

Brancepeth Parish Newsletter



Dr Arnab Basu, High Sheriff of Durham

May 2026

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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Wednesday Coffee Morning

Additional volunteers are greatly needed to help keep the much-loved weekly coffee morning running. Could you spare a little time — perhaps once every 4 to 6 weeks — to join our welcoming team rota? **What's involved:**

- Helping with set-up and serving tea and coffee
- Chatting with visitors and creating a warm, friendly atmosphere
- If possible, bringing home-baked or shop-bought treats (cakes, scones, or biscuits)

Our coffee morning has been a valued part of village life for many years, offering a space for people to meet, chat, and connect. The current team does a wonderful job, but are getting stretched, a few extra hands to help keep this special community event going would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Martyn or Christine on 0191 378 9279 / martynjones553@gmail.com

Snooker Group, Monday evenings, Village Hall

...Seeking for New Players



Looking for an enjoyable and social way to enjoy snooker? One of the longest-standing groups of the BCA meets every **Monday evening from 6:30–9:30 pm** and would be thrilled to welcome **new players of all levels**. Whether you're a seasoned cueist or just curious to try something new, you'll find a warm and friendly atmosphere here. For more information, please contact **David Linton 07761 134316** or **Jo Dalton** brancepethca@gmail.com

Parochial Church Council

Priest in Charge	currently in vacancy
Associate Minister	Rev'd. Alison Hobbs (0191 3789670) alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk
Church Wardens:	Mike Higton (0191 5974675) Carol Beeby (07592 975002)
Secretary	Colin Waterman (07713637128) colinwaterman069@gmail.com)
Treasurer	Vickie Jackson (0191 3783581) treasr@stbrandon.org.uk
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 (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 events@stbrandon.org.uk .
Electoral Roll Officer	Jean Hodgson (jean.hodgson33@gmail.com)
Flower Guild	Lynne Hastie (0191 3781871)
Churchyard	Edward Staines (0191 3902304 or 07729855076)
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	www.stbrandon.org.uk

Newsletter entries no later than May 18th please.

Please send to Sue Morgan – sueatpeppermires@gmail.com

If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter, please contact Hester Higton on hesterhigton@phoncoop.coop.

Our congratulations to Dr Arnab Basu who has lived in the village for several years and will be well known to many.

County Durham business leader installed as High Sheriff

Dr Arnab Basu MBE has been installed as the High Sheriff of the County Palatine of Durham for the 2026/7 civic year.

Dr Basu's appointment follows decades of civic and community contributions in County Durham and across the North East in sport, economic development, innovation, health and culture. In 2014, he was awarded an MBE for services to regional development and international trade. He has served as a Deputy Lieutenant of County Durham since 2020 and is a patron of the St Margaret's Centre – an activity and training hub for adults in County Durham who need support with their mental wellbeing.

He is Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Physics, Fellow of the Institute of Directors and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

The office of High Sheriff is the oldest secular role under the Crown. Sheriffs once served as the monarch's chief representatives, responsible for maintaining law and order, collecting taxes and overseeing local justice. Though their responsibilities have evolved over centuries, today's High Sheriffs continue to play a vital civic role supporting the judiciary, celebrating voluntary service, and strengthening community engagement.

Dr Basu who was born in Kolkata, has lived in County Durham for around 30 years. Having earned his PhD in Physics from Durham University and an undergraduate degree in engineering from Northumbria University, he continues to reside in the county with his wife Beatrijs and two sons, Timon and Emile.

Over three decades, Dr Basu has become a County Durham success story, building a global career while remaining connected to his roots. He co-founded Kromek Group in 2003 and continues to lead it as CEO. Under his leadership, the company, listed on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange, has grown into an industry leader in radiation detection, CBRN defence, and advanced imaging technologies in healthcare.

His priorities for the shrieval year ahead are employability, mental health and opportunities for young people from disadvantaged communities and the important role of sport and culture. He will work closely with Point North, a foundation supporting people across County Durham, the Tees Valley and the wider North East including celebrating success at the annual High Sheriff Youth Awards in February 2027.

Dr Basu said: “I am deeply honoured to be appointed High Sheriff of County Durham. Having lived and worked here for three decades, the county has shaped both my personal and professional life, and it is a privilege to serve a community that means so much to me. “Becoming High Sheriff of Durham is a moment of great pride for my family and me. It reflects the openness and diversity of this remarkable county, and I hope it inspires others from all backgrounds to contribute to public life.

“I look forward to supporting the judiciary, and recognising the outstanding work of volunteers and organisations across our communities, and championing the spirit and resilience that define County Durham.”

His installation as High Sheriff took place at Durham Crown Court.

CONTACT: JOSH MASON 01325 363436

About the Office of High Sheriff

The Office of High Sheriff is the oldest secular role under the Crown, with origins stretching back over 1,000 years. Emerging from the Anglo-Saxon system of local governance, sheriffs were originally the monarch’s chief representatives in each shire, responsible for maintaining law and order, collecting taxes, administering justice, and raising local militia when required. Their authority grew under the Normans before being gradually reshaped through later reforms, including the Sheriffs Act 1887, which defined the modern annual appointment and clarified the responsibilities of the role.

Today, High Sheriffs serve as key civic figures supporting the judiciary, championing voluntary and community organisations, and encouraging social cohesion across their counties. Although primarily ceremonial, the role remains an important pillar of public life – recognising service, celebrating community achievements and strengthening connections between citizens, public bodies, and the Crown.

County Durham’s shrievalty has a distinctive history shaped by the county’s long-standing status as a Prince-Bishopric. For centuries, the Bishop of Durham exercised powers usually reserved for the monarch – including appointing sheriffs, raising armies and administering local justice – giving the role of Sheriff in Durham a unique place within England’s constitutional history.

May Beautiful Brancepeth Update



We hope you are enjoying the wonderful display of daffodils throughout the village as well as the planters filled with daffodils, tulips and muscari.

Dates for your diary

- **Saturday 9th May**

The next task of the group is repainting the metal railings around the Village Hall garden. We plan to undertake this task on Saturday 9th May from 9.30am. If you can spare an hour to help out please just come to the Village Hall, all paint and brushes will be provided.

- **Saturday 13th June**

Ahead of the village being involved in the National Garden Scheme on Saturday 20th June, where a few of our residents kindly open their gardens to the public, we are planning another 'Village Tidy Up' morning on Saturday 13th June. We will meet at 9.30am at the Village Hall. There is a job for everyone!

We are specifically looking for 3 volunteers to repaint our red Brancepeth benches, all paint and brushes can be provided.

If you are willing to repaint a bench please get in touch with Karen Davison
k.davison1960@hotmail.com

We need as many volunteers as possible so please consider coming along, together we can keep our village looking beautiful.

Book Club

On Friday 5th June we will meet at Suzanne Bradley's home, 38 Albert Street, Durham. DH1 4RJ, at 7.30 p.m. The poll to choose a book will be completed in time for further choices to be made at the meeting on April 24th.

All welcome, lifts can be offered.

Val Gibbons

From the Churchwarden

Last October, a team from the Durham Wildlife Trust visited St Brandon's to install eight nesting boxes for swifts in the church tower. The boxes were installed behind one of the louvred windows of the bell chamber, the part of the tower just below the roof.

The UK's swift population has been in worrying decline for some time, partly because there are far fewer of the insects which are the birds' main food, but also because it is becoming harder and harder for them to find safe and accessible nesting places. The installation of the boxes in St Brandon's was the first part of a larger project, which will see boxes installed in church towers across the north of the county.

It may be a while before the boxes find occupants. Swifts mate for life, and like to return to the same nesting site year after year, so our new boxes will either be for pairs that have been displaced from elsewhere, or for pairs breeding for the first time. It is possible that some swifts will happen across the new boxes by chance, but the Trust have also installed a speaker that will play intermittent swift calls in the summer, a trick that has been shown to increase significantly the chances of the boxes being found.



The speaker will be switched on for the first time in the next few weeks, but it may still be a while before any swifts move in: young birds on the lookout for a site will often scout it out a year before they need it, and move in only when they are ready. We hope, though, that we might see swifts flying in and out of the tower louvres within a year or two.

The Parochial Church Council approved the installation of the swift boxes last summer. We don't think of the church building as a resource only for the congregation who gather for worship on Sundays. It is used for baptisms, weddings and funerals; it is used for village gatherings and events; it is used for concerts and quiet days; it is open every day for anyone who wants to pop in – and we know that people come not just from the village, but from across the county, across the country, and around the world. Our hope is that the church will be a welcoming, peaceful, restorative space for all kinds of visitors, and it will be entirely fitting if that soon includes several families of swifts, finding refuge in the midst of their lives' challenges.

Best wishes,
Mike Higton

St Brandon's May 2026 – 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>*

*Sun 3rd May	5th Sunday of Easter	Parish Eucharist	
Readings	First	Janette Foxe	Acts 7:55-end
	Gospel	Kenneth Howe	John 14:1-14
	Psalm		31:1-5, 15-16
Intercessions		Hester Higton	
Sun 10th May	6th Sunday of Easter	Parish Eucharist	
Readings	First	Steve Hodgson	Acts 17:22-31
	Gospel	Judith Minto	John 14:15-21
	Psalm		66:7-end
Intercessions		Richard Fenwick	
*Sun 17th May	7th Sunday of Easter	Morning Worship	
Readings	First	Sue Morgan	Acts 1:6-14
	Gospel	Jean Hodgson	John 17:1-11
	Psalm		68:1-10, 32-end
Intercessions		Geoff Moore	
Sun 24th May	Pentecost	Parish Eucharist	
Readings	First	Helen Elliot	Acts 2:1-21
	Gospel	Colin Waterman	John 20:19-23
	Psalm		104:26-end
Intercessions		Alison Hobbs	
*Sun 31st May	Trinity Sunday	Parish Eucharist	
Readings	First	Linda Waterman	Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-end
	Gospel	Alison Moore	Matthew 28:16-end
	Psalm		8
Intercessions		Colin Waterman	

Sun 7th June	1st Sunday after Trinity	Parish Eucharist	
Readings	First	Gillian Smellie	Hosea 5:15-6:6
	Gospel	Timothy Elliot	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
	Psalm		50:7-15
Intercessions		Edward Staines	

Sidespersons

May 3rd Pat Sharples & Richard Fenwick
 May 10th Peter Bailey & Josie Armstrong
 May 17th Vera Melenets & Hanna Pokhylo
 May 24th Diane & Gordon Cassap
 May 31st Jean & Steve Hodgson
 Jun 7th Annette Johnson & Pat Sharples

Flowers

Diane Coles
 Sandra Gilbert
 Lynne Hastie
 Gerry Jennings
 Hillary Moss
 Annette Johnson

Church Cleaning

May – Team A

Alison Moore, Anne Elliott, Pat Sharples, Jane Stout

June – Team B

Sue Morgan, Annette Johnson, Hillary Moss, Diane Cassop

Coffee

May 3rd Jean Hodgson
 May 10th Sue Morgan
 May 17th Diane Coles
 May 24th Jeanette Metcalfe
 May 31st Alison Moore
 Jun 7th Annette Johnson

Tech Team

Peter
 Geoff & Alison
 Hester & Mike

Churchyard Mowing Rota 2026

27th April - 9th May David Jackson, David Armstrong
 10th - 23rd May Stephen Hodgson, Geoff Harrison
 24th May - 6th June Barry Dickinson, Michael Stephenson

Please note

The church will be closed on 5th May from 4:15 to 5:30pm for a private group tour.

THANK YOU FROM THE FLOWER GUILD

Thank you very much to everyone who generously donated towards the cost of the Easter flowers. We are largely dependent on these donations to make the church look beautiful over the Easter period and we appreciate your help in achieving that. We look forward to your continued support in the future.

St Brandon's Day

St Brandon's Day is in May, and this year we are marking it on **Sunday 17th May**. This is good timing as it follows shortly after our APCM (the church version of an AGM), and is just a few weeks before our new priest in charge arrives.

The APCM is to do with good governance. It's the annual opportunity to note and celebrate all that has been going on in the church over the last calendar year, to confirm publicly that our governance is in order, and to give evidence that we comply with the regulations of the Church of England and of the Charity Commissioners.

St Brandon's Day offers a different kind of opportunity. Here we can ask the questions in a different way. St Brandon was the great traveller – are we on the move, as he was, or are we staying in the same place? How do we see ourselves as church? What is God up to? Where might God be leading us in the years ahead? Where might God be sending us? Where the APCM has to focus on the *past* year, St Brandon's Day can look at our hopes and dreams for the *coming* years.

St Brandon's Day Sunday will use the same format as the APCM Sunday. Morning Worship (ie without communion) will be followed by a half hour gathering. Here we will have the opportunity to think, to listen and to share our hopes for the church's future.

This is an event for everyone, for all of us. Although people have different responsibilities, there are no 'us and them' in the church! It belongs to us all, and we can all contribute by being there if we possibly can.

The opportunity for a soup, sandwich and sweet lunch that day – see elsewhere in the Newsletter - is a bonus!

SOUP

SANDWICH &

SWEET LUNCH

ALL WELCOME

**Sunday 17th May
2026**

**from 12.00 midday
in St Brandons
Church**

in aid of the Church

£10



Contact - Diane Coles 07754958341
(diane.coles@icloud.com) or list in
Church for signing up to event

Bulb Appeal



St Brandon's needs your help! If you have been into church recently, you may have noticed problems with our lighting: many of our ceiling-level bulbs have blown, and the switching system is broken. We couldn't dim the lights at the carol service; we can't turn on the corona above the altar, and there are other issues too.

It turns out that repairs are going to cost more than £5,000. And, as with all aspects of the upkeep of St Brandon's, the only money we have to spend is the money we raise ourselves.

We are entirely reliant upon local generosity.

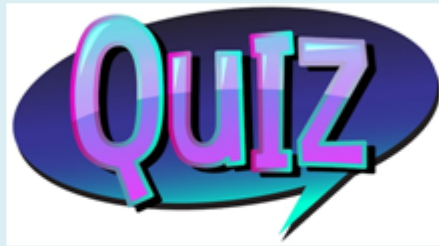
We need working lights to keep St Brandon's open - not just for regular services, but for festivals, for weddings and funerals, and for concerts and village events.

If you feel able to help, **£30 will cover the cost of replacing one bulb** (that's the cost of a single bulb, plus a portion of the associated labour and equipment costs). £60 will cover two; £150 five...

You can donate online by going to <https://givealittle.co/c/stbrandonslighting>, or you can find out about other ways to donate at <https://stbrandon.org.uk/give/>

If you want more information about the project, please contact Mike Higton on mike.higton@durham.ac.uk

Quiz Night Village Hall



Friday 15th May 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)

£10 BCA Members

£12 Non Members

Children £5 pizza & ice cream

Tickets from

Karen Stoddart karistod@icloud.com

07595285587

All Proceeds to Brancepeth Community Association

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.

Wednesday 6th & 20th May 2026 at 12:00

Wednesday 3rd & 24th June 2026 at 12:00



For more information, please email

alison@brancepethcastle.org.uk

Rev Alison, St Brandon's Church

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

It has been a relatively quiet month for PC business, so this newsletter piece is mainly devoted to highlighting the issue of PC Membership.

We note with regret the decision of Councillor Catherine Stevenson to step down from her role on the PC. Catherine has been a great colleague and contributed much to the running of the parish. Her most notable work has probably been in helping to run the Beautiful Brancepeth working group and organising initiatives like the village tidy ups with volunteers from the Garden Club and beyond. She has also provided excellent advice on many of the communications that we have produced regarding the Neighbourhood Plan and in liaising with the County Council over the state of the village.

Catherine's departure means that we now have another vacancy on the PC, so we invite you to read the notice below!



VACANCIES FOR BRANCEPETH PARISH

COUNCILLORS COUNCIL

Are you passionate about your community? Do you want to help make a long-lasting change? Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it? If this is you, then we need people from all backgrounds and experiences to put themselves forward. There are two opportunities for parishioners to become co-opted members of the PC to boost our numbers from five to seven. We are a friendly team who try to do our best to ensure that Brancepeth remains a lovely place to live; and we'd welcome you on board at our monthly meetings. The workload is not too onerous; and if you'd like to know more, then please contact our Clerk or any of the current PC members. After all, local councils can only be as helpful, connected and energetic as the people who contribute to running them!

Date of next Parish Council meeting:

Our next meeting is scheduled to take place on **Monday 18th May 2026** 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

Neill Hastie 1943-2026

Neill died on Sunday 22 March, aged 83. He had lived in the village since 1978 and was a big part of village life. He served on the Parish Council for many years and was a trustee of the Russell Trust almshouses. Neill lived a very full life. Over the years he was often to be seen variously building his kit cars on the drive, riding his horse, flying his Harris hawk, playing with his beloved children and grandchildren and walking his daughter Helen's dog, Baxter the labradoodle.



Neill was born in Jesmond, in Fernwood House maternity hospital that later became the Greggs head office. He grew up in Chester-le-Street and went to school at Bow and then Durham School. He left school at 15 to pursue his working life in the bakery industry, on the basis that bakeries are warmer and smell nicer than his dad's butchers shop in Birtley.

After leaving bakery college in Leeds, Neill worked in a bakery in Switzerland (not daunted by his initial inability to speak Swiss German) and later as a bakery engineer in Peterborough, where he met Lynne in 1966 and founded a waterski club. He moved to Paris to work at Gervais Danone for three years - again, not put off by his inability to speak French - before relocating to his native North East to join Greggs, where he spent over 30 years as Group Technical Director. He chose to live in Brancepeth, specifically opposite the cricket field, where he remembered playing cricket as a boy.

The Brancepeth benches he built around the village are just a small part of his legacy and lots of memories he has left us.

Neill generously donated his body to medical science, and didn't want a funeral or gathering. Lynne and the family are very grateful for all of the cards, flowers and support. Before he died, his daughter Claire had already signed up to do an Alzheimer's Society fundraising walk. Any donations to this very worthy cause in Neill's memory would be very gratefully received.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/clair-hastie-3>



Wednesday Coffee Morning

10:30-11:30am

Village Hall

April 29 th	Vivienne and Janiece
May 6 th	Margot and Val
May 13 th	Martyn and Christine
May 20 th	Rosemary and tbc
May 27 th	Vivienne and Janiece

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



Creative Quiet Day

Brancepeth Castle, Durham
Saturday 16th May, 11.00 am - 4.00 pm

Creative Prayer for Beginners

Led by Claire Cullingworth

Collage, poetry, drawing, fabric and thread: all of these can help us deepen our connection to God and help us to pray.

Come and try something new, in a supportive setting. No experience or art skills needed.

£40.00 includes a hot lunch and tea/coffee breaks. 20% discount for those attending two or more quiet days in 2026.



Booking and more info: www.community-of-the-well.uk or email retreats@brancepethcastle.uk



COMMUNITY
of the WELL

Quiet Days & Retreats 2026

Brancepeth Castle, Durham DH7 8DF

Creative Quiet Days – no artistic skills required!

April, Sat 25th, 11-4 Bible Stories Re-Worked

May, Sat 16th, 11-4 Creative Prayer for Beginners

July, Sat 18th, 11-4 Finding God in Threads and Patches

£40 for full day (11am – 4pm) with hot lunch

Individually Guided Retreats

Structured free-time with God: be open to new surprises and discoveries about God and self. Meet briefly with a trained guide daily, share meals in companionable silence, join worship as much or as little as is helpful – and enjoy!

Tue 26 May - Sun 31 May. Individually led 4-Day retreat

Fri 26 June - Wed 1 July. Individually led 4-Day retreat

Mon 19 Oct – Sat 24 Oct. Individually led 4-Day retreat

£350 for full board. Excellent home cooking.

Booking and more info: www.community-of-the-well.uk or email retreats@brancepethcastle.uk



**Come and join in the fun on
Sunday 10th May**

**3-5pm in church
news**crafts**Bible story**songs**tea**

**This will be a bring and share tea as our catering staff
are not available!**

SAVE THE NEXT DATE

Sunday 14th June 2026 3pm - 5pm.



COME AND JOIN THE FUN!

ACTIVITIES AND STORIES FROM THE BIBLE.

**WE GET TOGETHER AFTER THE FIRST HYMN AND REJOIN THE SER-
VICE FOR COMMUNION.**

Every Sunday at the 10.15 service until Sunday 19th July

Brancepeth Youth Club

May - July 2026

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 at 6.00-7.30pm, the dates for this term are:

May 10, 24

June 7, 21

July 5, 19 – BBQ in the Castle grounds

Leaders

Geoff Moore

07854 696664

durmoores@btinternet.com

Martin Peacock

07503 242074

Dates for the Diary:-

May Mondays - Snooker, 7.30pm, Village Hall
May Mondays - Yoga, 7.30pm, Village Hall
May Monday - Knit and Natter, 11th only, Village Hall, 2-4pm.
May Tuesdays - Village Community Choir, 7.00pm -8.00pm, Village Hall
May Wednesdays - Art Group, 7.00 – 9.00pm, Village Hal
May Wednesdays - Tai Chi 9.30 -10.30, Village Hall
May Wednesdays - Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall, 10.30-11.30am
May Thursdays - Indoor Bowls, 10.00-12.00, Village Hall
May Thursdays - Badminton, 7.30pm, Village Hall
May Sundays - Capoeira Classes, 10.00 – 11.30am, Village Hall
May Sunday - Youth Club, 10th & 24th, 6.00pm -8.00pm, Village Hall
1st Saturday each month - Archive Room in Castle open between 9.00am – 1.00pm

May	9th	Sat	Beautiful Brancepeth, railing painting, 9.30am. Village Hall
May	10th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm -5.00pm, Church
May	15th	Fri	Quiz Night, 7.15pm, Village Hall
May	17th	Sun	Soup, sandwich & sweet lunch, from 12.00 noon, Church
May	18th	Mon	Parish Council, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Jun	5th	Fri	Book Club, 7.30pm, 38 Albert Street, Durham. DH1 4RJ
Jun	13th	Sat	Beautiful Brancepeth, Village Tidy-up Day, 9.30am. Village Hall
Jun	14th	Sun	Messy Church, 3.00pm -5.00pm, Church
June	20th	Sat	Brancepeth Village Open Gardens Event
July	3rd	Fri	Garden Club Walkabout, Stockley Grove
Sept	5th	Sat	Garden Club Autumn Show, Village Hall

Photos

Front cover – ©- Dr Arnab Basu, installation as High Sheriff of Durham
Inside front cover – ©- Jo Dalton, Advert for Village Hall Activities
Inside back cover – ©- Archive & History group: Item of the Month.
© - Peter Hodge, litter picking finds!
Back cover – ©– Carol Beeby: Advertisement for Christian Aid Week

Newsletter entries no later than May 18th please.

Please send to Sue Morgan at sueatpeppermires@gmail.com

View newsletter on line at 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>	Karen Watts	Annual Membership
Ian Stoker	<i>Vice chairman</i>	Karen Stoddart	<i>Social Secretary</i>
Val Gibbons	<i>Secretary,</i>	Peter Burdess	<i>Hall Bookings</i>
Jo Dalton	<i>Treasurer & Website</i>	Jean Merrington	
	<i>Church Representative</i>		

www.brancepethcommunityassociation.co.uk

Tel: 0191 3783952

Parish Activities

Chairman B.C.A.	Martyn Jones, 32 Goodwell Lea (0191 3789297)
Vice Chairman	Ian Stoker, ian.stoker57.is@googlemail.com
Secretary	Val Gibbons, valmgibbons@gmail.com (0191 3784200)
Treasurer & Website	Joanne Dalton, 1 rectory Cottages, (07876 624626)
Social Secretary	Karen Stoddart, karistod@icloud.com
Annual Membership	Karen Watts, k.watts8@talktalk.net
Hall Bookings	Peter Burdess –07748 158703 or peterburdess@btinternet.com
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	James Morgan (Chair), Richard Hobbs (Sec), Martin Welsh (Treas) baacommittee3@gmail.com
Book Club	Val Gibbons (0191 3784200)
Drama	Martin Peacock (07503242074)
Flower Guild	Jessie Brown (0191 3782748)
Garden Club	Helen Todman (Chair) helentodman@googlemail.com or Secretary, Martin Welsh m.welsh@reflex-technical.com
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: tom.rhobbs@hotmail.co.uk
Nick Ellis - Vice chair; n.t.ellis@durham.ac.uk
Philip Davison, philipdavison000@btinternet.com
Catherine Stevenson: catherine@jamsey.net
Julie Daneshyer: jh.daneshyer@hotmail.com
Martin Welsh: m.welsh@reflex-technical.com

Parish Clerk Kirsty Charlton clerk@brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk

County Councillors: Cathy Hunt & Emma Hunt www.brancepeth-parish-council.org.uk

From the Archive this month



A mug given to all the school children of Willington to commemorate the ending of the First World War.

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.



**Items found by Peter and Lucy Hodge while litter picking!
They are thought to be badger skulls!**

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK



10TH MAY - 16TH MAY

**Together we can support families escape the cruel grip
of urban poverty**

**This year, the envelopes will be delivered and collected
in one visit. If you are not in, kindly drop your
donation, in the envelope provided to St. Brandon's or
1, The Village, Brancepeth.**

**Remember to complete the Gift Aid slip to add 25% to
your donation.**

Alternatively you can donate online

**If you would like to be part of the collecting team please
email Carol at carol21beeby@btinternet.com**