



BRATTON PARISH NEWS



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SONGS AND SCARECROWS ROUND OFF BRATTON WEEK

There are still a couple of days left to enjoy this year's fun and informative Bratton Week, a variety of activities being held in - and about - our lovely village. There has already been music concerts, a cricket match, pub quiz, art classes, a history walk, the WI's pudding night and bell tower tours, to name just a few of the wonderful events. There was even a murder. Sorry, that should say '...even a Murder Mystery Evening'!

Bratton Week 2023 started on June 24th with the Church Fete , which raised more than £2,000; and Bratton Primary School's hugely ambitious Disney themed scarecrow trail which will run until **Sunday 2nd July**. The school's fete is being held in the schoolgrounds on **Saturday 1st July from 12pm-2pm**, along with Party in the Park from **3pm to 5pm**, Folk Music in the Park from **5pm to 7pm** and Party in the Duke from **7pm-11pm** on the same day. Then to round off the week, the Bratton Silver Band holds a Picnic in the Park in aid of Alzheimers Support Music for the Mind on the Village Green on **Sunday 2nd July at 3pm**. Please do come celebrate village life.

WE WIN AGAIN

And talking of things to celebrate...Bratton has once again been crowned Best Kept (Large) Village in West Wiltshire in a competition run by the Council for the Protection of Rural England. The judges felt that the village was beautifully kept and found it difficult to fault any of the areas they inspected. Their report highlighted the Jubilee Hall and Doctor's Surgery as being 'faultless' in their presentation, while the Post Office, village pub and car park; children's play area and Baptist Church were all singled out for praise.

They also loved the transformation of the telephone box as a book exchange and said: "it was obvious that those living in Bratton took great pride in their community". It's a testament to the hard work that everyone puts into their gardens and verges, and congratulations to April and Chris Tarling and all the volunteers of the Tidy Bratton Group.

Now, Bratton is entered into the next round of the competition, to find the Best Kept Village in the whole of Wiltshire which will be judged during July, so keep up the marvellous work!

The groups will do a little further tidying on **Saturday 15th July**, from 10am to 12.30pm, meeting as usual in the Duke Car Park. Everyone is welcome to join this award winning group, just bring gardening gloves. Children are welcome to join in if accompanied by an adult.

Quite a number of people in the village receive a monthly email to let them know about Tidy Bratton Group activities. Would you like to receive this information too? If so, please either email apriltarling@hotmail.co.uk to receive information, or message 07892 717 644 to receive the information by WhatsApp.

CALLING ALL ACTORS

Did someone say Christmas? The Bratton Jubilee Players are starting work on the Pantomime and are looking for actors young and old to join the gang. No experience required! So, if you're looking to get on stage then join them on **Wednesday 5th July**, 8pm at the Bratton Jubilee Hall and let the adventure begin.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Thank you to all those who attended the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Event in the Jubilee Hall on **Wednesday 28th June**. It was great to hear your feedback on the work that has been done to date and get your thoughts on how to strike the right balance between future developments and protecting what makes our village special. Thank you too to all those that helped make the day run so smoothly, particularly the wonderful team of volunteers who provided cake and other refreshments,



For those that were unable to attend, there is still time to have your say. Details of the Presentation Boards are on the Bratton Parish Council website. Please send any further thoughts to the Chair of the Bratton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Cllr Eddie Cole on neighbourhoodplan@brattonparishcouncil.gov.uk by the **end of July**.

For clarity, the Neighbourhood Plan process is driven by what the community would like to see for the future and consultation at every stage is a key element. Once a final draft of the plan is complete it will be circulated for community feedback and once any amendments have been made it will be submitted for independent examination for compliance with Wiltshire Council Policies. Finally, it has to go to a community referendum as a plan that sits alongside Wiltshire Council Planning Policies. If anyone would like to become more involved, you are welcome to join the Steering Group by contacting the Chair.

INTERESTING TALKS FROM OUR HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Following swiftly on the heels of Mike Manson's walking tour of the Village for Bratton Week, we will be visiting *Market Lavington Museum* on **Tuesday 12th July** at 2.30pm. Please contact Sian Morgan on sianmorgan155@btinternet.com to let her know if you are coming and if you wish to have lunch at the Green Dragon beforehand.

Save the dates for our Autumn Talks Programme at the Bratton Church Institute
Sunday 17th September at 5pm: *878 And All That: Trouble with Vikings* by Nick Jones
Sunday 15th October at 4pm: *A Beginner's Guide to House History* by Julie Davis
Sunday 19th November at 4pm: *Life in the Westbury Workhouse* by Sally Hendry

New members and guests are always welcome. For more information on how to join visit our website at brattonhistory.co.uk.

SAFARI SO GOOD

The ever-popular Safari Suppers returned to Bratton and neighbouring villages last month. More than £2,000 was raised in one evening for Wiltshire Air Ambulance, which is a wonderful achievement. The safari suppers see 64 diners enjoy starter, main and pudding at three separate locations across eight simultaneous dinner parties. Participants host one of the courses, often inviting into their homes guests they've never met before. It's a fantastic way to meet new people and reconnect with old friends. The evening ended with a mass raffle at a home in Edington. This year's was the first Safari Supper since the pandemic and hopefully they will return in future years. Well done to organisers Penny, Judy and Tekla plus John's hospitality at the end of the evening. We can only imagine the spreadsheet and the organisation it took to pull it off so smoothly!

IN THE GARDEN

Bratton's Artists will be throwing open their gardens on **Sunday 9th July** for Arts in the Gardens Art Trail to showcase their talent while raising funds for local good causes including the Bratton Church Institute Roof Appeal and Bratton Primary School's Wildlife Garden. Some of the gardens will have work for sale, art demonstrations and refreshments along the way. Gardens will be open from 10.30am to 4.00pm with tickets, at £5 per person, available from outside the Church Institute from 10.00am-3.30pm.



CHURCH VIEWS

'And in earth's darkest place, let there be light'

Recreation is a word that we associate with leisure time and holidays. It may involve an activity, like a sport or a special interest. For me, it happens to be golf, but for others it may be gardening, or horse riding. Recreation is something you engage in when you are not working. We do it to refresh and strengthen our minds and spirits, so that we can be happy and effective in our daily lives both at work and during periods of rest.

I find words interesting, and the word recreation comes originally from the term 're-creation'. Re-creation suggests that we become different people when we engage in recreational activities. Such activities help to renew us. This reminds me a lot of the words that St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth about what happens when we live our lives 'in Christ': Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5.17). Paul is talking about the different life-style that the new Christians in Corinth adopted, rather than a period of rest and relaxation. Where before, they had worshipped pagan gods (the Greek gods), now they were committed to Christian values and worship. And others recognised the change that had taken place: By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another (John 13.35).

Re-creation, then, is an essential, life-changing part of being human. It can help to change our lives to be more in line with the kind of people God wants us to be. It brings refreshment to our lives, when sometimes our daily work can seem boring or tedious. We get to see life in a different way, visiting new places when we go on holiday, enjoying activities that boost our bodies and our spirits.

Too many people today seem to miss out on this. We have become a society where one is expected to work long hours, even answering emails whilst on holiday. And for most of us the retirement age is creeping higher and higher. We need times of recreation to be properly human.

St. Antony, the first Christian monk, was one day relaxing with his disciples when a hunter came by. The hunter was surprised and mildly shocked to see the great saint taking it easy, so he rebuked him. Antony replied to him, saying: 'Bend your bow and shoot an arrow.' And the hunter did so. 'Bend it again and shoot another,' said Antony. And he did, again and again. The hunter finally said, 'Father Antony, if I keep my bow always stretched, it will break.' 'So it is with the monk,' replied Antony. 'If we push ourselves beyond measure we will break; it is right from time to time to relax our efforts'.

Andrew Sinclair – Rector

Thank you to the Chair of the Bratton History Association, Anne Bailey, for her detailed letter pointing out some differences in opinion to Rector Sinclair's June Church Views about the Summer Solstice and Druids. We had some further comments too following the publication last month and it's great to see that healthy debate and discussion is alive and well in our parish. These comments have been passed on to the Rector.

YOUR COMMUNITY MINIBUS

The **Three Villages Minibus** run regular return trips to Westbury, Devizes, Warminster and Salisbury and will pick you up at the bus stop (or elsewhere) and deliver you home to your door. You would be most welcome to join them, but booking is essential through Joy Fraser on 01380 830 426.

Shopping Trips starting at Bratton:

<i>Destination</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Start Time</i>
Devizes	£3.20	July 6th & August 3rd	8.45am
Warminster	£2.80	July 18th & 15th	1.30pm
Westbury	£2.30	Every Thursday	1.30pm
Salisbury	£5.00	July 15th & August 12th	9.15am

All these journeys accept concessionary passes and will return you to your door. These trips are open to all residents of our villages; and welcome everyone, of any age. Please note that the July Salisbury trip will be on **Saturday 15th July** due to driver availability.

THE FOUR VILLAGES LINK

The summer holidays are beginning and our drivers may not be as available. Please consider volunteering – this involves driving clients to medical and other appointments and sometimes help around the home and garden. Both clients and volunteers enjoy the interaction, and you can work around your other commitments. Fuel expenses can be claimed. Four Villages Link is a charity and while we do not charge for trips or services, our income does depend on the generosity of clients and others and we are grateful for contributions, however small. Please contact the coordinator on 07852 256939 or go to thefourvillageslink.org.uk for services or to volunteer.

BRATTON BREAKFAST

Start your laid-back Sunday in the Jubilee Hall with our delicious three-course breakfast, served at your table between 8.30am and 10am on **2nd July**. Why clear and wash up? Enjoy the relaxed ambience! Call 07897 011887 (note new number) or email jubileehall87@yahoo.com.

ATTENTION ALL PARISH NEWS CONTRIBUTORS

For various reasons, there will not be a September edition of the Bratton Parish News. So the August edition will be a combined one, as has been the case on several occasions in the past. If you'd like to advertise events taking place in September, or provide other information for that month, please ensure that it is sent in time for the August edition. The closing date for that will be **21st July**. Thank you.

BRATTON PARISH COUNCIL NOTICES

Contact the Clerk on 01373 864 127, email nicola.duke@bratton-parish.co.uk; Chair on 01380 831 199, email keith.rayward@bratton-parish.co.uk. Website: www.bratton-parish.co.uk

Next Parish Council meeting

The next Bratton Parish Council meeting is on **Tuesday 11th July** at 7.15pm. All are welcome to attend.

Phone box repurposing

Thanks very much to everyone who has contributed books; please borrow as well so there is room! The next step is to have permanent village maps and walks displayed as well as copies to borrow. From July we hope that the White Horse News will deliver some copies of the paper for those households that do not receive one.

Village green

Quotes are in for a new activity trail at the far end of the green, with works starting in September. Look out for the proposed schemes on the parish website. The rope bridge on the metal play equipment will be replaced soon and we are looking for volunteers to help spruce up the paint, probably in August. If you can help, please email cjelliott@brattonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Hedges adjoining public footpaths

Just a reminder if you have a hedge on your property adjoining a public footpath it is your responsibility to ensure the growth of the hedge does not obstruct the path. The Council works hard to ensure the paths are well-maintained and your support by trimming your boundary hedges is much appreciated.

VANDALISM AT THE RECREATION GROUND

Bratton's Recreation Ground on Trowbridge Road is a superb facility available for every villager to use, as well as being the home ground of Bratton Cricket Club, Bratton Football Club and further football and cricket teams. Almost everyone who visits the ground takes good care of it. However there have recently been several cases of minor vandalism, damaging the buildings and equipment which impose repair costs on the Parish Council budget. Please try to discourage this anti-social behaviour if you know the culprits.

And if you see anyone not picking up their dog's mess, please ask them to do so as it could incur a considerable fine as shown on the notices displayed at the entrance to the ground. It is a serious health hazard for anyone using the ground in any way.

WHEELIE GOOD IDEA

If you are struggling to put your wheelie bins out for collection, and then bringing them in again, please do remember that there is assistance available from Wiltshire County Council. You can find out more by visiting the council's website at Wiltshire.gov.uk and searching 'assisted collections' or phoning 0300 456 0102. You may also email customerservices@wiltshire.gov.uk for further information. With thanks to Bob Pearce for the helpful suggestion.

KERBSIDE RECYCLING

Wiltshire Councillor Suzanne Wickham writes: Wiltshire Council is working hard to improve kerbside recycling and I thought it may be helpful to highlight some of the recent changes. This system is much better for the environment as more items will be recycled rather than go into the general waste collection. It is important that we only put the right materials in our blue recycling bin. Items such as nappies, film used in food packaging, carrier bags and plant pots, should not be recycled but put into the grey waste bin.

Some new items that can now be collected include batteries and small rechargeable items. Batteries should be placed in a transparent sandwich bag and placed on top of the blue bin. In the first three months of this service 15 tonnes of old batteries have been collected.

Small rechargeable items, such as electric toothbrushes, shavers, vapes, charging devices and mobile phones can be placed in a carrier bag and left beside the blue bin. Various metals can be recovered and reprocessed from these items. Paint pots can now be recycled/disposed of when no longer needed. If you pot is at least half full of paint, you can donate it at the HRC for anyone to collect for free. If you wish to dispose of paint pots, please allow the paint to dry out by leaving the lid off or adding soil or sand, and then taking them to the relevant area at the HRC.

Some items are no longer able to be collected at the kerbside, including shredded paper, which you could either compost at home or take to a Household Recycle Centre (HRC). Textiles will no longer be collected but good quality items should be donated to Charity shops or if not suitable for donation should be taken to an HRC.

Before you visit an HRC, please sort the items that you want to recycle so that it will be easier to put them in the correct skips which are all clearly labelled, such as wood, green waste, electricals etc. Sadly, a third of items that are thrown into the general waste skips could be recycle and this is waste of resources that could be recycled.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can help with any local matters. Suzanne Wickham, Wiltshire Councillor, Ethandune. Email: suzanne.wickham@wiltshire.gov.uk Tel: 07967 213336

BRATTON SILVER BAND

During June we were very busy serving our local community. We had the pleasure of playing at Warminster Town Park as part of their Summer Live Music in the Bandstand programme and were blessed with beautiful weather and a great audience. The Mayor of Warminster also took a guest spot conducting us through our very own Bratton Silver March. We played for the Trowbridge Armed Forces Day and we had a fantastic response from the audience whilst the Brass Band enjoyed a sunny afternoon at the Church Fete. The Silver Band also had the pleasure of accompanying the singing of hymns for the Bratton Week Service.

Our Silver Band Musical Director Kyle Blake recently took part in the Brass Band Conductors Association conducting competition. Not only did he get through the semi-finals to the finals- he was actually placed third overall!

It is great to be performing at the heart of our village for our Picnic in the Park Concert on **Sunday 2nd July** at 3pm where all proceeds will go to Alzheimer Support Music for the Mind. All welcome.

During July we are participating in the national initiative Proms in the Playground and will be performing at five local primary schools including Bratton on **Wednesday 12th July**. This will give children the experience of listening to a live performance, to learn more about brass instruments and enable them to find out about the opportunities to play a brass instrument themselves.

We will also be performing at John Coles Park in Chippenham on **Sunday 23rd July** and for Westbury Leigh Family Fun Day on **Saturday 29th July**.

BRATTON CHURCH INSTITUTE

The Church Institute has been playing its part in Bratton Week, with the hall hosting a combined service with St James' Church and the Bratton Baptist Church. The weather was HOT and we were able to sit outside. The Church Fete was also blessed with incredible weather. There was a special Teabags and British Legion cheese and wine evening, making it an even busier week than usual!

Our lovely Jude would be so happy to see the hall flourishing after her dedication and commitment to its wellbeing. We so much miss her. We are still heading towards the roof repairs in July, which Jude was such a big part. Please contact Joan Martin for ALL enquiries: 01380 830744, joanmartim147@gmail.com or 07576 851267. Finally, did you guess the scarecrow was Olaf? It was beautifully made by Becky and the toddlers group.

MELLSTOCK BAND

The Mellstock Band will be giving a concert on **Saturday 29th July** in the Bratton Church Institute. A fitting end to Bratton Weekend, the concert celebrates summer with a programme entitled **Leaves of Life**. Trusting that the weather will be fine, Pimms and nibbles are planned in the garden during the interval. The concert starts at 7.30pm until around 10.00pm. Tickets are £15 and all proceeds will go to St James' Church. Please email Maggie Atterbury at jmda1@btinternet.com or phone 01380 830452.

CHARITY OF THE MONTH

The Church of St James The Great's Charity for July & August is Cross Point in the Market Place in Westbury, which offers a welcome centre that incorporates the local foodbank, debt advice and a personal counselling service. Advice is provided either from one of the team, or be pointed in the right direction for the appropriate support needed. Please support by donating in the pot in the Church if you can to support this very worthy local charity.

Further Afield (but not too far!)

EDINGTON MUSIC FESTIVAL

This year will be the 68th Edington Festival, making it the oldest festival of music within the liturgy in the world. It will run from **Sunday 20th to Sunday 27th August**, with four services a day, three Cathedral and Collegiate choirs, top organists, and friends gathering from all over the world. Everyone taking part is grateful to the Priory Church for inviting them once again.

The theme is 'A Crown of Prayer and Praise', taking its inspiration from the seven-sonnet sequence 'La Corona' by John Donne. This year is the 400th anniversary of the death of William Byrd, so the week includes many of his works, but also pieces by Rachmaninov, Matthew Martin, Herbert Howells, Orlando Gibbons and others. As always, the days are book-ended with Matins and Compline, sung to plainchant by the Schola, and the Wednesday Choral Evensong will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 3.

The Musical Evening and Supper will be on **Wednesday 23rd July**. There is lots of information about the festival on the website edingtonfestival.org and don't forget that the festival is not ticketed. All services are free and unreserved.

ALL THE KING'S MEN

Sadly The King's Men concert planned for Edington on **Friday 14th July** in the Priory Church has been cancelled. After much deliberation, the Trustees of the Friends of the Priory Church took the hard decision not to go ahead with the event. Ticket sales had been very slow: so much so that organisers had only reached a third of their break-even point and say a risk of such loss could not be taken with funds generously donated over the years specifically for the upkeep of the church. Refunds are being arranged for those who had bought tickets.

It would have been a lovely concert and the organisers are deeply disappointed, although they say that hopefully, however, there will be others ...

BRATTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Our time together is relaxed and informal with people of all ages meeting every Sunday morning at 11.00am for worship and fellowship. Activities for both young and old are provided, and we finish each service with refreshments. We look forward to welcoming you! Details about services and events will also be on our Facebook and Instagram pages as well as our noticeboard outside the church.

- Messy Church, 4pm on **Sunday 16th July**. Fun for all the family: Crafts, story, songs and prayer; followed by tea & cake.
- Tea-Time Service is 4pm on **Sunday 23rd July**. An informal service followed by tea, coffee and cake.
- Revive Café is open every Monday afternoon in term time, 2.30pm – 4.30pm @ the Chapel. Dates for July are 3rd, 10th and 17th. Pop in for a cup of tea or freshly brewed coffee and a slice of cake. Craft activities for the children provided.
- **Early Bird Prayer** every Wednesday, 7am at the Chapel.
- Pickleberry Ladies every Thursday, come and meet upstairs at Pickleberry Coffee Shop from 11am - all ages welcome.
- Connect, alternate Thursdays, 2pm at the Chapel. Come and make friends, chat over coffee and study the Bible together. **Thursday 13th July**.
- Bratton Bugs **Fridays 7th, 14th, and 21st July** at 1.45 – 3pm @ the Chapel. Bring your under 5s to enjoy a time of music making, singing and play. £1.50 per family. N.B. On 21st July, we are meeting at 1pm for a picnic in the back Churchyard. There will be water play and a sand pit.
- Comets: **Friday 21st July** at 6.30pm. Comets is a club for children in school years 3, 4, 5 & 6. Each club night is themed, and the children engage in games and craft activities, and includes a refreshment break.
- Fusion: A youth club for 11 – 14s, every 1st Friday of the month. A space to hang out, chat, have some fun and relax. **Friday 7th July**.

Activities for August

- Messy Church, 4pm on Sunday 16th July. Fun for all the family: Crafts, story, songs and prayer
- Early Bird Prayer every Wednesday, 7am at the Chapel.
- Pickleberry Ladies every Thursday, come and meet upstairs at Pickleberry Coffee Shop from 11am - all ages welcome!

September planning

- Family Fun Day: **Sunday 17th September** 1 – 4pm. Bouncy Castle, Family fun and BBQ for all members of the community. Free event.

We are currently running an Alpha course. Alpha provides an opportunity to learn more about the Christian faith. Call Allison or Esther for more details.

For support or information, please call Esther (Minister in training) or Allison (Children and Families worker) on 01380 830 746 or contact by email: esther@brattonbaptistchurch.org.uk or allison@brattonbaptistchurch.org.uk

AUTUMN DATES

RECREATION GROUND QUIZ NIGHT

The annual Recreation Ground Quiz Night will be held on **Saturday 16th September** in the Jubilee Hall. Doors will be open at 7pm. and the Quiz will start at 7.30pm. There will be the usual excellent cold buffet, prizes and a raffle. Each quiz will include easy, moderate and harder questions, so there's something for everyone. Entry £8 per person or £30 for a team of four (which is the maximum size for a team). Bookings to Mike Manson on 01380 830853 or mpm1307@outlook.com.

**The Benefice of Bratton, Edington and Imber, Erlestoke and Coulston
SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE – MARCH 2023**

	Bratton	Edington	Erlestoke	Coulston
<i>1st Sunday</i> 2nd July <i>Fourth Sunday after Trinity</i>	08.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Family Service	09.30 Parish Communion 18:30 Evensong		11.00 Parish Communion
<i>2nd Sunday</i> 9th July <i>Fifth Sunday after Trinity</i>	11.00 Parish Communion 18.00 Sing Praise	08:00 Holy Communion 11:00 Family Service		
<i>3rd Sunday</i> 16th July <i>Sixth Sunday after Trinity</i>	08.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Footprints <i>Bratton Church Institute</i>	11:00 Dedication Service 18:30 Evensong		11:00 Parish Communion
<i>4th Sunday</i> 23rd July <i>Seventh Sunday after Trinity</i>	08:00 Holy Communion 11:00 St James' Patronal Festival Parish Communion	09:30 Parish Communion	11:00 Morning Service	
<i>5th Sunday</i> <i>30th July</i> <i>Eighth Sunday after Trinity</i>		11.00 Benefice Service Celebration of Ministry for Revd Anne Ilsley & Andrew King		

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Evening Prayer: 5.30pm at Erlestoke (Mondays), Coulston (Tuesdays), the Vicarage for Edington (Wednesdays), the Vicarage for Imber (Thursdays), St James' Bratton (Fridays).

Public Morning Prayer: Thursdays at 8.30am in Edington

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, BRATTON - Key contacts		
For pastoral matters please call: Rector: Rev'd Andrew Sinclair 830374 Honorary Associate Priest: Revd Malcolm Wieck 830256; Revd Ann Ilsley 830651; Licensed Lay Minister (LLM): Andrew King 831227	Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPA) Lynn Noble 830036 Jill Forbes 830577 Chloe Watts 830600	For other matters please call Church Warden – Mike Manson 830853 or Marie Nunn 830505 Tower Captain (Bells): Dusty Millier 830696 Verger: Sandy Perry 830536 Organist: Brian Martin FRCO LRAM ARCM 830060 BCI Caretaker: Joan Martin 830744

To keep up with the latest events in our village please check the Facebook page: Bratton Village What's On

Please submit Items for the **August/September 2023** issue of Bratton Parish News by **Friday 21st July** to the Editor: editorbratton@outlook.com (Font - Calibri 11points, if possible). Thank you.