

# Brancepeth Parish Newsletter



**March 2025**

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

## From the Archive this month



A rare ceramic model of number 19 Brancepeth Village (The Old School). Produced by the firm of Lilliput Lane and sold by them as 'The Bell Cottage'. Painted by the firm's senior artist M. Johnson.

Lilliput Lane was founded in Penrith in 1982 by the sculptor David Tate.

This is just one of the items which can be seen in the Archive Room in Brancepeth Castle. Open on the first Saturday in every month 9am-1pm.



The Chef

### BCA Members Sunday Lunch

6th April

Brancepeth Village Hall

1.30pm

#### Menu

Local Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding

Beef Dripping Roast Potato's

Creamed Potato

Mashed Swede

Carrots/Greens

Sticky Toffee Pudding and Ice Cream

Freshly Brewed Coffee & Chocolate Mints

Tickets £14 Adults Under 14's £7

Contact Joale Armstrong [jo.arm@me.com](mailto:jo.arm@me.com)  
0788 22 33 118

## Parochial Church Council

Priest in Charge	currently in vacancy
Associate Minister	Rev'd. Alison Hobbs (0191 3789670) <a href="mailto:alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk">alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk</a>
Church Wardens:	Mike Higton (0191 5974675) Carol Beeby (0191 3847431), (07592 975002)
Secretary	Colin Waterman (07713637128) <a href="mailto:colinwaterman069@gmail.com">colinwaterman069@gmail.com</a> )
Treasurer	Vickie Jackson (0191 3783581) <a href="mailto:treasr@stbrandon.org.uk">treasr@stbrandon.org.uk</a>
Deanery Synod	Jane Stout (0191 3860618) Peter Bailey (0781772896)

### Other members:-

Janette Foxe (07587 225 200) Kenneth Howe (07710098705, 0191 3840589)  
Catrin Morgan (0191 4476520) Sue Morgan (0191 3781172)

Lay Reader	Geoff Moore (07854 696664)
Prayer Team	Alison Hobbs (01913789670), Alison Moore (0191 373 5674).
Sunday School	Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Messy Church	Carole Beeby (0191 3847431), (07592 975002)
Organist	
Village Choir	Martyn Jones (0191 3789297)
Sacristans	Carol Beeby (0191 3847431), Valeria Dietz, Pat Sharples.
Safeguarding Officer	Geoff Moore (07854 696664)
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 (07854 696664) Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Worship Team	Carol Beeby, Janette Foxe, Hester Higton, Rev'd Alison Hobbs, Alison Moore, Geoff Moore, Martin Peacock.
AdminTeam	Carol Beeby, Janette Foxe, Sue Morgan, Gillian Smellie.
PMC Team:	Alison Hobbs (ex officio), Alison Moore, James Morgan, Sue Morgan, Jane Stout, Colin Waterman.
Fabric:	Mike Higton (chair), James Morgan, Rev'd Alison Hobbs, Tom Hobbs, Steve Hodgson, Edward Staines, George Rae.
Website	<a href="http://www.stbrandon.org.uk">www.stbrandon.org.uk</a>

***Newsletter entries no later than March 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,

We were, of course, saddened and shocked to hear of the untimely death of Richard Hird, our organist. There is a short piece about Richard elsewhere in this Newsletter, so I won't dwell on that here.

But Richard's death reminds us all of our own mortality, and this perhaps even more so as we enter the season of Lent, with Jesus's death on Good Friday as its focal point.

And yet, Lent for us in this part of the world occurs as Spring comes. We are already seeing snowdrops, and the first bulbs poking up their heads through the hard earth. So, as well as death, we are reminded of life, and indeed of new life coming into being.

So, how do we hold both death and life together in the season of Lent? I find the Church's liturgy helpful in focusing on death, and on our sins both individual and collective that lead to death in so many different ways – the death of nature, the death of culture, spiritual death, as well as physical death. But, if I'm honest, I find the Church's Lent liturgy less helpful when it comes to life.

So, this Lent, instead of giving things up, I'm going to focus on the positive and take something up.

I have been attracted to the idea of pilgrimage for some time, and have undertaken a few short pilgrimage trails. The Northern Saints Trails <https://durhamdiocese.org/mission-discipleship-and-ministry-/growing-in-faith-and-discipleship/northern-saints-trails/> offer us opportunities locally, although each of these would take several days to complete. But a walk of any length, or of any duration – including taking the dog for a walk – can equally become a pilgrimage.

One way of doing a pilgrimage is with an intention in mind. So, for example, an intention might be to listen out for bird song, or to pay attention to flora and fauna and new life along the way. Another way is to do it as a 'prayer walk with Jesus' – simply chatting to Him as you go about what you see or hear, or what thoughts are on your mind. Any of these might help us to focus on life.

I have planned to take three days out during Lent to go for pilgrimage walks (one of the benefits of being retired!). I'd be happy to share my experiences. But I'd also be interested to hear of yours, if you too decide to do Lent differently this year.

With my best wishes for the season

Geoff



**Come and join in the fun**

**Sunday 9th March**

**3-5pm in church**

**news\*\*crafts\*\*Bible story\*\*songs\*\*tea**

**SAVE THE NEXT DATES:**

**Sunday 6th April 2025 3pm - 5pm**

**Sunday 11th May 2025 3pm - 5pm**



**COME AND JOIN THE FUN!**

**ACTIVITIES AND STORIES FROM THE BIBLE.**

**WE GET TOGETHER AFTER THE FIRST HYMN AND REJOIN THE SERVICE FOR COMMUNION.**

**Every Sunday at the 10.15 service until Sunday 6th April**

# Brancepeth Youth Club

## March - April 2025

*The Youth Club is an Open Club run by the Church, and 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, though we may finish earlier when numbers are low. The dates for next term are:

March 9, 23

April 6

### Leaders

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

Martin Peacock 07503 242074

---

## Mothering Sunday at St. Brandon's

Please join us on

30th March at 10.15am

Morning Worship with Sunday school for children who enjoy a story and craft activities

Posies provided by the Flower Guild for the ladies in the congregation



Please bring along unopened gifts of toiletries which will be taken to the Durham Women's Refuge.

It would be lovely if you could bring your gift to the service but your gifts can always be left in church beforehand. To make alternative arrangements please contact Carol at [carol21beeby@btinternet.com](mailto:carol21beeby@btinternet.com)



## Richard Hird

We were deeply saddened to hear of Richard's death. It was both sudden and untimely, and leaves us bereft not only of an organist but also of a friend. Richard's contribution to our worship through music included the careful choice of voluntaries, drawing on his deep musical knowledge. He will be much missed.

As well as our own mourning, we remember and pray for his family and friends at this time. His funeral takes place at 2pm on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February in Durham Cathedral.

## Churchyard Spring Tidy

A date for your diary.

I plan a churchyard spring tidy on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Anyone willing to donate an hour or three of their time from 0930 that day will be made most welcome. Please bring gardening tools, strimmers and saws and I'll find you a job. Refreshments will be provided at 1100.

Edward Staines

## Book Club

The next meeting will be on March 21st at the home of Audrey & Dick Dumbledon, 19 St Monica Grove, Crossgate Moor, DH1 4AS. We will be reading, 'A Whole Life' by Robert Seethaler. It is a contemplation of 8 decades lived in a remote mountain village in Austria. We begin at 7.30pm.

All welcome Val Gibbons.



**BCA Annual General Meeting**  
**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 6:30pm**  
**Village Hall Committee Room**

To receive: Annual financial accounts and the election of officers. Nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Social Secretary will be taken at the start of the meeting. As usual, nominations for committee members will be accepted up until the start of the meeting.

Any resolutions to be submitted to [brancepethca@gmail.com](mailto:brancepethca@gmail.com) no later than seven days before the meeting. All members are very welcome to attend!

Would you like to join the BCA Management Committee? Would you like to organise a one-off event or start a new group/activity? Please contact [brancepethca@gmail.com](mailto:brancepethca@gmail.com) – any help you can offer would be greatly appreciated!



**Village Community Choir**

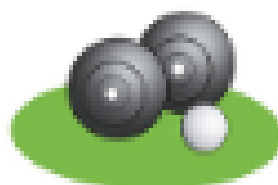
**Tuesday evenings, 7pm, Village Hall**

The choir is open to all abilities, everyone is warmly welcomed. This is an opportunity to be involved in a community group for social, health and artistic expression! Please come along or contact Martyn for further information: [martynjones553@gmail.com](mailto:martynjones553@gmail.com) / 07967 550457

**Carpet Bowls**

**Thursdays, 10am – 12 noon, Village Hall**

Come along and have a go! We are a popular, friendly, and social group. No experience necessary! All BCA members are welcome. £2 per session including refreshments!



?

# Quiz Night

?

## Village Hall

Friday 7th March

?

?

7.15pm

Teams 2 - 8

*(Come on your own and join a team!)*

*Pie and Pea Supper (including Vegetarian)*

*(bring your own drinks)*

£7.00      BCA Members

£9.00      Non Members

Tickets from Josie Armstrong    [js.arm@mc.com](mailto:js.arm@mc.com)

0788 22 33 118

*Proceeds to Brancepeth Community Association*

### Ladies Group

March 2025.

Instead of a meeting we are arranging a workshop by Karen of 'Glass by Donemark' to produce 2 decorated tea lights for the total cost of £18. If you think you may be at all interested please ring or email ( 01913780707 / [jayell80@btinternet.com](mailto:jayell80@btinternet.com) NB As this is the first talk of the year Janet will be collecting subs. @ £15 pp and the programme for February to July will be available to anyone who would like to see what is planned for the first half of 2025.

# **BRANCEPETH GARDEN CLUB**

## **SPRING SHOW: SATURDAY 26 APRIL 2025**

The Spring Show, followed at 2.00 p.m. by the Annual General Meeting, will take place on **Saturday 26 April 2025 in the Village Hall**. We hope that those villagers who regularly support the show by entering exhibits will continue to do so but we would also be delighted to receive entries from people who have never entered before. We would also like to encourage entries from children and we have seeds available and also some sempervivums, (hens and chicks), for children to plant up as a display in an unusual container, or the children could use a plant of their own. Please email me, address below, if you would like some seeds or a sempervivum, to have a go. The show schedules will be available from Wednesday 26 March from the Coffee Morning in the Village Hall and from committee members.

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

*GARDEN WALKABOUT:*                      Friday 4 July 2025

*AUTUMN SHOW:*                              Saturday 13 September 2025

## **VISIT TO NEWBY HALL GARDENS NEAR RIPON**

The date selected for the visit is **Saturday 17 May**. This date has been chosen as the National Collection of Cornus should be at its best and the newly-refurbished rock garden similarly in peak condition. The garden opens at 11.00 a.m. so we would expect to leave Brancepeth at 9.30 – 9.45 a.m. to allow for potential heavy traffic. The cost for a group of 15 is £16 for adults and £14 for children. Extras include a one hour tour of the house, for £7.00 adult, £6.00 child, a ride through the grounds on the railway for £ 3.00 and a river cruise is also available for £5.00. The cost of entry to the gardens, together with tickets for any of the extras can be bought on the day. There is a restaurant and cafe on site, and an extensive play area for children.

As minibus hire is prohibitively expensive we plan to travel by car. The outing is for Garden Club members only but if non-members would like to join us, you can become a member by putting £3.00 in an envelope in the Village Hall post box with your name and contact details on the front, or by BACS transfer, Garden Club Account details below. If you would like to come, please let Alison Young know, E mail: [gfamyong@gmail.com](mailto:gfamyong@gmail.com) and also, if you have a car, whether you can take your car and if so, any passengers.

**Co-op Bank**

**Sort Code: 08 92 99**

**Account No. 67318094**

Bonny Bainbridge,

Secretary,

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

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The latest PC meeting agenda took in a variety of items including the intention of the Beautiful Brancepeth subgroup to organise a **Litter pick** towards the end of March or start of April – *please look out for further announcements via Noticeboards and BB group communications*. The main update this month, however, concerns the timeline for the Neighbourhood Plan.

### Neighbourhood Plan:

Neighbourhood Plans (NPs) are important as they give a community the opportunity to define how the local area should grow and change. Future planning applications will be judged against the NP as well as other relevant statutory plans. You may recall that the PC held an Open Consultation Event about the NP back in June 2023. Since then we have taken on board as many of the post-event comments that we received as possible; and worked with Durham County Council and an expert consultant to produce a **revised pre-submission** version of the NP.

We are now nearing the end of the NP process with a pre-submission **consultation period** that will run from **1<sup>st</sup> April to 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025**. As part of this consultation, you will see in the Newsletter a notice for a further Open Evening on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April. This drop-in event will give you a further opportunity to raise any questions you may have about the NP.

The new draft of the NP will be available **from the end of March** on the PC website (<https://brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk>), along with supporting documents such as more detailed plans for Local Green Spaces and a Consultation Statement which explains how we have considered stakeholder feedback. The full draft NP will also be available in the Village Hall committee room.

Anyone can comment on the NP via a **Response Form** to make written representations regarding the suggested policies. This Form will also be available on the PC website **from the end of March** to download; or a hard copy via Kirsty Charlton, the PC Clerk. Please note that we can only take into consideration written responses made within the 6 weeks consultation period, i.e. **by 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025**.

The PC will attempt to incorporate as many of the responses as we can into the NP and an updated Consultation Statement. The NP will then be submitted to DCC who will check the document and make it available for a further 6 weeks to stakeholders. Then, once an independent examiner has passed the plan, it will be put to a local referendum: if the majority of those who vote, vote in favour then it will be adopted by DCC and relevant planning applications assessed against its policies.

If you have any questions about this consultation, you may contact councillor Nick Ellis via email on [n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk](mailto:n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk)

### Date of Next Parish Council Meeting:

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall. Members of the public are very welcome to attend but it would be helpful if you could let our Clerk know in advance so we can manage seating: [clerk@brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk)



# Brancepeth Neighbourhood Plan

## OPEN CONSULTATION EVENING

*Village Hall 6:00-9:00 pm*

*Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025*

The pre-submission consultation period for Neighbourhood Plan (NP) will take place between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025. As part of the process, this drop-in event gives you an opportunity to raise any questions you may have about the latest version of the NP.

It will be a reasonably informal evening with no PowerPoint presentations to endure! Parish councillors and our consultant will be available to answer queries and explain how we have arrived at the current draft. The consultation will influence the final submission documents.

The pre-submission NP will be available on the Parish Council website (<https://brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk>) from the 1<sup>st</sup> April, along with supporting documents such as more detailed plans for Local Green Spaces and a Consultation Statement which shows how we have considered stakeholder feedback so far during the NP process. The draft NP will be also available in the Village Hall committee room in hard copy form.

Anyone can comment on the NP via a **Response Form** to make written representations. This form will be available on the PC website from 1<sup>st</sup> April to download and complete; or a hard copy can be obtained via Kirsty Charlton, the PC Clerk, at [clerk@brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk). NB - we can only take into consideration written responses made within the 6 weeks consultation period, i.e. by 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

If you have any questions about this consultation, you may contact councillor Nick Ellis via email on [n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk](mailto:n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk)



**NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT**  
**BRANCEPETH ARCHIVES AND HISTORY**  
**GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

will take place on  
**Friday 4th April 2025 in the Village Hall.**

**Please arrive in good time for a prompt 7.30 p.m. start.**

**The Meeting is open to anyone who is interested in the work of the group but only members will be entitled to vote.**

Membership for the year is £5.00 per person. If you would like to join or renew your membership, and didn't pay at the Social evening in January or at the end of 2024, you are welcome to join at this meeting or by contacting Vivienne Lowe (3780974)

If you live outside the Parish, you are also asked to join Brancepeth Community Association (£6.00 for those in receipt of State Pension and £8.50 for others).

Hopefully the AGM will not take long and there will be ample time for people to enjoy some light refreshments and two short presentations:-

**“Just a line .....**” “What do the letters sent to soldiers at Brancepeth by family, friends and sweethearts tell us about everyday life in the 1940s”

**“Durham Cathedral Basics!”**

Contact Vivienne Lowe (3780974) if you need further information.

## PCC News

The PCC met on Monday 20th January with all members present.

The PCC welcomed news of an upcoming meeting with diocesan staff to initiate a 'vacancy audit'. This will shape the 'parish profile' that we present to potential future incumbents, and is an essential step on our journey to filling the post.

The Fabric and Finance Committee are planning to apply for a small grant from the Diocese to cover some work on the church roof and replace high level bulbs in church which have stopped working.

The PCC oversees a wide range of safeguarding policies and practices to ensure that St Brandon's is as safe as it can be. At this meeting, it was reported that our Safer Recruitment and People Management process - which ensures clear lines of accountability and communication for everyone involved in running the church - had been completed for 2024. Apart from requiring more volunteers in certain areas, there were no safeguarding issues identified.

The Standing Committee will be meeting in March to update all our policies, our committee terms of reference, and our risk assessments in preparation for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to be held on the 18th May 2025 at 11.30am.

**Thank you from Fiona & David Eltringham**

Thank you St Brandon's for the generous John Lewis voucher that you gave us as we left Brancepeth.

We think we may buy some nice mugs for when you come to visit us!  
You'll be very welcome.

## St Brandon's March 2025 – 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 for those services which are livestreamed (shown by \* below), or to view the recording later, at*

<https://www.facebook.com/StBrandons>

<b>Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	<b>Sunday next before Lent</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	
Readings	First	Carys Funnell	2 Cor 3:12 - 4:2
	Gospel	Steve Hodgson	Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]
	Psalm		99
Intercessions		Edward Staines	
<b>Wed 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday, 7.30pm</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	
	First	Martin Peacock	Isaiah 58.1-12
	Gospel	Jane Stout	John 8:1-11
	Psalm		51.1-18
<b>Sun 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent, Church Action on Poverty Sunday</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	
Readings	First	Judith Minto	Deuteronomy 26: 1-11
	Gospel	Jean Hodgson	Luke 4: 1-13
	Psalm		91: 1-11
Intercessions		Colin Waterman	

<b>Sun 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	
Readings	First	Colin Waterman	Philippians 3:17-4:1
	Gospel	Gillian Smellie	Luke 13:31-end
	Psalm		27
Intercessions		James Morgan	
<b>Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	
Readings	First	Alison Moore	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
	Gospel	Edward Staines	Luke 13:1-9
	Psalm		63:1-9
Intercessions		Geoff Moore	
<b>Sun 30<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Mothering Sunday with Baptism</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>	
Readings	First	Mike Higton	Colossians 3:12-17
	Gospel	Janette Foxe	Luke 2:33-35
Intercessions		Wilfred Foxe	
<b>Sun 6<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	
Readings	First	Linda Waterman	Philippians 3:4-14
	Gospel	Wilfred Foxe	John 12:1-8
	Psalm		126
Intercessions		Alison Moore	

### Sidespersons

Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> Bonny Bainbridge & Peter Bailey  
Mar 9<sup>th</sup> Annette Johnson & Pat Sharples  
Mar 16<sup>th</sup> Steve Hodgson & Josie Armstrong  
Mar 23<sup>rd</sup> Jane Stout & Pauline Caygill  
Mar 30<sup>th</sup> Diane & Gordon Cassap  
Apr 6<sup>th</sup> Hanna Pokhylko & Vira Melenets

### Flowers

Lynne Hastie  
Lent 1st  
Lent 2nd  
Lent 3rd  
Mothering Sunday  
Lent 5th

### Coffee

Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> Annette Johnson  
Mar 9<sup>th</sup> Diane Coles  
Mar 16<sup>th</sup> Sue Morgan  
Mar 23<sup>rd</sup> Jeanette Metcalfe  
Mar 30<sup>th</sup> Jane Stout  
Apr 6<sup>th</sup> Alison Moore

### Tech Team

Geoff & Alison  
Peter  
Mike & Hester  
Peter

### Church Cleaning

#### *March – Team B*

Sue Morgan, Hillary Moss, Annette Johnson, Diane Cassap

#### *April – Team C*

Carole Beeby, Vickie Jackson, Sarah Nicholson, Janette Foxe

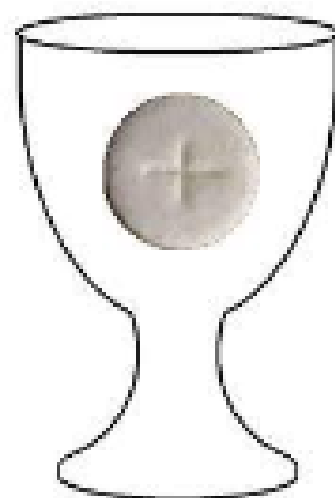
**VESTRY REPORT:** funerals, baptisms and weddings

The interment of ashes in the Circle of Remembrance:

14th February 2025, Aileen Mary O'Reilly

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.



Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 11:00

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 11:00

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 11:00

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

---

## Spring Prayer Space

### Hope

#### Thought from the New Testament:

“ . . . character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts. . . ”  
(Romans 5:4-5)

#### Thought from poetry:

“Hope’ is the thing with feathers –  
That perches in the soul –  
And sings the tune without the words –  
And never stops – at all –  
And sweetest – in the Gale – is heard –  
. . . .”  
(Emily Dickinson)

#### Thought for prayer:

Where there is despair, may I bring hope  
Where there is cynicism, may hope be voiced  
Where there is hope, may it channel energy and acts of love



## Wednesday Coffee Morning

10:30-11:30am

Village Hall

5th March.	Vivienne and Janiece
12th March.	Rosemary and James
19th March.	Margot and Val
26th March.	Martyn and Christine

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

---

## **Men's Social**

**Village Hall**

**7pm**

**Friday March 28th**

Fish Supper

Pay as you eat and drink  
£3 admission for hall hire.

Domino and Snooker games

**Contact David Jackson**

**07711 648752**

---

# DRAGONS ARISE

# WITH THE SPRING COME THE DRAGONS!

---

HEAR TALES OF THE NORTH-EAST'S DRAGON FOLKLORE  
SURROUNDED BY THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF A MEDIEVAL CASTLE

---

BRANCEPETH CASTLE  
SATURDAY 22ND MARCH 2025  
2PM-5PM

MEET THE DRAGONS  
PERFORMANCES AND STORY TELLING  
ART AND CRAFTS  
HISTORY AND FOLKLORE  
MEDIEVAL LIFE WITH OUTLAWS AND VAGABONDS

TICKETS • £2 UNDER 14S • £3 ADULTS

VENUE IS NOT WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

BOOK TICKETS

[BRANCEPETHCASTLE.UK/DRAGONS](http://BRANCEPETHCASTLE.UK/DRAGONS)

FREE PARKING • CAFÉ AVAILABLE • SERVICE DOGS ONLY

## Dates for the Diary:-

Mar	Mondays	-	Snooker, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Mar	Mondays	-	Yoga, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Mar	Monday	-	Knit and Natter, 3rd, 17th & 31st, Village Hall, 2-4pm.
Mar	Tuesdays	-	Art Group, 7.00 – 9.00pm, Village Hal
Mar	Wednesdays	-	Tai Chi 9.30 -10.30, Village Hall
Mar	Wednesdays	-	Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall, 10.30-11.30am
Mar	Thursdays	-	Indoor Bowls, 10.00-12.00, Village Hall
Mar	Thursdays	-	Badminton, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Mar	Sundays	-	Capoeira Classes, 10.00 – 11.30am, Village Hall
Mar	Sundays	-	Youth Club, 9th & 23rd 6.00pm -8.00pm, Village Hall
1st Saturday each month - Archive Room in Castle open between 9.00am – 1.00pm			
Mar	7th	Fri	Quiz Night, 7.15pm, Village Hall
Mar	9th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm -5.00pm
Mar	17th	Mon	Parochial Church Council, 7.30pm
Mar	17th	Mon	Parish Council, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Mar	21st	Fri	Book Club, 7.30am, 19 St Monica's Grove, DH1 4AS
Mar	22nd	Sat	Dragon Event, 2pm – 5pm, Brancepeth Castle
Mar	28th	Fri	Men's Social, 7.00pm, Village Hall
Apr	3rd	Thur	BCA AGM, 6.30pm, Village Hall, Committee Room
Apr	4th	Fri	Archives & History Group, AGM, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Apr	5th	Sat	Churchyard Spring Tidy, 9.30 onwards
Apr	6th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm -5.00pm
Apr	6th	Sun	BCA Sunday Lunch, 1.30pm, Village Hall
Apr	7th	Mon	Parish Council, Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Evening 6.00pm – 9.00pm Village Hall
Apr	26th	Sat	Garden Club Spring Show, Village Hall
May	11th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm -5.00pm
May	26th	Sat	Garden Club visit to Newby Hall Gardens

## **Photos**

**Front cover** – ©- Jean Hodgson, *The East Window*

**Inside front cover** – ©- Archives and History Group, *item from the collection and*

© - Josie Armstrong, *advert for BCA Sunday Lunch*

**Inside back cover** – ©- Dean Maynard, *Brancepeth Golf Club Advertisement*

**Back cover** – ©– Sue Morgan, *PCC & Deanery Synod Reps 2024 – May 2025*

**Newsletter entries no later than March 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)**

You can also join us on our Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/StBrandon>)

## **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</i>	Jean Merrington	
	<i>&amp; Bookings</i>	Josie Armstrong	<i>Social Secretary</i>
Val Gibbons	<i>Treasurer</i>		<i>Church Representative</i>

<http://brancepethcommunityassociation.btck.co.uk/> 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	Val Gibbons, <a href="mailto:valmgibbons@gmail.com">valmgibbons@gmail.com</a> (0191 3784200)
Social Secretary	Josie Armstrong, <a href="mailto:jo.arm@me.com">jo.arm@me.com</a> / 07882 233118
Membership	Val Gibbons, 3 The Forge (0191 3784200)
Hall Bookings	Jo Dalton, 1 Rectory Cottages (07876 624626)
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, Richard Hobbs, Chris Pritchard <a href="mailto:baacommittee3@gmail.com">baacommittee3@gmail.com</a>
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**

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

Nick Ellis - Vice chair; tel: 0191 380 3047; email: [n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk](mailto:n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk)

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

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

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

Catherine Stevenson: [catherine@jamsey.net](mailto:catherine@jamsey.net)

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)

# ROOM HIRE



## BRANCEPETH CASTLE GOLF CLUB

- \* Baby Showers
- \* Christenings
- \* Birthday Parties
- \* Wakes
- \* Corporate Room Hire



EMAIL: [SALES@BRANCEPETH-CASTLE-GOLF.CO.UK](mailto:SALES@BRANCEPETH-CASTLE-GOLF.CO.UK)



St Brandon's Church Parochial Church Council and Deanery Synod (DS)  
Representatives  
2025



From left to right: Colin Waterman, Peter Bailey (DS), Janette Foxe, Kenneth Howe, Jane Stout (DS), Alison Hobbs, Carole Beeby (Church Warden), Vickie Jackson, Mike Higton (Church Warden), Sue Morgan, Catrin Morgan.