

# Brancepeth Parish Newsletter



**July / August 2025**

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

## Messy Church members planting up their flower tub as part of the Brancepeth in Bloom preparations



### From the Archive this month



A small part of a collection of railway tickets issued for journeys to and from Brancepeth Station including a child's ticket and a force's ticket.

Brancepeth Station opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1857 and closed to passenger traffic in August 1964.

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.

## 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)  
Alison Moore (0191 373 5674), Catrin Morgan (0191 4476520) Hannah Pokhylko (07392958934)

Lay Reader	Geoff Moore (07854 696664)
Prayer Team	Alison Hobbs (01913789670), Alison Moore (0191 373 5674).
Sunday School	Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Messy Church	Carol Beeby (0191 3847431), (07592 975002)
Organist	Peter Downey
Village Choir	Martyn Jones (0191 3789297)
Sacristans	Carol Beeby (0191 3847431), Valeria Dietz, Pat Sharples.
Safeguarding Officer	Geoff Moore (07854 696664)
Church Hire coordinator	Janette Foxe <a href="mailto:events@stbrandon.org.uk">events@stbrandon.org.uk</a> .
Electoral Roll Officer	Jean Hodgson ( <a href="mailto:jean.hodgson33@gmail.com">jean.hodgson33@gmail.com</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 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).



## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Parish council membership

We are delighted to welcome Martin Welsh as our newest, co-opted member of the PC. Martin has lived in Goodwell Lea for a year now, having moved from Durham City, and from Sunderland before that. He brings with him a wealth of industrial and education sector experience, not to mention gardening and greenhouse-building expertise (!) – indeed, many of you will know Martin from his work in the Garden Club and as an allotment holder. This means that we still have a vacancy on the PC. If you are interested in taking on this role, please do not hesitate to contact our Clerk or have a chat with any of the current councillors; or pop down to the next PC meeting to observe us discussing a fascinating variety of local issues.

### State of the village

Councillors Daneshyar and Stevenson presented a report to the PC on behalf of the Beautiful Brancepeth working group. Amongst a host of activities, including the village tidy up on the 21st June, and plans to monitor expenditure by the group in a more systematic way, they reported that Catherine has sourced some resilient grass seed for the road verges of the A690, and the flagstones near the water fountain require maintenance so we will be in touch with the land owners. Another project is focused on village boundary signage and traffic calming measures. The working group would like to explore with the County Council the possibility of a further 'elderly people' sign facing south on the A690 and the replacement of the white gates which are wooden and, despite the sterling efforts of Catherine, Julie and others in applying a fresh coat of paint, are really in need of durable plastic alternatives. These could possibly be adorned with new village signs, marking entry and exit, encouraging and thanking drivers for observing speed limits.

### Neighbourhood Plan

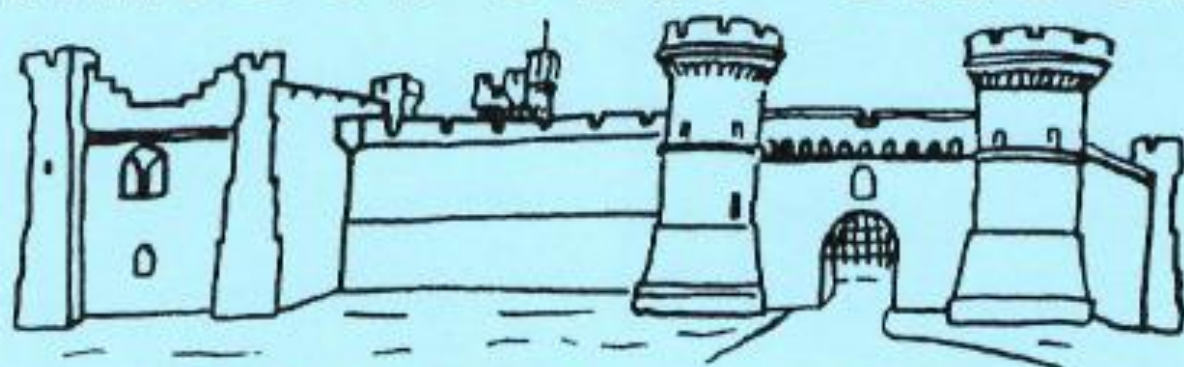
Councillor Ellis reported that all comments on the NP from the last consultation exercise, both from organisational stakeholders and individual parishioners, are now with our consultant. She will build on the PC's draft responses to these comments in compiling the final version of the NP and the accompanying Consultation Statement before submitting them to the County Council. We are grateful for some very useful suggestions from stakeholders including the BCA, DCC and Historic England, many of which we shall incorporate in the NP.

### Date of next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 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 CASTLE



SUMMER 2025

## CRAFT FAIR

Fri 25 July 10 - 5  
Sat 26 July 10 - 5  
Sun 27 July 12 - 5



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

Try your hand at the Workshops run by the makers.

**Buy your tickets at**  
**[brancepethcastle.uk/book](https://brancepethcastle.uk/book)**

Tickets also available on the gate

First Hour: £5.50 (£5 Age 66+)

After First Hour: £4.50 (£4 Age 66+)

Accompanied Under 14: FREE

Use Promo code 'BLUE5' to get 5% off tickets bought online in advance



**Parking Available • Service Dogs Only • On-site Café**  
**DH7 8DE - 4 miles WEST of Durham**



## **Vintage and Classic Sports Car Day –Saturday 9th August**

During the car event there will be a tearoom running in the church. It has become a longstanding Brancepeth tradition that people donate cakes or other baked goods to sell to raise funds. If you are able to contribute in this way please let Diane Coles know to assist with planning.

Volunteers are also needed to “staff” the tearoom so if you can spare an hour then please let us know.

If you are not able to send a baked item or help serve then please come along and have a cake and a cuppa.

Diane’s contact details are [Diane.coles@icloud.com](mailto:Diane.coles@icloud.com) or 07754958341 or speak to get on a Sunday in church. Many thanks Diane Coles.

## **BRANCEPETH GARDEN CLUB**

### **ANNUAL GARDEN WALKABOUT – FRIDAY 4 JULY 2025**

The annual garden walkabout takes place this year on Friday 4 July 2025 and visits gardens in North Goodwell Lea. Meet at either the Castle Gates or the corner of Foxes Row at 6.00 p.m. The walkabout will be followed by supper in the Village Hall at 8.00 p.m. prompt. A plan of the gardens we are visiting will be supplied.

Ticket prices are:

Members Walkabout and Dine	£16.00
Non-members Walkabout and Dine	£17.50
Members Walkabout only	Free
Non-members Walkabout only	£5.00

Tickets are available from Alison Young, Email [gfamyoung@gmail.com](mailto:gfamyoung@gmail.com)

### **DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **AUTUMN SHOW: SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2025**

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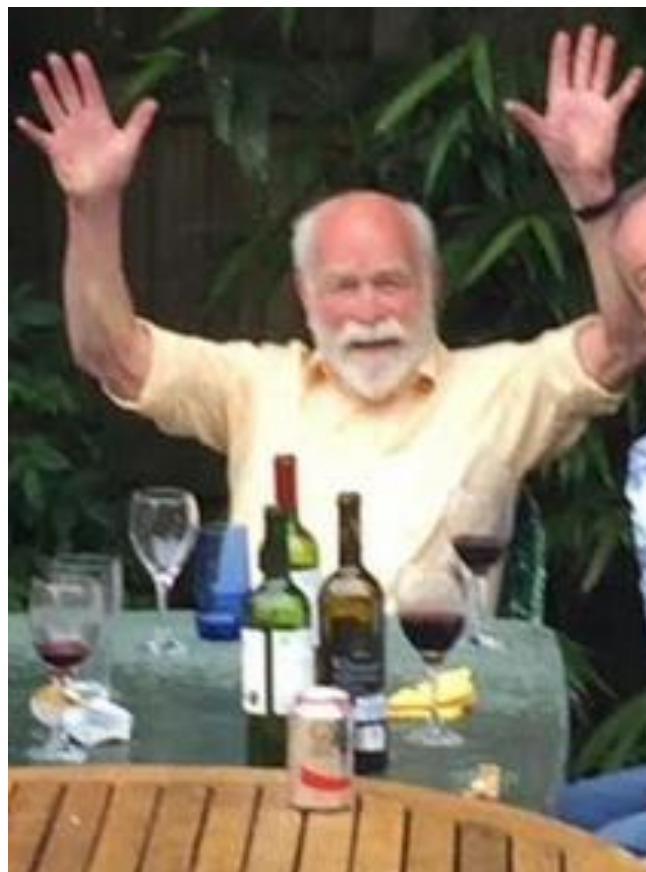


### **Sandra Ruskin rip**

*Robert would like to thank, and show his appreciation for, the many people of the Brancepeth community who showed such kindness following the passing of Sandra Ruskin, his wife of over 54 years, on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June. She was diagnosed with the rare disease PSP in October 2019 and spent nearly six years under its grip. She is now at peace."*

## Donald McDonald - rip

Donald McDonald was born in Sunderland on 27 June 1934. They subsequently moved to Boldon. He was educated at Bow school in Durham then went to George Watsons in Edinburgh. He left school for National Service joining the 1st Battalion Durham Light Infantry. He was billeted to Brancepeth then served in the Suez crisis. On his return, he joined Proctor and Gamble whilst also serving in the TA. With his sister he bought number 3 the village in 1958. He met Dorothy at his cousins wedding in 1959. He was best man and Dorothy was the bridesmaid as her sister was the bride. They eventually got together and married in 1963.



During Donald's many years in Brancepeth he served on many committees. The community association, the parish council, the snooker club and was a trustee of the Russell Trust alms houses. He worked for many years in sales in the building trade. His health suffered after a heart attack in 1992 and he gave up work. Donald and Dorothy moved from Brancepeth to Sedgfield in 2005 to be closer to family and found themselves a little bungalow. He became a regular fixture around the village of Sedgfield with his bedlington terrier Maddy Sadly Donald developed dementia after Covid and life changed forever. His gradual deterioration involved regular carers visits and respite in Willowdene care home near Fishburn. He eventually moved in permanently in March of this year. Donald died on 25th May aged 90.

(A tribute from Donald's daughter, Sally)

## ADULT CONFIRMATION & BAPTISM

I am offering opportunity to explore this in the Autumn, meeting as a small group for around six weekly sessions of learning, laughing, and – of course, - eating together as we consider what this elusive thing, 'Faith' looks like. What did Jesus teach, and do for us? What can we personally believe in, and what does the Church believe in on our behalf?

More information will be in the next newsletter, and do contact me if you are interested: you are not committing to anything by attending, just have fun, and see where it might lead you.

Alison Hobbs [alison@brancepethcastle.uk](mailto:alison@brancepethcastle.uk) or catch me for a conversation.

## Speech and drama lessons (for all ages)

LAMDA (The London Academy for Music and Dramatic Art) offer graded exams in 'Speaking Verse and Prose' and 'Acting'. However, examination need not be the goal. Simply enjoy exploring and learning how to effectively share a poem, an extract from a novel, or a piece of dramatic text with others.

For further information, contact Martin Peacock (BA PhD Drama)

07503242074 or at [missmhpea@gmail.com](mailto:missmhpea@gmail.com)

## Voluntary Service

If any young person would like to volunteer at any events in the village and earn a certificate - as Emile Basu did last year for helping in the tea room - please let Josie Armstrong know. A useful addition to any CV !!'



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## Cat mobile hairdressing

Formerly of Toni & Guy  
Cutting and styling only.

Cut £25

Wet cut £18

Blow-dry £16

Contact Cat on 07974279869

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# **BRANCEPETH ARCHIVE AND HISTORY GROUP**

## **FORTHCOMING SUMMER EVENTS**

**SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.**

**in the Archive Room in Brancepeth Castle, a small exhibition marking the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VJ (Victory over Japan) Day.**

Germany may have surrendered on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945, so ending the War in Europe, but it was not until 15<sup>th</sup> August that year that the Japanese finally surrendered and World War II was over.

The display tells the story of “The Forgotten War” fought in the Far East which began when the Empire of Japan made a surprise military strike on the United States Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbour on December 7<sup>th</sup> 1941. Maps, newspapers of the period, photos and memories of men who served there enable us to glimpse what it must have been like to fight in that war zone.

**If you are visiting the Classic Car Rally taking place that day near the Church and Castle, take the opportunity to see this display as well and remember those who lost their health and/or lives serving this brutal conflict.**

### **“GOING TO THE MATCH”**

**SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 12noon – 4pm in Brancepeth Castle**

**A Celebration of Amateur and Junior Football over the decades**

As a new season beckons this is an opportunity to look back at the history of the game in this part of County Durham – from Wembley winners to junior football in the mining villages. These two afternoons have been organised by the Brancepeth Archive in collaboration with the Durham Amateur Football Trust.

### **So what do we have?**

The Brancepeth Archive has been donated a unique collection of football programmes, all of which relate to clubs from our part of the world. Ranging from Wembley finals to intense local derbies. Bishop Auckland, Crook, West Auckland and Willington all figure but so do other local Northern League sides such as Spennymoor United and Tow Law. This is your chance to come to the Archive Room in the castle and browse the collection. Were you there? Was a relative one of the players named? Do you remember any of the firms who advertised in the programme?

**On display in the Archive Room until after our open morning on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 9am-1pm. Next open morning 5<sup>th</sup> July.**

Currently the display case in the Archive Room contains two of the rarest items in our collection. In 1613 Robert Kerr became the new owner of Brancepeth Castle and Estate. Straightaway he commissioned a survey and we have an original copy. The second item is a sales catalogue from 1773 when the estate was put up for sale by the Earl of Fauconberg

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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 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 at 11:00  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at 11:00  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025 at 11:00



*Note, no service on 2 September.*

*For more information, please email [alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk](mailto:alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk)*

*Rev Alison, St Brandon's Church*

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## PRAYER SPACE, JULY

July is a transition month: the end of the academic year; the longest day over, and day length imperceptibly drawing in; plants stand tall and full but little in flower.

*Pray for all who are tired; working towards deadlines and finish points; staff and pupils.*

July is a waiting month: the crop is unseen & uncertain; exam results unknown ...

*Pray for those waiting on decisions & outcomes that will affect their next steps and lives.*

July anticipates summer holidays: time to pause, look at life and know God is in the uncertainties of change, in control where we are not.

*Pray for rest in the Lord, "Come to me, all who are heavy burdened, and I will give you rest". Relief from anxiety for those in uncomfortable between times. Hope for those who can find no rest.*

Dear friends,

As you will know, the liturgical or Church year is divided into several seasons. It begins with **Advent**, which looks forward to **Christmas**. The visit of the wise men to Jesus is remembered at **Epiphany**, after which there is a period of 'ordinary time'. The six weeks of **Lent** prepare us for **Easter**, which celebrates Jesus's resurrection, leading forward to his **Ascension** and the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church at **Pentecost**. 'Ordinary time' then resumes until the end of the year.

So, most of the Church year – 33 or 34 weeks – is in 'ordinary time'. The name itself comes from 'ordinal' or counting. So, we have just started counting 'Sundays after Trinity', and we will now count down (or rather up) to Advent. (Except that we have 'Sundays before Advent' and 'Christ the King' as well as 'All Saints' Sunday' and 'Remembrance Sunday'. Oh, and Harvest. But these are all still technically in 'ordinary time'.)

As well as this meaning of 'ordinary', it is perhaps helpful to think of it in its more usual sense. So, ordinary as the opposite of extraordinary, which might be applied to the other seasons of the Church year. And ordinary as commonplace, normal, regular, usual, everyday.

In other words, this is the time in the Church year when we can just get on with being ourselves, and being ordinary Church. And, while the 'extraordinary' seasons provide particular focal points, perhaps ordinary time allows us the space to explore other aspects of life and faith.

The summer period of ordinary time, in particular, can give us space for the outdoors, for holidays and the opportunity perhaps to visit places that speak to our faith. Or time for a pilgrimage or retreat – time given over more specifically to God. And any or all of this may be time not just for recreation but for re-creation.

So-called 'ordinary time', then, is hardly boring, but a real opportunity for blessing and growth.

May it be so for all of us.

Geoff Moore



## St Brandon's May 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 6th July</b>	<b>3rd Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	
Readings	First	Jean Hodgson	Galatians 6:1-16
	Gospel	Mike Higton	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
	Psalm		66:1-8
Intercessions		Hester Higton	
<b>Sun 13<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>4th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	
Readings	First	Timothy Elliott	Deuteronomy 30:9-14
	Gospel	Colin Waterman	Luke 10:25-37
	Psalm		25:1-10
Intercessions		James Morgan	
<b>*Sun 20<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>5th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	
Readings	First	Helen Elliott	Genesis 18:1-10a
	Gospel	Linda Waterman	Luke 10:38-end
	Psalm		15
Intercessions		Martin Peacock	
<b>Sun 27<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>6th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	
Readings	First	Alison Moore	Genesis 18:20-32
	Gospel	Sue Morgan	Luke 11:1-13
	Psalm		138

Intercessions		Geoff Moore	
<b>*Sun 3 August</b>	<b>7th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	
Readings	First	Edward Staines	Ecclesiastes 1:2,12-14;2:18-23
	Gospel	Martin Peacock	Luke 12:13-21
	Psalm		49:1-12
Intercessions		Wilfred Foxe	
<b>Sun 10 August</b>	<b>8th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	
Readings	First	Hester /Tom Higton	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
	Gospel	Janette Foxe	Luke 12:32-40
	Psalm		33:12-22
Intercessions		Alison Moore	
<b>*Sun 17 August</b>	<b>9th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	
Readings	First	Wilfred Foxe	Hebrews 11:29-12:2
	Gospel	Kenneth Howe	Luke 12:49-56
	Psalm		82
Intercessions		Martin Peacock	
<b>Sun 24 August</b>	<b>10th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	
Readings	First	Carys Funnell	Hebrews 12:18-29
	Gospel	Steve Hodgson	Luke 13:10-17
	Psalm		103:1-8
Intercessions		Alison Hobbs	

<b>*Sun 31 August</b>	<b>11th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>	
Readings	First	Jane Stout	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
	Gospel	Judith Minto	Luke 14:1, 7-14
	Psalm		112
Intercessions		Edward Staines	

### **Sidespersons**

July 6<sup>th</sup> Hanna Pokhylko & Vira Melenets  
 July 13<sup>th</sup> Jean Hodgson & Pauline Caygill  
 July 20<sup>th</sup> Sue Morgan & Pat Sharples  
 July 27<sup>th</sup> Jane Stout & Josie Armstrong

Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> Diane & Gordon Cassap  
 Aug 10<sup>th</sup> Steve Hodgson & Peter Bailey  
 Aug 17<sup>th</sup> Bonny Bainbridge & Annette Johnson  
 Aug 24<sup>th</sup> Hanna Pokhylko & Vira Melenets  
 Aug 31<sup>st</sup> Jane Stout & Pat Sharples  
 Sept 7<sup>th</sup> Josie Armstrong & Peter Bailey

### **Flowers**

Christine Dodd  
 Gerry Jennings  
 Gerry Jennings  
 Anne Elliott  
  
 Hillary Moss  
 Diane Coles  
 Sheena Murray  
 Lynne Hastie  
 Gerry Jennings  
 Annette Johnson

### **Coffee**

July 6<sup>th</sup> Diane Coles  
 July 13<sup>th</sup> Sue Morgan  
 July 20<sup>th</sup> Jeanette Metcalfe  
 July 27<sup>th</sup> Alison Moore

Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> Catrin Morgan  
 Aug 10<sup>th</sup> Jane Stout  
 Aug 17<sup>th</sup> Geraldine Jennings  
 Aug 24<sup>th</sup> Jean Hodgson  
 Aug 31<sup>st</sup> Annette Johnson  
 Sept 7<sup>th</sup> Diane Coles

### **Tech Team**

Geoff & Alison  
  
 Hester & Mike

### **Church Cleaning**

*July – Team C*

Carole Beeby, Vickie Jackson, Sarah Nicholson, Janette Foxe



*August – Team A*

Alison Moore, Anne Elliott, Pat Sharples, Jane Stout

*Sept – Team B*

Sue Morgan, Hillary Moss, Annette Johnson, Diane Cassap

### **Churchyard Mowing Rota**

23rd June - 6th July	Stephen Hodgson / Geoff Harrison
7 <sup>th</sup> July - 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Barry Dickinson / Michael Stephenson
21 <sup>st</sup> July - 3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Tom Hobbs / Richard Hobbs
4 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> August	Edward Staines / Martin Peacock
18 <sup>th</sup> - 31 <sup>st</sup> August	David Jackson / David Armstrong
1 <sup>st</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> September	James Dalton / Edward Staines

### **Prayer Space August 2025**

A blessing prayer for August, the summer month, the holiday month. . .

**As summer leaves grow and cover the trees,  
so may the canopy of God's love shelter us.  
As summer sunshine ripens the grain in the field,  
so may the fruit of God's Spirit grow in us.  
As summer heralds a medley of colour and taste,  
so may we know joy in the diversity of God's goodness,  
now and always. Amen**

(by Simon Taylor)

?

# ***Quiz Night***

## ***Village Hall***

?

***Friday 26th September***

***7.15pm***

***Teams 2 - 8***

?

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

?

Children welcome if they can entertain themselves

***Pie and Pea Supper (including Vegetarian) bring your own drinks***

**£8**

**BCA Members**

**£10**

**Non Members**

**Children £5 pizza & ice cream**

**Tickets from Josie Armstrong [jo.arm@me.com](mailto:jo.arm@me.com)**

**0788 22 33 118**

**Proceeds to Brancepeth Community Association**

# Brancepeth Youth Club

July 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.*

Our last meeting before the summer break is on 13 July and will be the usual annual BBQ in the Castle grounds. We'll be in touch by email about details for this, but if you're not on the email list and would like to come please contact us to let us know.

## Leaders

Geoff Moore	07854 696664	<a href="mailto:durmoores@btinternet.com">durmoores@btinternet.com</a>
Martin Peacock	07503 242074	



Come and join the fun with crafts and stories from the bible.  
We get together after the first hymn and rejoin the service for  
Communion.

The Sunday school team will take a short break over the summer  
holidays. The last week before the summer holidays will be Sunday  
20th July and we will be back on Sunday 7th September.

\*\*\*\*\*

OUR NEXT



IS ON

SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

3PM - 5PM

COME AND JOIN THE FUN WITH

story\*\*songs\*\*news\*\*fun\*\*crafts\*\*tea

# 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)





## Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2.00pm ...Golf Club

*Tam Mayor, catchment manager for the River Wear's Trust will be coming to talk to us about their volunteers and their work on our local rivers.*

*We will also hope to have the Autumn programme ready for then.*

*Anyone is welcome as usual...£4.50 members / £6.50 others*

- Next meeting will be Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> September when an additional members' fee of £10 will be due to cover speakers' costs.*
  - Because there is no meeting in August it has been suggested that members and friends might like to meet socially on Mondays at the Golf Club throughout the summer as and when they are able.*
- .....



## Wednesday Coffee Morning

10:30-11:30am

Village Hall

2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Rosemary and James	6 <sup>th</sup> August	Vivienne and Janiece
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Martyn & Christine	13 <sup>th</sup> August	Martyn and Christine
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Margot & Val	20 <sup>th</sup> August	Margot and Val
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Vivienne & Janiece	27 <sup>th</sup> August	Rosemary and James
30 <sup>th</sup> July	Rosemary & or James Catherine		

3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. Vivienne and Janiece

*(Please contact Martyn or Christine - 0191 378 9297 –*

*If you need to swap your rota date. Thank you)*

### **Book Club**

Contrary to the information in the June newsletter, our next meeting will be on Friday 11th July at 7.30pm at the home of Val Gibbons, 3 The Forge. We will be looking at, 'The Deception of Harriet Fleet', by Helen Scarlett.

In September we will meet at the home of Suzanne Bradley, 38 Albert Street, Durham. DH1 4RJ. On that occasion we will be reading, 'The Silent Women', by Avril Joy.

All welcome Val Gibbons.

# Durham Singers Concert Saturday 5th July, 7.30pm

## Only In Sleep

*The Durham Singers present a concert exploring composers' responses to the idea of sleep. The programme features works ranging from Lucy Walker's beautiful setting of the office of Compline to Parry's Songs of Farewell.*

*We hope you will come along to enjoy this poignant and peaceful musical landscape at twilight.*

*Tickets from [www.ticket-source.co.uk](http://www.ticket-source.co.uk) or choir members.*

A

CHOIR! A VOICE!

Ladies Choir

presents

## 'Til There Was You

The ladies, Pamela Pritchard (Musical Director/pianist), and guest Tony Nolan (Scottish Piper) would love you to join them for an evening of moving, toe tapping and uplifting music!

Our programme includes a veritable cornucopia of choral and solo favourites from the world of classical/contemporary, vintage pop, traditional, musical theatre and jazz plus a special VE Day tribute.

We are really looking forward to our concert again this year and hope to see you there!

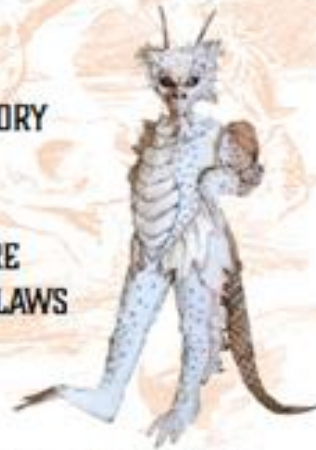
Tickets: £11 (under 18 - £8)

# DRAGONS QUEST

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

BRANCEPETH CASTLE  
SATURDAY 16TH AUGUST 2025

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



FREE PARKING • CAFÉ AVAILABLE • SERVICE DOGS ONLY

QUANTUM THEATRE & FREDERICK WARNE & CO  
PROUDLY PRESENT



## THE TALE OF JEMIMA PUDDLE-DUCK



BY BEATRIX POTTER

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY  
MICHAEL WHITMORE

WWW.PETERRABBIT.COM

BRANCEPETH CASTLE

Brancepeth, Durham DH17 8DE

Wednesday 20th August - 3pm

Booking: [brancepethcastle.uk/book](https://brancepethcastle.uk/book)

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Adult £16  
Child (6-15) £12  
Child (under 5) Free  
Family (2A+2C) £40  
Groups (2A+10C) £110



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

Jul/Aug Mondays - Snooker, 7.30pm, Village Hall  
Jul/Aug Mondays - Yoga, 7.30pm, Village Hall  
Jul/Aug Monday - Knit and Natter, 7th, 21st July, 4th & 18th Aug, Village Hall, 2-4pm.  
Jul/Aug Tuesdays - Art Group, 7.00 – 9.00pm, Village Hall  
Jul/Aug Wednesdays - Tai Chi 9.30 -10.30, Village Hall  
Jul/Aug Wednesdays - Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall, 10.30-11.30am  
Jul/Aug Thursdays - Indoor Bowls, 10.00-12.00, Village Hall  
Jul/Aug Thursdays - Badminton, 7.30pm, Village Hall  
Jul/Aug Sundays - Capoeira Classes, 10.00 – 11.30am, Village Hall  
July Sunday - Youth Club, BBQ 13th July, 6.00pm -8.00pm, Village Hall  
1st Saturday each month - Archive Room in Castle open between 9.00am – 1.00pm

July	4th	Fri	Garden Walkabout, 6.00pm, Castle Gates
July	5th	Sat	Durham Singers Concert, 7.30pm, Church
July	11th	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, 3 The Forge
July	18th	Fri	A Choir, A Voice, Ladies Choir, 7.30pm, Church
July	21st	Mon	Parish Council, 7.30pm, Village Hall.
July	21st	Mon	Ladies Group, 2.00pm, Golf Club
July	25th-27th	Fri-Sun	Craft Fair, Brancepeth Castle
Aug	9th	Sat	Vintage & Classic Sports Car Day, Brancepeth Village
Aug	9th	Sat	Archive & Hist. Group, VJ Day 80th Anniv. Exhib. 9.00-5.00 Castle
Aug	16th	Sat	Dragon Quest, all day, Brancepeth Castle
Aug	20th	Wed	Jemima Puddle Duck Theatre Production, 3.00pm, Br. Castle
Aug	17th & 24th	Sun	Archive & Hist. Group, Going to the Match Exhib. 12-4.00 Castle
Sept	5th	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, 38 Albert Street, Durham. DH1 4RJ
Sept	13th	Sat	Garden Club Autumn Show
Sept	14th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm -5.00pm
Sept	15th	Mon	Ladies Group, 2.00pm, Golf Club
Sept	26th	Fri	Quiz Night, 7.15pm, Village Hall

## **Photos**

**Front cover** – ©- Nick Brooker, original painting, Brancepeth Church Gateway

**Inside front cover** – ©- Josie Armstrong, Messy Church tub planting and Archive Group Exhibit

**Inside back cover** – ©- A Choir A Voice Poster

**Back cover** – ©– Josie Armstrong, Vintage and Classic Sports Car Day Advertisement

***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)***

***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	Sue Morgan, Richard Hobbs, Liz Burdess
& Leisure Gardeners' Club	<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	Helen Todman (Chair) <a href="mailto:helentodman@googlemail.com">helentodman@googlemail.com</a> or Secretary, Martin Welsh <a href="mailto:m.welsh@reflex-technical.com">m.welsh@reflex-technical.com</a>
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)  
Philip Davison, email: [philipdavison000@btinternet.com](mailto:philipdavison000@btinternet.com)  
Catherine Stevenson: [catherine@jamsey.net](mailto:catherine@jamsey.net)  
Julie Daneshyer: [jh.daneshyer@hotmail.com](mailto:jh.daneshyer@hotmail.com)  
Martin Welsh: [m.welsh@reflex-technical.com](mailto:m.welsh@reflex-technical.com)

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

**County Councillors: Cathy Hunt**  
**Emma Hunt**

# A CHOIR! A VOICE!

## Ladies Choir

presents

# 'TILL THERE WAS YOU

*An evening of favourites!*

to include music from the world of  
contemporary classical, traditional,  
vintage pop and musical theatre.

Plus a special VE Day tribute

**Guest: TONY NOLAN - PIPER**

**Musical Director: PAMELA PRITCHARD**

**FRIDAY 18th JULY at 7.30pm**  
**(doors open 7pm)**

**St Brandon's Church, Brancepeth,**  
**Durham DH7 8DF**

(Plenty of parking at the church)

**Tickets at the door- £11**  
**(under 18 years £8)**

For more information contact:

Musical Director PAMELA PRITCHARD 07885615030

or email [pamelpritch@aol.com](mailto:pamelpritch@aol.com)



# ***Vintage & Classic Sports Car Day***

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2025, 10am - 4pm**

**Brancepeth Village**

**Admission: £5 Adults/£13 Family Ticket**



**Tea Room, Brass Band, Choirs,  
Table-Top Sale, Plants, and  
Family Fun!**

Brancepeth Archives open at Brancepeth Castle

Kindly sponsored by Durham:

Number  
**Stoneacre**  
Motor Group

Venue courtesy of Brancepeth Castle & Castle Estates (Brancepeth) Ltd



Proceeds to St Cuthbert's Hospice and St Brandon's  
Brancepeth Parish Church

St Cuthbert's Hospice 