

Batheaston Parish Council**ANNUAL REPORT – APRIL 2003 TO MARCH 2004**

PREPARED MARCH 2004

© BATHEASTON PARISH COUNCIL

*Please accept this Annual Report – to be reviewed at the Annual Village Meeting 29 April***From the Chairman***(DL)*

The Annual Village Meeting will take place in the Church Hall, School Lane on Thursday 29th April 2004 - see advertisement. This meeting is open to all residents of Batheaston and enables you to directly question the Parish Council on its activities. This year guest speakers attending will be: Sgt. Cannon and our own community Police Officer PC Roger Parker who will talk about policing in the village. Tracy Pike will also be updating us on the work of our two Community Youth Workers.

The Council is pleased to advise that – due to prudent preparation of the 3 year forecast - the proportion of your Council Tax (Parish Precept) has been reduced this year by almost 11% for the year 2004/2005.

Community Adult Education has proved to be successful with many people having already benefited. We are keen to encourage appropriate courses for mothers and children. If say 6/8 would like a course to be organised, on anything from Cooking to Keep-Fit, please contact Marcia Wanklyn on 01225 396473. Courses are usually free

Have you checked our web site yet? www.Batheaston.net - 26,000+ have enquired since October last year with 7,000 in January alone! We hope to expand this facility with more information on the village and activities. Fourteen more friends from France have just visited us in association with the Batheaston Society. A party of twenty-eight from Batheaston are going to France in June this year. It is planned to officially formalise the twinning of Batheaston with Oudon in May/July 2005. The Twinning Committees of both villages are keen that every effort be made to ensure that it is inclusive, and that people of all ages and background are able to participate in future exchange visits.

Encore-The Northenders Theatre Company is well and truly up and running, with their first production being performed in May – see advertisement. By the way it's not just people from Northend involved it's the whole village.

The BLA (Batheaston Leisure Association) was set up to provide leisure facilities for both young and old. They urgently need "new blood" on their committee so if you have any ideas or enthusiasm to develop more facilities please contact Peter Gayton on 01225 858943

Affordable Housing is very much on our agenda. A seminar, by The Rural Housing Trust, showed us how urgent this subject is to all rural communities. In the last few years they have built 3,000 affordable homes in small rural villages for local villagers. Usually small developments of 5/6 dwellings, each designed specifically to suit the individual village. It is hoped to hold a briefing on this subject for the people of Batheaston. In the meantime matters are continuing with Somer Housing Trust.

You will have noted that the Toilets are again open, and we are negotiating with B&NES, on an agency agreement, to take over the running of them.

Finally I would like to thank all my Councillors for their time and work on the Parish Council. We are all unpaid volunteers. In addition my thanks to our Clerk, Mike Townley, who works incredibly hard in keeping matters running smoothly.

Councillors:-

J Abbatt-Hallett	PEC
P Blanking	Vice-Chair HFL
R Bourdon	GPC
J Connor	GPC
A Creed	PEC co-optee
P Davis	Chair HFL
S Fremantle	Chair GPC
D Jackson	Vice-Chair GPC
M Johns	HFL
L Kingsley	HFL
D Lavington	Chairman of the Council
J Maggs	HFL Co-optee
J Moon	PEC Co-optee
D Nokes	PEC
D Robins	Vice-Chair + Chair PEC
S Robson	HFL
M Veal	PEC + Dist. Councillor.
C Routh	PEC

HFL = Highways, Footpaths & Lighting
 PEC = Planning & Environment
 GPC = *General Purposes & Finances*

There are 5 part-time employees: -

Clerk	Mike Townley
Handymen	Cyril Coxson, Marc Plenty & Colin Spicer
Warden	Les Fenton

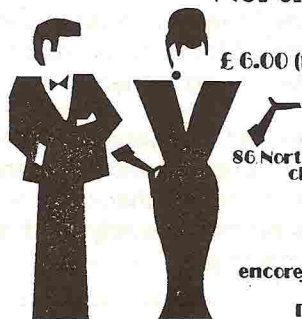
**Encore
The Northenders Theatre Company
presents**

Agatha Christie's 'A Murder is Announced'

**Directed by
Greg Vere**

**Wed 12th May to Sat 15th May
7.30pm**

**Batheaston Church Hall
School Lane
Northend**



**Tickets:
£ 6.00 (full price) & £4.00 (concs)**

**Postal Bookings (inc s&e)
86 Northend, Batheaston, Bath BA1 7ES
cheques payable to: Encore**

**Tel Bookings:
01225 858541**

**Email Bookings:
encorenorthenders@hotmail.com**

Tully Licensed Bar

FINANCES – UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

INCOME

Actual £48,500 (Vs Budget £47110)

(Increase of £1390 mainly due to increased Bank Interest of + £720, (due to delayed expenditure on High Street Traffic Calming); and Donations of £90 from Advertisers & Coffee Café

EXPENSES

Actual £42,700 (Vs Budget £83,275)

	Actuals £	Budget £	Savings £
Wages	23595	23530	+65
Administration	4380	5245	865
Highways	1175	27600	26425
Planning	180	6350	6170
Resources	1500	1950	450
Recreation	3700	2750	+950
Projects	8170	15850	7680
Totals	42700	83275	40575

The Budget for 2004 –2005

INCOME £ **42,080** (Vs £47,110 last year)

EXPENDITURE £ **61,960** (Vs £82,275 last year)

20 mph Zone

(PD)

The Parish's long term aim of establishing a 20mph zone across the entire core of the village is proceeding, but agonisingly slowly. Delays in finishing the traffic calming in the High Street (which is a pre-requisite) have been caused by both technical and financial difficulties, and completion is now unlikely before the Summer, even if money from B&NES becomes available to supplement the funds provided by the Parish. This is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs. We will have had a half-finished scheme in the High Street for over a year and, as you have probably experienced, it continues to be dangerous.

High Street:

(PD)

We have raised the possibility with B&NES of extending the High Street traffic calming (and with it the 20mph zone) from Fiveways back to Victoria Gardens, instead of just back to the pedestrian crossing by the Garage. Doing this would cost an extra £25,000, perhaps endangering the affordability of the whole scheme, and would also cause obvious additional inconvenience, particularly to people living there in terms of vibration as vehicles go over bumps, noise from gear-changing, difficulty with parking etc - but the benefits would be that vehicle speeds should be reduced over a greater distance.

Accordingly, we surveyed the views of all the residents and businesses in the High Street, and a clear majority were in favour. If the B&NES transport boss (Sir Elgar Jenkins) approves the expenditure, there will be formal consultation over the detailed plans and, after amendment, work could start sometime after June.

In the meantime, existing contracts allow the installation of speed tables at the pedestrian island opposite the White Lion, and these should make the Fiveways roundabout much less dangerous, especially for traffic coming out of Coalpit Road.

Bannerdown Road:

(PD)

We have made strenuous representations to B&NES over the dangerous HGV traffic down Bannerdown Road and they, in turn, are in contact with Wiltshire County Council.

The developers of Damson Orchard will introduce some road safety measures at the junction of Bannerdown Drive before starting work on their site, which should slow traffic down, and an assessment of the need for any further traffic calming measures on Bannerdown Road will follow.

Unfortunately, it seems that there is little that can legally be done to improve pedestrian safety at the bottom of the road, because of its narrowness, but suggestions are always welcome.

