



June /
July 2026

BRAYFORD

Community News

Issue 11



BRAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council meetings will take place on **Thursday 18th June 2026** and **Thursday 16th July 2026**, at **7:30p** in the Village Hall.

Parish Councillor Update

The Parish Council is pleased to welcome Matt Childs and Paula Roddy as our newest Parish Councillors.

We are looking forward to benefitting from their local knowledge, enthusiasm, and fresh ideas in supporting the parish community.

Parking at the Nook

A polite reminder regarding parking at The Nook. Everyone is, of course, very welcome to use The Nook for occasional parking. We would just kindly ask that all users park considerately, as this is also a safe area where children gather to catch the school bus.

When parents are unable to park there, it can sometimes cause the road to become blocked when the large school bus arrives. The Nook is generally spacious enough for up to four cars, so we would ask everyone to keep this in mind when using the area.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

Development of Land Above the Village Hall

The developers attended the May meeting to share their ideas and discuss their proposals for developing the field above the Village Hall, including the provision of affordable homes. It was agreed that they would incorporate the suggestions made, and once the revised plans have been reviewed by the Parish Council, the community will be given the opportunity to view the final proposals. So far discussions appear very positive for our community.

Road Closures

From Wednesday 1st July to Friday 3rd July, 8am-6pm, the road from Bray Barn to Bray Lane, Brayford, will be closed for the excavation of a new footway chamber and Toby Box for customer connection.

Brayford Playground Equipment Project

Following a successful bid to the Lottery Community fund by Councillor Stuart Matthews, the project has been offered £19,600 towards the costs of £36k. This together with the generous offers from the County and District Councillors, South Molton Masonic Society and the support of the Parish Council, means total funds now stand at £23,600. So only another £12,400 needs to be raised!

A meeting was held on 20th May to discuss how parents, users and the community could help by running fund-raising events to meet the costs involved. The school has kindly agreed to circulate Notes and further updates via the School Newsletter.

Further bids are being submitted to other organisations and it is hoped everyone will support this worthy project to help achieve its success.

Project Members:

Stuart Matthews	Cllr.s.matthews@gmail.com
Kate Malone	brayfordparishcouncil@gmail.com
Suzie Topping	Redcder@yahoo.co.uk
Jane Jeyes	janejeyes@hotmail.com

BRAYFORD ACADEMY

The summer term is always a busy one for Brayford Academy! We started the term with the junior children attending swimming lessons in South Molton every week and the infants will be doing the same after half term.

This week we had our Year 6 residential to Adventure Bude. It is a great opportunity to join other schools from our Academy and make new friends. During the week the children take part in high ropes, body boarding, surfing, mountain boarding and so much more!

In July the Year 3 and 4 children will take part in their residential at Wildside. The children take part in many nature activities and have a fun packed time!

This term the whole school will take part in a beach safety day at Putsborough Beach which is always great fun and a good learning experience.

We will also have Sports day, a summer picnic, leavers assembly and lots more! We hope for a sunny last half term before the summer holidays.

BRAYFORD YOUTH CLUB.

We are looking for a couple of Leaders for the Youth Club, here in Brayford. The youth are aged 10yrs to 16yrs, and meet on Wednesday evenings between 7.00-9.00pm, but this could be changed. They undertake a variety of activities such as Walks, Games, BBQS, Skittles, Air Extreme, Bowling, Climbing Wall etc. Training provided. Please contact Hilary Ayre. 01598 710352.

Unfortunately, the club will shut if we don't get any volunteers.

BRAYFORD METHODIST CHAPEL

Lambing always dominates the recent months. Most of us enjoy seeing the lambs in the fields, but for some of our members it is hard work and night shifts.

Spring this year has been glorious. The wildflowers on our Devon banks have been spectacular - the flowering trees are laden with blossom and the rhododendrons and wisterias are spectacular.. How blessed we are to live in this beautiful area.

We would like to see you for our annual **Strawberry Tea** on **20th June, 3.00-5.00pm**. Just a reminder, only have a light lunch!

Our **United Riverside Service** is on **12th July 11.00am** followed by a BARBECUE. All are welcome. It won't rain ! - but if it does, we will move to the Chapel to enjoy this annual event.

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

This is held on the first Wednesday of each month – **3rd June** and **1st July** at **10.15-12.30** in the **Methodist Church Hall**. Do come to catch up and chat with friends.

HIGH BRAY CHURCH

On April 8, High Bray was honoured to hold Ruth Edward's funeral, with more than 175 members of our community present to remember one of Brayford's most respected and loved individuals. For all the years we can remember, Ruth was a key participant, quietly and without being asked, in our many community organisations, including the Mothers Union, the School, the Village Market, the Women's Institute, the Community Singing Group, and High Bray Church, always with a laugh and a good word for someone. We will miss her inspiring presence.

In June, we're looking forward to two weddings of younger members of our village community, Charlotte Stone to Frankie Blackmore, and Henry Nicholson to Connie Tucker. Congratulations to both couples!

High Bray Church has just installed, on the shelf inside the porch door, a device which will take your contributions by credit card. The church is there, as it has been for 800 years, for your weddings, funerals, baptisms, and for a place of quiet at a time of stress. The only source of funds to keep the church open and in good repair are your contributions, as the Anglican Church does not give any financial assistance to its parish churches. Please help, so that your church will be there for our generations to come.

BRAYFORD MARKET

Held on the second Saturday of each month: **June 13th** and **July 11th, 10am to noon** in Brayford Village Hall. All sorts of local cakes, fresh breads, local honey & marmalades, local meats, local ales, free-range eggs, warm sausage rolls & pasties, local crafts & woollens and handmade jewellery. Do come. It is an old-fashioned local Market with tea & coffee and homemade cakes to have at tea tables. Friendly conversation for all who come.

BRAYFORD VILLAGE HALL

This is being written to the sound of quacking and with a cheeky duck actually sitting on the keyboard. Yes, we are in the final stages of the Duck Race preparation, which will have happened by the time you read this newsletter. The ducks are fit and ready and the weather looks good, so we hope you will all have had a great time.

We would like to extend our grateful thanks to Rob & Lisa and Ian & Val for kindly letting us use their fields. Also to our sponsors and helpers: Heidelberg Materials at the Quarry who have once again supplied

a generator; Jack Croft Contracting; Luke Kemp of L&K Plant Hire; and K.A & T.D. Williams, Plumbing & Heating. We would also like to express our appreciation to all those who have so generously donated raffle prizes. And not forgetting all of you who attend helping to make this event so special – it is marvellous to see everyone out enjoying themselves.

The other event that has happened since our last note is Anthony's quiz night on behalf of High Bray church on 24th April, which was, as always, well attended. It was a fun evening and raised welcomed funds for the church.

And as we all seem to like a quiz, we have persuaded Andrew Tucker to set another quiz for us on **Saturday 11th July**. It will be the usual format of "bring your own food and drink". This one will be on behalf of the Village Hall to add to and replenish our funds following the roof works which have just been completed. Posters will go up nearer the time – but put the date in your diaries!

The Village Hall Roof

After at least three years talking about it, two years of planning, also two years of fundraising, it feels almost an anticlimax to say that the roof is now finished! But it is – it was finished on time and on budget after allowing for the extra work necessitated by the additional roof covering that was discovered after work commenced. It looks much the same from the outside, but underneath we have proper "building regulations compliant" insulation; we also have new gutters and fascias, and we have a 25 year guarantee on the whole project.

Our thanks go out to the members of the Village Hall Committee that managed the project (you know who you are) and to all the members of the community who helped with painting boards, clearing the Hall, cutting back vegetation, clearing away debris, and all the other tasks that needed doing. We are strong when we act together like this and we thank you all.

One final job planned is to refurbish the wooden floor of the main Hall; this will freshen it up and be a visible indication of the improvements we are trying to make.

An "Open Day" is planned to thank all our funding partners and show the Hall off to the local community on Saturday **5th September**. More news to follow.

HIGHBRAY & CHARLES WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At our WI Meeting in April, Lisa Chanter delivered a well-researched presentation on the Lost Country Houses of North Devon, very informative.

At our Meeting in May, Kevin Shadwick delivered a very interesting talk on Mudlarking and showcased some of his finds, including many examples of North Devon pottery that he has found in the river at Barnstaple. He also brought along his collection of deep blue/black wine bottles that were several hundred years old!

Also, at our May meeting we held a Bring and Buy plant sale, raising funds for our chosen charity this year, Bounce, based in Tiverton. This event was also run in support of the NFWI taking part in the national campaign 'A Million Acts of Hope'. Bounce provides

specialist mental health support for children, young people and their families.

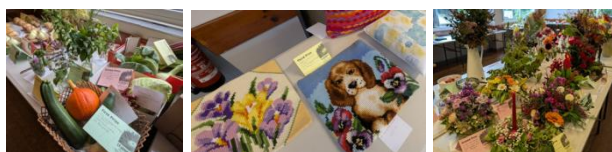
In August, many of our members are looking forward to going on our annual outing, this year it is to Coldharbour Mill, Uffculme, one of the oldest woollen mills in the UK.

Our regular events including Book Club, Cards Group, Knit and Natter, Lunch Club and Skittles, enjoyed by all members.

WI meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month and we are always looking to welcome new members. If you would like to attend a meeting or make enquiries about joining, please email highbrayandcharles@devonwi.org.uk.

BRAYFORD SHOW 2026

The Brayford Show will be held on Saturday **1st August**, in the Village Hall, and the detailed schedule and entry form has been inserted in this edition of the Newsletter. Let's hope we get a great summer, so that in August the Village Hall will be filled with wonderful displays.



We have made only a few changes to the schedule from last year, but they do include in the cookery class: Meringues (no filling); Coffee and Walnut tray bake; Viennese fingers; Apple cake; Garibaldi biscuits; Treacle tart; Chocolate cake with buttercream; Fruit scones; Vegetarian savoury muffins.

In the crafts, a handmade toy is in for the first time. And a decorated horseshoe, so popular last year, is back again (old ones will be available at the farmers Market in June and July, with a few in the 'phone box'; the photography includes architecture, transport, farm life, a pet, anything funny.....and, an antique or historic photo of Brayford.

The arrangements class includes a bowl of floating flower heads, a wildflower arrangement, summer wreath, and a mixed media arrangement including dry flowers. Art gives you the chance to create a print using anything from a potato to a lino cut, perhaps even some bubble wrap.

In the Open to All Class, why not write something funny.... I'm sure you can think of a few things that could bring your pen to life!

And finally, a few old classic machines of any kind, along with your much-loved car or motor bike would be great to see. Oh, and why not decorate that old rubber tyre that has been in the shed for years!

Have a great summer...please get planting, baking, making and everything else!

FROM THE GARDEN GATE

The summer months of June, July, and August are among the most rewarding times in the garden. Borders are filled with colour, vegetables are growing quickly, and patios and greenhouses are alive with

activity. Regular care during these warmer months helps keep gardens healthy, productive, and looking their very best.

Flower beds and borders need constant attention throughout summer. Deadheading roses, petunias, geraniums, and other bedding plants encourages continuous flowering and keeps displays fresh and colourful. Taller plants, i.e. dahlias and delphiniums may require staking to prevent damage from wind and heavy showers. Watering becomes especially important during hot spells, particularly for hanging baskets and containers which can dry out very quickly.

Vegetable gardens are often at their peak during summer. Courgettes, beans, and peas grow rapidly and benefit from regular feeding and consistent watering. Salad crops should be sown little and often to provide fresh leaves throughout the season. Harvesting vegetables regularly encourages plants to keep producing and prevents crops from becoming overgrown – and if you have too much veg, give some away!

Pots and containers provide excellent displays for patios and smaller spaces. Combining colourful flowers with herbs such as basil, mint, or parsley creates attractive and practical arrangements. Containers should be watered frequently and fed every couple of weeks, as nutrients can quickly be used up during summer growth.

Greenhouses require careful management during warmer weather. Ventilation is essential to prevent excessive heat build-up, so doors and vents should be opened daily. Tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers growing under glass will need regular watering and feeding to maintain healthy growth and strong crops.

Summer gardening is about keeping on top of small jobs while enjoying the rewards of the season. With a little daily care, gardens continue to flourish right through to the end of August.

And don't forget to enter some of your produce in the Brayford Show on August 1st....

DEFIBRILLATORS LOCATION (what3words)

Brayford Village Hall, EX32 7QJ :

beginning.breed.person

Sunnyside Cottage, Charles, EX32 7QX :-

Dabbling.imported.outs

Parishioners – do send any news you would like to include in future issues (including pictures), or dates to add to the calendars, to the Editor or Parish Clerk.

If anyone outside the Parish would like the Newsletter emailed to them, please contact/ send email address to the Editor.

South Molton Community News – online link :

www.visitsouthmolton.co.uk/community-news

REMINDER: Please submit articles for the August/ September 2026 issue by **23rd July latest** to the Editor
Jane Jeyes: janejeyes@hotmail.com 710388/ 07730 356781
Thank you.

The Poltimore Inn

East Street North Molton Devon EX36 3HR. 01598 740 338.

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Afternoon: 1pm - 6pm, £40
Night: 6pm - 11pm, £80

Bookings: Val 710 613 or Maxine 710 586
Inquiries: brayfordvhbookings@gmail.com
Online: facebook.com/BrayfordVillageHall

Brayford VILLAGE HALL



The Brayford Exchange

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Useful contacts:-

Updates are available on the Parish Council's website: brayford.org. The village also has an 'unofficial' Facebook Group page where you can see what is going on locally or say 'hello' to others <https://www.facebook.com/groups/brayfordvillage>

Brayford.org Website Admin	Jamie Hartnoll	
Brayford Academy	Sara Leggot	710345
Brayford School PTFA	Crystal Williamson	
Brayford Newsletter	Jane Jeyes	710388
Brayford Men's Skittlers	Anthony Bawden/ Andrew Tucker	710094/ 07958 177313
Brayford Show	Howard Tolley	711828
Brayford Youth Club	Michele Martin-Taylor	07730 940402
Charles Church	Chris Muir	07967 967053
Brayford Farmers' Market	Jonathan Brownell	710389
High Bray Bell Ringers	Russell Burrows	710256
High Bray & Charles WI	Carol Erzen	07919 926785
High Bray Church	Madeleine Brownell	710389
Men's Breakfast Club	Richard Lennon	07841 030287
Methodist Church	Ruth Knights	710014
Parish Council	Brian Symons (Chairman)	07701 288299
Parish Clerk	Kate Malone	
Village Hall Bookings	Maxine Padgham / Val Warner	710586/ 710613
Village Hall Chairman	Geoff Bott	710166
Village Hall Vice-Chairman	Malcolm Gardner	07768 222222

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