all musicians!**

Do you play a musical instrument and do already, or would like to, contribute to our Sunday morning music in Church? If so, please come to a short meeting immediately after Church on 23<sup>rd</sup> July to discuss this further.

## **Partnership for Missional Church (PMC)**

The Partnership for Missional Church (PMC) project continues. We seek 'God's way together' and, this first year, have been focussing on 'Listening'. This has involved quite a variety of activities: our Timeline Project; a Footfall Survey of the grounds surrounding the Church; interviews with members of the Church and from the parish community; and the analysis of statistics and finance data relating to the Church and from the CofE stats web-site, as well as census data about the neighbourhood. We are very grateful to members of both congregation and community who agreed to be interviewed. Thank you! We'll be condensing all this into something that can be shared with you all.

The course of this project is not intended to be linear. We're looking out for 'emerging narratives', as we study our current situation, strengths and weaknesses, in different ways and from various angles. And we don't expect easy answers to any challenges which are identified. We've looked at the distinction between simple 'technical' solutions (we know how things can be changed) and 'adaptive' solutions (we don't know what to do, and we'll probably need to change). However, the process suggests that we won't decide what to do until the third year, when, through 'Focussing', we make plans.

The next step for the church is a 'spiritual discernment process', looking for God's 'promised and preferred future' for St Brandon's. Then the second year moves us from 'Listening', to 'Experimenting'. . . watch this space!

Alison Moore (on behalf of the PMC team)





# Wednesday Coffee Morning

10:30-11:30am

Village Hall

28 <sup>th</sup> June	Rosemary & James	2nd August	Val & James
5th July	Margot & Val	9th August	Vivienne & Janiece
12th July	Martyn & Christine	16th August	Martyn & Christine
19th July	Vivienne & Janiece	23rd August	Margot & Val
26th July	Martyn & Christine	30th August	Vivienne & Janiece

(Please contact Martyn or Christine - 0191 378 9297 - if you need to swap your rota date. Thank you).

## The Children's Society

Many thanks to those of you who have supported The Children's Society over the past year.

Our boxes have raised **£634.20**.

I know people use cash less these days but the TCS still raises over £1 million each year from the boxes.

If you would like to start helping by using a box please get in touch with me.

Fiona Eltringham 07546384312

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## Pandemic Exhibition.

My heartfelt thanks to everybody who contributed to the success of the exhibition from the Project Team (Rev. Anna, Gillian, Jo and Vivienne), the Technical Gurus (Peter and Ian), the parking team (Mike and Martin), the event organisation and food team (Josie, Jean and Jill), the photography team (Sheena and Richard H), and Richard and Alison at the Castle.

Plus a massive thank you to the villagers who generously (and bravely in some instances) shared their experiences of the Pandemic. You were tremendous in the best Brancepeth tradition.

Richard Jackson, Project Team Leader, the Big Brancepeth Pandemic Exhibition, June 2023

## Brancepeth Barn Bash Review

Sometimes, something happens that you know will be remembered for eons. Like the evening we spent at Little White Farm, towards the end of May. If heaven could be like this, I know that being a good boy all this time will be well worth it.

Even before the evening started, the ticket purchasers received a lovely email telling us what to expect and some suggestions about keeping warm. Nice touch.

We had a lovely walk there and back, a balmy evening, great company, and two of the most comfortable sofas ever, positioned in front of a wood burner brilliantly fashioned from wheel rims.

That was just the start. A barn, scrubbed to within an inch of its life and set up like a posh night club, a great band bashing out “our” type of music, instructions to the toilets in every possible dialect. Not to mention the toilets themselves; the men’s was worth the ticket price alone.

To cap it all a hog roast (with crackling to ruin your crowns for) and the piece de resistance, a Mr Whippy giving away “99s” with real, crumbly Cadbury flakes.

Without doubt, this was the best ever evening experienced in nearly forty years of living in this parish. A sentiment shared by many there.

The only downside? I didn’t win the raffle, but then I never do. I have since learned that the prizes were so generously donated by Jo and James.

And it was all in a tremendous cause, to raise funds for Village Hall Roof to be fettled. Hardly surprising as it celebrates its 100th birthday in Dec 2024. (More on this later!)

Massive thanks must go to Vicki and David Jackson for so kindly laying on their home and to the BCA team of Josie and Dave, Jo and James and Val for organising everything.

Just one thing now, team. What’s the date for next year, please?      Richard Jackson



## **BRANCEPETH GARDEN CLUB**

Following the Covid pandemic and the cessation of social events for such a long time, the Garden Club Committee would like to update its membership list to include contact details for all members. This will enable us to keep members informed about what the Club is doing and to send information quickly and easily about forthcoming events and talks. Some members may have already given their contact details to our previous secretary, Bea, but if there are any members who haven't and who are happy for us to have their E mail addresses on file, please would you send an Email to me at

alisonbainbridge53@gmail.com

Please be assured that your E mail address will be used solely for the purpose of sending you Garden Club information and will not be passed on to anyone else.

**New members** are always welcome so if there is anyone who is not a member of the Garden Club but who would like to be, please get in touch with me.

Bonny Bainbridge,  
Garden Club Secretary

Brancepeth Garden Club  
**ANNUAL GARDEN WALKABOUT**  
Friday 14 July 2023  
**ALLOTMENTS AND VILLAGE STREET**

Please meet at the Castle Gates at 6.00 p.m.

*Supper will follow in the Village Hall no later than 8.00 p.m.*

*Please bring your own wine. The Village Hall will be open for you to deposit your wine before the Walkabout.*

Tickets: Members: £15.00 Non-members £17.50 (cash or cheque)

Closing date to buy tickets: Monday 10 July

### **Tickets available from:**

Wednesday Coffee Morning

Gerry Jennings, 6 Goodwell Lea, 378 1583

Fred & Bonny Bainbridge, 4 Stockley Grove, Brancepeth Tel: 378 9304

## Scarecrow Alert!



The Scarecrows are coming in July!  
Put your scarecrow out in the Village and Allotments  
Winners and photographs in Summer Newsletter  
Prizes awarded from Brancepeth Garden Club

### **Book Club**

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday 28 July at Audrey and Dick Dumbledon's house, 20 St Monica Grove (Neville's Cross). For July we will read *The Second sight of Zachary Cloudly* by Sean Lusk.

We also have a meeting arranged on Friday 1 September. We will meet at my house, 3 The Forge, 7.30 p.m. to discuss *My name is Leon* by Kit De Waal.

All welcome.

Val Gibbons

### 'A Shoestring Called Chile'

Village Hall 2.00pm, Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> July

Kath and Harry Gilbert return to present another of their wonderful holiday films.

Remember 'Foreign Devils on the Silk Road' and 'Wild in Botswana'. Anyone is welcome and there will be soft drinks and nibbles as usual. Members of the Ladies

'Club £3.50 / visitors £5.50

## Parish Council updates

**Neighbourhood plan consultation event:** we would like to thank the 30 or so parishioners who came along to the two sessions at the Village Hall on 14 June to hear about the draft Neighbourhood Plan. The lunchtime numbers were pleasing but the evening turnout was a little disappointing given the importance of this plan for Brancepeth; nevertheless, those who attended were fully engaged and gave us a lot of useful feedback. We were also joined by our local County Councillor, Fraser Tinsley, and the Constituency Support Manager for Mary Kelly Foy (our local MP), Nick Rippin, who both indicated that they were impressed with the consultation and our progress on the plan so far.

Don't forget that even if you couldn't come along, full and summary copies of the plan are available on the Parish Council website along with the feedback form that we'd love you to complete by the 26th of July. Some hardcopies are also available in the committee room at the Village Hall. Thanks to the generosity of Anna, the display boards will also be available to view in the Church soon. If you have any questions about the Neighbourhood Plan, please contact Nick Ellis on [n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk](mailto:n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk)

**The cricket field:** we are making some progress in relation to the field, but it is frustratingly slow. Castle Estates, who own the site, are now speaking to our land agents which is a significant step forward. However, both parties are still some way apart on a mutually acceptable way forward regarding any costs which may be incurred, either to enter into a new lease for the field or to purchase it outright.

**Northumbria in Bloom:** just a quick reminder that judges will be visiting Brancepeth on Wednesday July 12. Thanks to everyone who has put so much effort in to keep our village looking so beautiful.

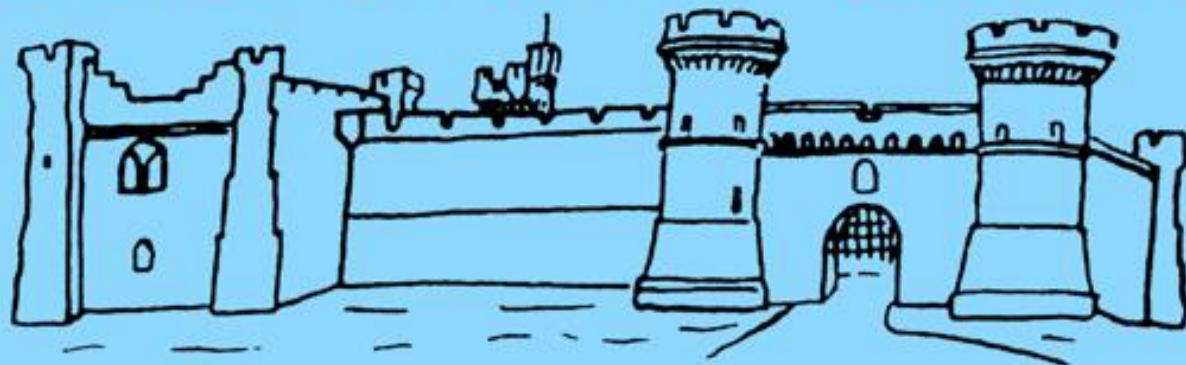
### Opera Nova - cancellation

It is with regret that Opera Nova's concert in the Village Hall, '**Verdi: Love and Loss**', has had to be cancelled due to an unfortunate clash with a concert in the church on the same night.

We are hoping to find a new date for our concert in the Autumn but in the meantime we will be performing at St Michael's Church in Heighington on 1<sup>st</sup> July and Holy Trinity with St Mark Church in Stockton on 8<sup>th</sup> July. Please contact Mary Coffield ([mary.coffield@gmail.com](mailto:mary.coffield@gmail.com) or tel: 07936 080535) if you wish to come to either of these concerts.



# BRANCEPETH CASTLE



SUMMER 2023

## CRAFT FAIR

Fri 28 July 10 - 5

Sat 29 July 10 - 5

Sun 30 July 12 - 5

Quality items and artisan products, direct from the crafters who designed and made them

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Glasswork

Local Ales

Woodturning

Pottery

Fine Art

Food Stalls

Jewellery

Clothing

Cafes

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## BUY YOUR TICKETS AT

[www.brancepethcastle.org.uk/book](http://www.brancepethcastle.org.uk/book)

Tickets also available on the gate

The First Hour: £5 (£4 Age 66+)

After First Hour: £4 (£3 Age 66+)

Accompanied Under 14: FREE



Parking Available

DH7 8DE - 4 miles WEST of Durham



## **Dates for the Diary:-**

July/Aug Mondays - Snooker, 7.30pm, Village Hall  
July/Aug Mondays - Yoga, 7.30pm, Village Hall  
July/Aug Monday - Knit and Natter, 10th & 24th July & 7th & 21st Aug, Village Hall 2-4 pm.  
July/Aug Tuesdays - Art Group, 7.00 – 9.00pm, Village Hall  
July/Aug Wednesdays - Tai Chi 9.30 -10.30, Village Hall  
July/Aug Wednesdays - Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall, 10.30-11.30am  
July/Aug Thursdays - Indoor Bowls, 10.00-12.00, Village Hall  
July/Aug Thursdays - Badminton, 7.30pm, Village Hall  
July/Aug Sundays - Capoeira Classes, 10.00 – 11.30am, Village Hall  
July Sunday - Youth Club, 2nd & 16th 6.00pm -8.00pm, Village Hall  
1st Saturday each month - Archive Room in Castle open between 9.00am – 1.00pm

July	5th	Wed	Brancepeth in Bloom, Village Meeting, 7.30pm, Village Hall
July	8th	Sat	Durham Singers, 7.30pm, Church
July	14th	Fri	Village Walkabout, 6.00pm Castle Gates
July	16th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm-5.00pm, Castle Courtyard
July	27th	Thurs	A Shoestring Called Chile –Talk, Village Hall, 2.00pm
July	28th	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, 20 St Monica Grove
July	28th – 30th	Fri – Sun	Craft Fair, Castle.
Sept	1st	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, 3 The Forge
Sept	10th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm-5.00pm, Church

## **Photos**

***Front cover*** - ©Nick Brooker – Painting of the church yard wild flowers.

***Inside front cover*** – ©Nick Brooker – Poster for the weekend of events commemorating the 25th anniversary of the fire -16th Sept 1998

***Inside back cover*** – ©Richard Jackson- Brancepeth in Bloom Poster

***Back cover*** – ©– Durham Singers poster

***Newsletter entries no later than August 18th please***

***Please send to Sue Morgan at [sueatpeppermires@gmail.com](mailto:sueatpeppermires@gmail.com)***

***View newsletter on line at [www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter](http://www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter)***

## Brancepeth Community Association - Management Committee

Martyn Jones	<i>Chairman</i>	Val Gibbons	<i>Subscriptions</i>
	<i>Vice chairman</i>	Geraldine Jennings	<i>Garden Club</i>
Jo Dalton	<i>Secretary, Website &amp; Bookings</i>	Jean Merrington	<i>Social Secretary</i>
Ian Stoker	<i>Treasurer</i>	Anna Brooker	<i>Church Representative</i>
<a href="http://brancepethcommunityassociation.btck.co.uk/">http://brancepethcommunityassociation.btck.co.uk/</a> Tel: 0191 3783952			

## Parish Activities

Chairman B.C.A.	Martyn Jones, 32 Goodwell Lea (0191 3789297)
Secretary	Jo Dalton, 1 Rectory Cottages (07876 624626)
Treasurer	Ian Stoker, Castle Lodge (0191 3784986)
Membership	Val Gibbons, 3 The Forge (0191 3784200)
Hall Bookings	Jo Dalton, 1 Rectory Cottages (0191 3780771)
Archives & History	Vivienne Lowe, 17 The Village (0191 3780974)
Art Group	Jeanette Metcalfe, (0191 3781646)
Badminton	Sue Morgan, (0191 3781172)
Brancepeth Allotment & Leisure Gardeners' Club	Sue Morgan, Carole Reed & Liz Burdess baacommittee3@gmail.com
Book Club	Val Gibbons (0191 3784200)
Drama	Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Flower Guild	Jessie Brown (0191 3782748)
Garden Club	Edward Staines (0191 3780858) or Secretary, Bonny Bainbridge, (0191 3789304)
Snooker Bookings	Jo Dalton, 1 Rectory Cottages (07876 624626)
Wednesday Coffee	Christine Jones (0191 3789297)
Yoga	Lynne Hastie (0191 3781871)
Youth Club	Geoff Moore (0191 3735674)

## Parish Council

Hassall Balshen – Chair (tel: 0191 3781295; email: [hassall.balshen@gmail.com](mailto:hassall.balshen@gmail.com))

Nick Ellis (tel: 0191 3782939; email: [n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk](mailto:n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk))

Thomas Hobbs, Email: [tom.rhobbs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tom.rhobbs@hotmail.co.uk)

Michael Stephenson, Email: [stephenson15@me.com](mailto:stephenson15@me.com)

Philip Davison, Email: [philipdavison000@btinternet.com](mailto:philipdavison000@btinternet.com)


Mike Lowe, (tel: 0191 3780974)

Parish Clerk Kirsty Charlton [clerk@brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk)

**County Councillors:** [olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk](mailto:olwyn.gunn@durham.gov.uk)

[fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk](mailto:fraser.tinsley@durham.gov.uk)

[www.brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk](http://www.brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk)



Brancepeth in Bloom

# Village Meeting

7.30 pm

Wednesday 5th July

Village Hall

To discuss feedback from the first  
Judging visit of Northumbria in  
Bloom and what we need to do for  
their visit on 12<sup>th</sup> July.

Please help us make  
Brancepeth Beautiful.





*The Durham Singers*  
Music Director: Tom Edney

# *Music for a Summer's Evening*

*Music by Byrd, Weelkes, Vaughan Williams  
Coleridge-Taylor and others*

**SATURDAY 8 JULY 2023**  
**7.30PM**

**ST BRANDON'S CHURCH**  
**BRANCEPETH**  
**DURHAM**

*Tickets £15*  
*Students £10*  
*Under 12s free*

*Available from choir members*

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/durhamsingers>

*Further information [www.durham-singers.org](http://www.durham-singers.org)*