

# St Brandon's Church

## Brancepeth



**Newsletter: October 2023**

Also online at  
[www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter](http://www.stbrandon.org.uk/newsletter)



***Celebrating the Building St Brandon's 25th Anniversary. The Very Rev'd Adrian Dorber, Marita & Jan Velduizen, Bishop Paul Butler, Mary Foy MP, Bishop Alan Chesters & Canon Anna Brooker***



***Two Pauls!  
Bishop Paul with  
Paul Morgan***

## 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 October 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).

Dear friends,

What a weekend!

The *Building St Brandon's* events, marking 25 years since the fire, began with 'Sharing the Story' on Saturday evening. The presentation, masterminded by Tom Hobbs, was stunning and moving in equal measure, taking us from the beauty of the 'old' church, through footage of the fire itself and the resulting devastation, and on to the rebuilding and re-entry. Adrian Dorber, the priest-in-charge at the time, Geoff Moore, and Rick Simpson then shared their memories and reflections of the rebuilding and subsequent developments including the Paradise Window and the Circle of Remembrance.

Early on Sunday morning, a small group gathered for a Dawn Vigil, which included walking round the outside of the building, stopping at various points to reflect and pray, before moving inside to continue to worship in the beauty of that sacred space.

Then the 10.15 service, with the Bishop of Durham Paul Butler presiding and Adrian Dorber preaching. It was good to welcome back many from the time of the fire as well as to remember those who were there 25 years ago but, as Adrian put it, joined us now as heavenly worshippers.

Add to all of that the wonderful historic displays, the flowers, the food and drink, and the opportunities – too many and too quickly past – to meet old friends and share old memories, and it was truly a weekend to remember!

But, of course, it was about more than looking back. On Saturday evening Anna launched the *Friends of St Brandon's* scheme, making it easy for those who have moved on from Brancepeth, or can no longer be regular worshippers, to continue to engage with and support the Church.

And 'building St Brandon's' is a theme for those of us who remain, holding in our generation the joy and responsibility of maintaining the beauty of this sacred space that speaks to us and to our many visitors.

And the building, of course, points all of us to the reality of the living God, to the stories of our earthly lives, to the possibilities of forgiveness and renewal, to the hope to which we are called, and to the faithful proclamation in our generation of the steadfast love of the God we have come to know in Jesus.

With my best wishes

Geoff

# St Brandon's October 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>Oct 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 17</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist 10.15 am</b>	
	First:	Linda Waterman	Philippians 2: 1-13
	Gospel:	Gillian Smellie	Matthew 21: 23-32
	Psalm 25		
		Sue Hope	Intercessions
<b>Oct 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Online Evening Prayer 7:30pm</b>	
<b>Oct 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 18</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist 10.15</b>	
	First:	Tom Hobbs	Philippians 3: 4b-14
	Gospel:	James Morgan	Matthew 21: 33-46
	Psalm 80: 8-16		
		Edward Staines	Intercessions
<b>Oct 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 18</b>	<b>Morning Worship with Baptism 10.15 am</b>	
	<i>Shoebox Sunday</i>		
	First:	Hester Higon	Philippians 4:1-9
	Psalm 23		
		Caroline Middleditch	Intercessions
		<b>Messy Church 3:00pm- 5:00pm</b>	
<b>Oct 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Online Evening Prayer 7:30pm</b>	

<b>Oct 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 19</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist 10.15 am</b>	
	First:	Mike Higton	I Thessalonians 1:1-10
	Gospel:	Wilfred Foxe	Matthew 22: 15-22
	Psalm 96		
		Hester Higton	Intercessions

<b>Oct 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Trinity 20</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist 10.15 am <i>Bible Sunday</i></b>	
	First:	Janette Foxe	Nehemiah 8: 1-12
	Gospel	Ken Howe	Matthew 24: 30-35
	Psalm 1		
		Colin Waterman	Intercessions

## NOVEMBER

<b>Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>All Souls</b>	<b>Service of Remembrance 7:00pm</b>	
	First:	Martin Peacock	1 Peter 1: 3-9
	Second:	David Eltringham	John 6: 37-40

<b>Nov 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>All Saints</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist 10.15 am</b>	
	First:	Caroline Middleditch	Revelation 7: 9-end
	Gospel	Carys Funnell	Matthew 5:1-12
	Psalm 34:1-10		
		Nick Brooker	Intercessions

## Sidespersons

Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sue Morgan & Peter Bailey
Oct 8 <sup>th</sup>	David & Fiona Eltringham
Oct 15 <sup>th</sup>	Bonny Bainbridge & Annette Johnson
Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Jane Stout & Josie Armstrong
Oct 29 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Sharples & Jean Hodgson
Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Nick Brooker (7.00pm)
Nov 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Morgan & Peter Bailey

## Flowers

Lynne Hastie
Maud Oliver
Joan Taylor
Gerry Jennings
Sue Knight
June Robson



## Coffee

## Tech Team

Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	Jean Hodgson	David & Fiona
Oct 8 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Morgan	Higton & Peter
Oct 15 <sup>th</sup>	Jane Stout	Higtons
Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Annette Johnson	Geoff & Alison
Oct 29 <sup>th</sup>	Catrin Morgan	Geoff & Alison
Nov 5 <sup>th</sup>	Gerry Jennings	David & Fiona

## Church Cleaning

*October – Team C*

Carol Beeby, Vickie Jackson, Sarah Nicholson, Nick Brooker

*November – Team A*

Alison Moore, Anne Elliott, Jane Stout, Sue Hope

## Grass Cutting Rota 2023

16 <sup>th</sup> Sept – 1st Oct	James Dalton, Nick Brooker
2nd Oct – End	Edward, Michael and Martin

### *Events in October*

*The church has been hired for private events on the following days this month .*

*7 October    Diocesan Event all day*

*28 October    Salvation Army Quiet Day Retreat all day*

*This of course means the church is not available at these times. Our hirers are always deeply appreciative of your cooperation.*

*Thank you*

*Janette*



***Never too weak..***  
the story of David and  
Goliath!

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October**  
**3-5pm in church**

**Bible story, songs, prayers,  
news, crafts, games, tea  
together**

**All welcome and please invite friends**

***next dates: 13<sup>th</sup> November and 11<sup>th</sup> December***

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October**  
**5.30 -6.30pm**

## **The Light Party**

starting and ending at  
Brancepeth Village Hall

**\*\*\*fancy dress parade \*\*\* treat trail\*\*\* hot  
chocolate\*\*\***



*If you live in the village and would like to welcome the parade with  
some treats, please let us know in advance: Nick and Anna 378*

*0578*

*THANK YOU*





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.

## **Brancepeth Youth Club**

**October to December 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 in the Village Hall on Sundays 6-8pm. The dates for the rest of this term are:

October 1, 15, 29

November 12, 26

December 10

*Leaders*

Geoff Moore 07854 696664 [durmoores@btinternet.com](mailto:durmoores@btinternet.com)

Martin Peacock 07503 242074

### **Vestry Report**

**Marriage:** James Frederick Huyton and Olivia Kate Tindale 9th September

***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)

# Building St Brandon's

1998-2023

Over the weekend of the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> September, we marked the 25-year anniversary of the St Brandon's fire. With displays in church throughout the weekend, and the castle chapel open, many visitors came either to remember the events of September 1998, or to learn more about the history of the church and its rebuild.

Various events and services punctuated the weekend. On Saturday evening there was a spectacular audio-visual presentation and reception, with images and videos of the church before, during, and after the fire, and memories of those who were there. On Sunday morning there was a Dawn Vigil where we gathered to pray, just as those who first discovered the fire did. And then the weekend culminated in the Anniversary Service, led by the Lord Bishop of Durham, and with the Very Revd Adrian Dorber preaching – followed, of course, by a 'Soup and Puds' lunch in the village hall.

Many thanks again to the Archives Group, the Flower Guild, and all who helped with the presentation, catering, and logistics for this significant weekend.

Lydia Padfield

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped in envisioning, planning and delivering such a memorable weekend.

Among them are all the pray-ers and welcomers, coffee makers and cleaners, pudding and soup makers, table layers and washer-uppers, chair movers and flower arrangers, local historians and listeners, worshippers and readers: everyone, in fact who shared the story of the last 25 years at St Brandon's with such creativity, sincerity and insight. **THANK YOU ALL.**

During the weekend we launched *Friends of St Brandon's* as a way of building on this wider support in the village and beyond, to ensure our beautiful church building is cared for and remains open for all and open every day. There are leaflets in the Village Hall and church, or please do contact me if you'd like more details.

*Anna Brooker*



# ‘Autumn Spruce up’

Tuesday 17th October 10am - 3pm

including soup, rolls and refreshments

St. Brandon's Church

It is hoped to do those jobs that don't get done during routine cleaning like cupboards and notice boards.

Plenty of sorting and sitting down jobs!

In order to ensure we have sufficient food please sign up on the list at the back of church or contact Carol at [carol21beeby@btinternet](mailto:carol21beeby@btinternet) if you would like to come along.

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 3, 17 & 31 Oct 2023 at 11:00  
Tuesdays 14 & 28 Nov 2023 at 11:00



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

# Shoe Box Sunday

*Contributions and shoeboxes may be brought to church on Sunday, 15th October, in time for the lorry to collect at the end of the month.*

*We have a few shoeboxes if they are difficult to find. Knitwear is especially welcome.*

*Thank you for your support.*

*Nick Brooker*



## SBA Filler Ideas

Please see below ideas of what you might put in a shoebox.

Blythwood Care ask that each shoebox, if possible has a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, sweets, toy/gift, scarf, gloves and hat, and some item of underwear.

Thank you for supporting the Shoe Box Appeal.

Girl / Boy 3-7		Girl / Boy 8-12	
Plasticine	Pyjamas	Sewing kit	Lego
Simple sewing	Toy car/truck	Craft kit	Draughts
Dressing-up	Toy animals	Paint by numbers	Modelling clay
Chalk	Paints	Jewellery/beads	Tennis ball
Sticker books	Picture snap cards	Socks	Vests
My Little Pony	Wooden toy	T-shirt	Watch
Colouring book	Small ball	Pyjamas	Playing cards
Crayons	Socks	Colouring book	Sticker book
T-shirt	Shorts	Stationery	Socks
Underwear	Vests	Skipping ropes	Marbles

Teenage Girl / Boy		Woman	Man	Elderly woman
Make-up	Shorts	Make-up	Dominoes	Magnifying glass
Craft kit	Tennis ball	First aid kit	Pack of cards	Umbrella
Jewellery	Rubix cube	Sanitary products	Draughts	Hand cream
Hair brush	Draughts board game	Perfume	Tape measure	Folding walking stick
Nail varnish	Aeroplane model	Shampoo	Tin cup	Slippers
Dominoes	Windup torch	Tape measure	Belt	Apron
Perfume/After shave	Dominoes	Apron	Braces	Candle
Hair band	Deodorant	Measuring spoons	Wind-up torch	Tin cup
Small watch	Small watch	Kitchen utensils	Pen knife	Small clock
Diary	Thermal vest	Small scissors	Shaving brush	Nail brush
Manicure set	Cap	Underwear	Pen	Tights



## PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING DIARY October 2023

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

**We pray for:**

**1 *Connection with God for all who walk and sit in our beautiful Churchyard.***

2 Foxes Row, Russell Close and North Field View.

3 For those who experience little family support.

4 St Francis of Assisi: for reversal of the spiralling loss of our precious biodiversity.

5 Goodwell Lea.

6 Castle and Lodge.

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

**8 *Pray for the charity A Rocha UK, helping churches understand climate action.***

9 Park Lodge, Nursery Hse, Garden Hse, East Bothy, Scription Lodge, Scription Farm.

10 World Mental Health Day: for healing & understanding, where there is stigma & fear.

11 The Village South.

12 Prison reformers: champions of good practise, letting love and light into our prisons.

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

14 Durham Road and The Forge.

**15 *Theresa of Avila: God's stillness & peace for those who are anxious and troubled.***

16 Whitworth Lane and Black House

17 The innocent victims of mankind's inhumanity to mankind.

18 Luke the Evangelist: that we may proclaim the Good News in our actions today.

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

20 Stockley Lane

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

**22 *Those in training for ministry who have joined us on placement over the years.***

23 Our local shops and food suppliers; for an increasingly responsible attitude to food.

24 Stockley Grove, Bridge Road and Tanglewood.

25 Give thanks for the gift of companionship, on two legs and four!

26 The Village North, Station House and Railway cottages.

27 Practical help for those struggling on low incomes as the pressure of bills increases.

28 Simon & Jude, Apostles: for the desire to model Jesus in our daily living and loving.

**29 *Bible Sunday: that the Bible will come alive for more people.***

30 For political prisoners and the many suffering persecution for their beliefs.

31 Blessings and protection: thoughtful approaches to Halloween and All Souls.

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

*durmoores@btinternet.com*

## Welcome to our new Ordinand



My name is Jenny Lander, and I am a final year ordinand at Cranmer Hall in Durham. I'm originally from New Zealand and the USA, and grew up in Mongolia where my parents worked in public health (if you ask me where I'm from, I may have trouble answering concisely!). Before I started ordination training, I was a university lecturer in law and I have continued some academic research alongside ordination training. I am

married to Isaac, and we have a little girl named Nora (1 in October). I love cooking, gardening, painting and walking my giant dog Xanthias around the fields, forests and beaches of beautiful County Durham. I'm looking forward to getting to know the St Brandon's community this year!



**ALL SOULS' DAY**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023**

On **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.00pm** there will be a service of commemoration at St Brandon's Church Brancepeth. **All are welcome.**

During the service we remember those who have died, and a list of their names will be read out. There will be the opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one.

There will be a list at the back of church for names to be added. Or you can contact Alison Moore on 07890 733757 or [moorealisonm21@gmail.com](mailto:moorealisonm21@gmail.com) with any names to be included.



# Wednesday Coffee Morning

10:30-11:30am

Village Hall

Oct 4th.	Rosemary Monument and James Dalton
11th October.	Martyn and Christine
18th October.	Margot and Val
25th October.	Vivienne and Janiece
01th November.	Rosemary and James
08th November	Martyn and Christine
15th November.	Margot and Val
22nd November.	Vivienne and Janiece
29th November.	Rosemary and James

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

**Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. at 2.00pm - Golf Club Dining Room**

## **'Ada Lovelace'**

*We have had Mary Eleanor Bowes and Gertrude Bell. Now Anthony Atkinson returns with another fascinating talk, this time it will be about the life of Ada Lovelace who was the daughter of Anna Milbanke of Seaham Hall and Lord Byron. Last month we welcomed 5 visitors, including 2 gentlemen, plus 15 members of the Ladies' Group and we do hope that anyone interested will feel free to come and enjoy this excellent speaker.*

**16<sup>th</sup> Nov. will be Steve Owers – Teesdale & Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue**

# **BRANCEPETH GARDEN CLUB**

## **Garden Club Annual Show**

The Garden Club held its annual village show on Saturday 9th September and received a very creditable 146 entries.

**Overall show winner** was Sue Morgan with Bonnie Bainbridge close behind in second place. Janeice Spence secured third.

### **Trophies:**

- **Fruit and veg** - overall and best in section - Sue Morgan
- **Flowers** - overall and best in section - Bonnie Bainbridge
- **Flower arranging** - overall and best in section - Lynne Hattie
- **Container** - prize shared between Maud Oliver and Bonnie Bainbridge
- **Home Produce** - overall and best in section - Bonnie Bainbridge
- **Photography** - Overall - Paul Spence. Best in section - Peter Hodge
- **Children's Trophy** - Paul Morgan

Very many thanks to all entrants who made this such a successful event but we always have space for more entries. Particular thanks to our judges who gave up their time and expertise.

## **Visit to Halls of Heddon on Friday 6 October 2023**

The Garden Club has arranged a visit to Halls of Heddon on Friday 6 October 2023. We will need to leave Brancepeth at 3.15 p.m. in order to get to Halls for 4.00 p.m. The plan is to have a look around the sales area first and David Hall will talk to us after that around 4.30 p.m. His talk will be followed by a walk around the dahlia fields.

Depending on numbers we could arrange to have supper on the way home but we would have to pre-book. To assist with arrangements, it would be very helpful if you could let me know as soon as possible whether you would like to come on the visit. Please contact me by:

E mail: [alisonbainbridge53@gmail.com](mailto:alisonbainbridge53@gmail.com)

Mobile: 07495 848 997

Home: 0191 378 9304

Bonny Bainbridge                      Garden Club Secretary

### **FUTURE EVENTS**

**TALK BY RICHARD BARNES – Friday 17 November, 7 for 7.30 p.m.**

Richard came and gave a talk to Garden Club members in March this year and we are very pleased that he has agreed to come back on Friday 17 November to give a talk entitled '**Inspiration**'

**Brancepeth Gardens – Save the Date!**  
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2024, 11am to 4:30pm**



## **AN OPEN MEETING - ALL WELCOME**

Brancepeth Archive and History Group are delighted to welcome David Hughes who gave a fascinating illustrated talk last October on Thomas Wright. On this occasion, he will tell us about another brilliant local man.

## **"THE LIFE AND WORK OF JEREMIAH DIXON"**

**(1733-1779) of Cockfield Fell**

an **illustrated talk by David Hughes F.R.A.S.**

**FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023.**

**7.15 for 7.30 p.m.**

**BRANCEPETH VILLAGE HALL.**

Jeremiah Dixon, along with his colleague and occasional mentor, Charles Mason, are best remembered for having mapped out the so-called Mason-Dixon line in North America. Less well known are Jeremiah's other exploits which include working out the scale of solar system and the size of Planet Earth. A skilled draftsman and surveyor, Dixon was also close friends with explorer Captain James Cook. In this talk, we'll look at Jeremiah's early life, his scientific endeavours, and many of his adventures along the way in what was, in many ways, a short but exciting life.

**Admission at the door £5.00**

**Brancepeth Archive and History Group members £2.00**

**. Enquiries to Tel: 0191 3780974**

## **Book Club**

On 13 October we will be at Dawn and Nick Ellis's house, 24 Goodwell Lea. The book was chosen from a list provided by Sara Cox's BBC programme 'Between the Covers'.

It is 'The Keeper of Stories', by Sally Page.

The following meeting is November 17th when we will discuss 'The Escape Artist' by Jonathan Freedland at Val Gibbon's home, 3 The Forge. Into the New Year, 12th January is the date for your new diary. The book will be 'The Cleaner of Chartres' by Salley Vickers.

All welcome.

Val Gibbons

# **Men's Social**

**Village Hall**

**7pm**

**Friday October 27th**

**Fish Supper**

Pay as you eat and drink

£2 admission for hall hire.

Domino and Snooker games

**Contact David Jackson**

**07711 648752**

# **CHRISTMAS SHOW**

**Saturday 9th December 2023**

**Brancepeth Village Hall**

This year I have taken on the role of producing the show following the retirement of Rosemary Monument (big shoes to fill!)

There will be a brand new Young People's play with small parts for everyone  
..... Martin Peacock will be looking for anyone willing to take part.

Please get in touch if you wish to perform or can help out in any way behind the scenes.

Josie Armstrong

[jo.arm@me.com](mailto:jo.arm@me.com)

Tel 0788 22 33 11 8

## **A Weekend to Remember by our Motoring Correspondent.**

In early July, a little piece of Formula 1 came to Brancepeth.

Many will be familiar with long time villager Robin Wills' passion for restoring cars and he is often seen driving round the village in his favourite, his magnificent 1937 Green Sunbeam Sports Touring Car.

He rebuilt the car from literally a bag (or several) of bits to the beautiful example of the marque it is today. So good is the rebuild that he has won prizes for it. The last one very recently, the Bill Perkins trophy from the Sunbeam Owners club. Bill was the doyen of the works riding mechanics in the days when the race cars were two seaters with a driver and a mechanic. High praise, indeed.

One of the benefits of that success was that he was invited to provide one of the twenty odd cars for the pre-race drivers' parade around the famous old circuit at Silverstone, prior to the 2023 British Grand Prix. It was the hundredth anniversary of a Sunbeam driven by Mr (later Sir) Henry Seagrave winning the French Grand Prix when he became the first British success at such a major event. All the cars taking the drivers round Silverstone were versions of these wonderful vehicles which at one time had challenged Rolls Royce for supremacy.

The driver he chauffeured round the track was young Australian Oscar Piastri who went on to take the chequered flag for fourth place in the actual race. Oscar was intrigued by sound of the Sunbeam's horn – the very same one that denoted the start and finish of the Goodwill Lea clap for carers in the dark days of the pandemic



– and he had Robin sounding it every time they went past his fans. This created an immense roar from the 140,000 people in the stands.

Robin kept Oscar's number and name on both of the front doors and these caused great excitement on the long drive home as people were giving him the thumbs up, sounding their horns and photographing the car as she travelled home in comfort on her trailer. His tyres also have bits of one of the gravel traps embedded in it.

One of the highlights for Robin was that the car that was the race winner 100 years ago was part of the parade. It is known as the 22/23 Grand Prix Car and the three litre engine was running as well as it did the day of its success.

To top it off, Jean Graham and Anna, Robin's wife, arranged an impromptu party on the green with the neighbours to celebrate Robin's great day.

So, if you see Robin about in his big green Sunbeam with writing on the doors don't forget to give him and his VIP car a big wave. You never know, he may sound that horn for you!

Footnote: The photographs were taken by Robin and Anna's son Harry, who accompanied his dad on the adventure.

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## **Parish Council News**

### **Our Brancepeth in Bloom News**

At the Northumbria in Bloom awards, we achieved:

A Silver in the "Village" category,

An Improving Level 2 for the Aged Miners Garden

A Silver Gilt for St Brandon's churchyard

And -

Break out the champagne - it's a GOLD for the Allotments - well done everyone!



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

Oct	Mondays	-	Snooker, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Oct	Mondays	-	Yoga resumes on 18th Sept, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Oct	Monday	-	Knit and Natter, 2nd, 16th & 30th, Village Hall 2-4 pm.
Oct	Tuesdays	-	Art Group, 7.00 – 9.00pm, Village Hal
Oct	Wednesdays	-	Tai Chi 9.30 -10.30, Village Hall
Oct	Wednesdays	-	Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall, 10.30-11.30am
Oct	Thursdays	-	Indoor Bowls, 10.00-12.00, Village Hall
Oct	Thursdays	-	Badminton, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Oct	Sundays	-	Capoeira Classes, 10.00 – 11.30am, Village Hall
Oct	Sunday	-	Youth Club, 1st, 15th & 29th, 6.00pm -8.00pm, Village Hall
1st Saturday each month - Archive Room in Castle open between 9.00am – 1.00pm			
Oct	6th	Fri	Garden Club visit to Halls of Heddon, leave at 3.15pm
Oct	13th	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, 24 Goodwell Lea
Oct	15th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm-5.00pm, Church
Oct	17th	Tues	Autumn Spruce Up, 10.00am -3.00pm, Church
Oct	19th	Thurs	Ladies Group Talk, Ada Lovelace, Golf Club, 2.00pm
Oct	20th	Fri	Archives & History Group, 7.15pm, Village Hall
Oct	27th	Fri	Men's Social, 7.00pm Village Hall
Nov	17th	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, 3 The Forge
Nov	17th	Fri	Garden Club talk, Richard Barnes, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Nov	19th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm-5.00pm, Church
Dec	9th	Sun	Christmas Show, Village Hall
Dec	11th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm-5.00pm, Church

## **Photos**

**Front cover** – ©Geoff Knott – Sunday 17th September, the 25th Anniversary of the fire. Reverend Anna Brooker was joined by Bishop Paul Butler, who led our service. The priest in charge in 1998, The Very Reverend Adrian Dorber was our preacher and in the congregation we were joined by Bishop Alan Chesters, our Rector from 1974 -1985.

*In the September newsletter photos were taken from the 1953 Christmas newsletter written by the Rector, WE Wright when the church celebrated the 750th anniversary of its consecration. Not to be confused with the 900th Anniversary of having the first incumbent, Haeming, in 1085.*

**Inside front cover** – ©Geoff Knott and Catrin Morgan–Celebrations in church and the Village Hall.

**Inside back cover** – ©Harry Wills and James Morgan. Show winners Sue Morgan, Bonny Bainbridge and Maud Oliver with Garden Club chairman, Edward Staines

**Back cover** – ©– Lydia Padfield. Flower Guild arrangement to celebrate the 25th Anniversary weekend.

***Newsletter entries no later than October 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)



**Robin Wills with family and friends in Goodwell Lea, celebrating the great day**





