



Welcome to Jaba  
News May 2023.  
[www.jaba.org.uk](http://www.jaba.org.uk)

## Jaba Coronation 'Street Party' Monday May 8<sup>th</sup> 3 – 5pm

You are invited to get together with the Bartonsham community over a glass of wine or a cuppa to celebrate the coronation of King Charles. Come along to St. James' school playground for afternoon tea, crafts for the children and music by the fire choir. Optional dress code red, white and/or blue. Children are invited to make a crown. Prizes for the best. If you'd like to contribute in any way contact Elaine [secretary@jaba.org.uk](mailto:secretary@jaba.org.uk)/ Silver 07828789797. The event is free thanks to support from Hereford City Council but donations are welcome towards the work of the St. James' & Bartonsham Community Association: Jaba

## Monday May 22<sup>nd</sup> Recovering our Rivers: where are we, what next, how can we all get involved? Jamie Audsley HWT Plus JABA AGM. 7 for 7.30pm The Barrels (back room)

Jamie Audsley, the new CEO of Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, will be talking about the crisis of our rivers, including The Wye. Come along from 7pm for a drink and cake for a short AGM at 7.30 followed by Jamie's talk around 8pm. The AGM will report on Jaba's work over the last year, share ideas for the next and elect new committee members. If you would like to join the team, or stand for Chair or Secretary, do contact us.

## Balsam Bash at Bishop's Meadow Sat. May 27<sup>th</sup> 10.30 – 12.30

Last year Jaba took on the task of trying to make a difference to our local stretch of river and took up the job of clearing the riverbanks at Bishops Meadow, of Himalayan balsam. We held regular Saturday morning 'bashes' from May – September which we'll be starting again on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Bring gardening gloves and meet at Bishop's Meadow by Victoria Bridge at 10.30pm. Balsam pulls up easily, root and all. Twist off the root and leave the plant on the ground to rot. Himalayam balsam is an invasive non- native species (INNS) It is the tallest, densest, fastest - growing UK annual, growing up to 3 metres tall. Each plant can produce up to 1500 seeds, dispersed and shot up to 7m away! It

forms a barrier to accessing the river, reducing visibility and safety along the riverbank. It smothers other species and causes soil erosion, resulting in mud and silt being washed into the river. See [www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk](http://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk) for more information on INNS including a downloadable balsam toolkit.

## 2022 – 2023 What has Jaba been doing?

The Jaba team have also worked hard to try to make a difference on matters of local concern: school, nursery and community use of 'The RVS building, ' articulated lorries, noise nuisance, safer streets, a pavement for Harold Street, the plight of the river and tackling invasive species, as well as organising social events and supporting initiatives of other community groups, like the Jubilee. At Christmas we bid farewell to the scout hut with a Christmas social, and at Easter we held an Easter egg hunt along the permissive path. We look forward to getting together for the Coronation 'street party.'

**Thank you to our Chair David Straker** Sadly David will be stepping down as Chair at the AGM. David joined the team as Treasurer in 2017 and has been a committed member of Jaba ever since, serving as Chair from 2020. David was particularly instrumental in getting the RVS building listed as an asset of community value in 2018, a classification that still stands. He has been a regular supporter of Jaba's balsam initiative at Bishop's Meadow. We are very glad that he and Jane will continue to be members of the Jaba team. Meanwhile Jaba is in need of a Chair. Would you be interested?

## Welcome to our new JABA team members

We're delighted to welcome Seamus, Lisa, Nicky and Lee to the JABA team along with Cath, Steve, Silver, Jane, David and Elaine and Paul. If you are



interested in joining us, knowing more or have ideas or matters of concern, do get in touch. Visit fb: St.James' and Bartonsham Community Group (Jaba) and [www.jaba.org.uk](http://www.jaba.org.uk) We look forward to seeing you at one of our events. Elaine

