

NEWTON WONDER

THE MAGAZINE & WEBSITE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF NEWTON ST CYRES

£1.00

April 2025

Friends of Newton St Cyres Station BIG SEED PLANT-UP

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At the station on May Bank
Holiday (5th May) at 11am

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www.newtonwonder.net



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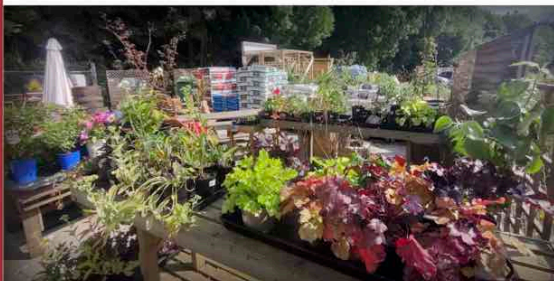
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April's cover

Our cover picture this month is from Chris Southcott.

Thomas the Tank Engine's Eightieth birthday celebrations were loved by everyone and, in particular, by the children in the village. Ann Quon Cordingley reports on the highlight of the weekend, as far as the adult population of the village was concerned, and that was the talk by Veronica Chambers about her father Rev. Wilbert Audrey and the writing of the books.

There were railway layouts with Thomas the Tank Engine models along with his friends. All the events of the weekend are reported on pages 22 to 25 of this issue of the Newton Wonder.

Following the railway theme and the activities of last month it seemed appropriate to remind ourselves of the great work done by Chris and his merry band of volunteers. The station always looks loved and the flowers in the summer are exceptional. The team will be doing a "big plant-up" for the coming summer on the Spring Bank Holiday, May 5th. More volunteers are always welcome and you are invited to take part in the planting and the follow up during the year.

The village has entered the Britain in Bloom competition and the details will be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting which is to be held in the parish hall on the 14th May.

Volunteering is always a worthwhile activity and several groups and organisations in the village are looking for volunteers. Here at the Newton Wonder we need help with the writing of the "Do You Remember?" column and we are always looking for new contributors to our magazine. Do you have a hobby you would like to write about and to encourage others to become interested? Would you like to share your favourite activities with the village?

Cllr Monica Herpoldt-Bright has taken on the responsibility for neighbourhood watch. There are several parts of the village which need deputies and a meeting has been organised in the parish hall for Thursday 24th April at 10.30am.

Peter Hawksley

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT MARCH 2025

The meeting, held on Thursday 6TH March, was attended by four Councillors, the Parish Clerk, and two Mid Devon District Councillors.

Local Government Reform

The Parish Council has recently had some information on Local Government Reform (LGR). LGR is a national scheme that will streamline local government and devolve new powers to local areas. Devon is part of phase two of this process. This means that the target date for making the final decision on the structure of the new authority is summer 2026, with the introduction of the new authority/authorities in spring 2028. Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council will no longer exist in their current form. However, the final structure is not yet set. Several different formats have been put forward by the various councils involved. Parish Councils like our own will continue to exist and may even have a more important role.

Planning

Councillors Steve Keable from Mid Devon and Graeme Barnell, the Parish Council lead on planning, updated us on the Mid Devon Local Plan. This plan, amongst other things, sets targets for house building across the district. Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) was in the process of making a new plan before the election last year. Since the election, much larger annual housing targets have been set. MDDC is revising the plan in line with the new targets. The date for finalising the plan is now December 2027. There will be a chance for public consultation in spring 2027.

The Parish Council was in the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan. This is an official document. MDDC would need to take it into account when developing their Local Plan. It is a way of making our views and needs known in an official way. Much good work has been done by a group of volunteers. Sadly, the work has come to a halt as there is no one available to complete the task. The Parish Council reluctantly agreed to no longer pursue the plan. We thank everyone who has contributed and will try to make the outcome of the work known on a more unofficial level. One aspect we decided to follow up is the designation of areas of green space within the Parish. If you are interested in knowing more about this, please contact the Council.

Devon County Council Elections

Devon County Council elections will take place in May. Our County Councillor, Margaret Squires, will be retiring after many years of service. The Parish Council thanks her for all the hard work she has done for us.

Other Parish Council Matters

- The Council decided to demolish the existing bus shelter at Half Moon. After consultation with local residents, it was decided to try to replace it, funds permitting, with a more suitable structure, at a more suitable location.
- There may be grants available for making repairs to footpaths. Councillor Graeme Barnell will arrange a meeting with Devon County Council and Footpath Warden to see what can be done.
- A quote has been received for removal of the dead elms in the hedgerows at the allotments. We accepted the quote and authorised the work to be done. Councillor Donna Harris is meeting with John Quicke to determine what is to be done with the wood.
- Two quotes for grass-cutting around the village have been received. The cheaper one has been accepted.
- After some debate, it was decided not to issue the annual report in the current format. Councillor Liz Ouldrige will investigate other possibilities.
- Councillor Liz Ouldrige reported on Community Resilience. She is currently updating the snow warden scheme in preparation for winter 2025/26. She also reported on discussions about a broken drain at Smallbrook. It's hoped this will be repaired soon.
- Councillor Jocelyne Rimbon-Whittaker reported that a suitable location for the Volunteers' Tea Party has been found. A target date has been set for some time in June.
- Councillor Graeme Barnell reported that grants may now be available for people with poor broadband speeds to enable some improvements to be made. Councillor Liz Ouldrige will follow up this to try to get information to the relevant parishioners.
- A new noticeboard has been erected in Sweetham, near the Beer Engine. The Parish Council thank Will and Vikki from The Beer Engine for their generous funding that enabled us to replace the old board.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Parish Hall on **Thursday 3rd April** at 7pm. Members of the public are welcome. Alternatively, if members of the public wish issues to be raised in council meetings, they can contact councillors in the usual way. There is also a Parish Surgery at the Coffee Mornings held on the **second Saturday of the month** in the Parish Hall.

NEWTON ST CYRES PARISH COUNCIL

If you wish to contact the Parish Council you may use the QR code below



- Tell us of any issues within the Parish that we can deal with including reports to the Road Wardens.
- Offer any assistance that you feel able to give, no matter how small.
- Give us feedback about issues we have dealt with.

BRITAIN IN BLOOM 2025

SAVE THE DATE

You are invited to the Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 14 May 2025

in the Parish Hall Club Room

Come and hear about Newton St Cyres entry into the
“Britain in Bloom” competition

Light refreshments will be provided



**Sustainable
CREDITON**

Prunes in port

Something different for the store cupboard!

You will need:

250gm/8oz stoned prunes (Agenprunes if you can get them)

25gm/1oz brown sugar (Muscovado is best)

a cinnamon stick

a bay leaf

port

Place the prunes, bay leaf, and cinnamon stick in a preserving jar, and add brown sugar.

Cover with port, seal, date, and label the jar.

Store for at least six months before using.

These are good to serve with fresh pineapple, or ice cream, and their rich flavour makes an unusual accompaniment to roast pork.

Paul Cleave

CELEBRATING?

**CHRISTENING
BIRTHDAY
ENGAGEMENT
WEDDING RECEPTION
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

Why not consider the Parish
Hall for your venue?

It's local, not expensive, has
its own car park, two rooms and
a new kitchen.

Also has wi-fi and suitable for
club and business meetings

For further details, please contact

Peter Watts, 01392 851369

peterwatts361@btinternet.com



The hall has also been used for Coffee Mornings, Bands to Practice, New Years Eve, Community Kitchen, Folk Festivals, Children's events, Gigs, Silent Disco, Craft Fairs, Church events and more

Newton St Cyres Tennis Club

We're nearly at the end of our League matches and are doing well. Everybody is enjoying the matches all over Devon.

Rusty Rackets has a regular session going, so why not contact Sue Bloomfield (sueblmfld03@gmail.com) for further information?

Other club sessions during the week are also very well attended and are from time to time followed by drinks and chips in one of the local pubs. So not only are you getting great exercise when you join the tennis club, you are also getting a very sociable experience with friendly people of all ages.



The new membership year just started in April so now is a great time to be joining. Come and try out a session before joining. Just contact our membership secretary Laura Leigh on 01647 24259.

Junior coaching, run by our new junior coach James Temple, takes place on Wednesdays after school during term time, and there might be a few places available in some of the groups for the 12-week summer term. Please email

juniors@newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk for further information and to check availability.

Jon Wills now offers adult coaching both individually and for small groups, so if you feel you need to brush up your skills, just get in touch via our website, www.newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk.

[newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk](http://www.newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk).

Frederick Maddock

Newton St Cyres toddler group

Come along and join us every Wednesday in term time, lots of great toys to play with. Stories to enjoy, craft session and activities to try.

It is great family fun.

Our family sessions are £2 a time and run from 9:15 - 11:15 am. The price includes a drink and a snack.

We would love you to join us at Newton St Cyres Primary School



see our facebook page
Newton Nappies
Contact the School on
01392 851267

NEWTON RAMBLERS

Sunday 27th April

The walk this month will be a circular one around the wildlife-rich wetland of **Exminster Marshes and the Exe Estuary**. It should be a fairly easy walk of around 4 miles, starting from the car park at The Swan's Nest, Station Rd, Exeter EX6 8DZ. If you have binoculars bring these with you, as there should be chance to see birds around the Marshes & along the Canal. Walking Boots (or Wellingtons if we have had a lot of rain prior to the 27th) are advised. The walk is mainly on footpaths, but they will be a stile to negotiate.

We will initially meet at Newton St Cyres Parish Hall Car Park at 0930, in order to reduce the number of cars that we take to the start of the walk.

If you plan to meet us at the Swan's Nest car park, please let me know in advance & we will look to leave there just after 10am (traffic dependant)

A table has been booked for 10 people at 1.00pm at the Swan's Nest where they have a Carvery. Please reserve your place with Nicola on the number below by 20th April.

All are Welcome and further information about the walk is available from Nicola on 01392 851985

Please note that anyone joining us on these walks obviously does so at their own risk



Newton St Cyres 200 Club

The draw for March took place at the Coffee Morning on 8 March and the winners were:

No. 20	M Phillips	£10.00
No. 162	A Pritchard	£10.00
No. 38	E Honebon	£10.00
No. 17	CA Finning	£10.00
No. 235	V Soper	£10.00

If anyone can help with collecting subscriptions please let Jane (01392 851148) or John know (01392 851346). Many thanks in anticipation.

The club is registered through Mid Devon District Council Licensing Department as a Small Society Lottery under the Gambling Act 2005

Thoughts for March from Peter Cordingley

As was roundly predicted, all attempts to prevent McDonalds coming to Crediton were in vain. The restaurant is up and running, and, by the looks of it, is running well. I don't know how many people were there on the opening day, but my estimate would be "lots". The car park was jammed, with several cars circling the car park in search of a spot. For a while, Mole Avon positioned a staff member in its car park to discourage McDonalds' customers from parking there and walking across to the restaurant.

Truth be told, the resistance didn't amount to much, did it? The real fear was that a McDonalds would wreck Crediton's olde-world feel and make life difficult for the town's restaurants. The jury's still out on that, but my feeling is that a cheeky quick bite in McDonalds is a completely different experience to going out for a meal in a restaurant. We'll see.

Other warnings ranged from global methane levels being raised by cows bred for burgers (not sure that will keep me awake at night), to inadequate parking spaces at the site to, of course, the health risks posed by over-indulgence in high-fat food.

I know as much about public health as I do about as space flight, but it's accepted that certain elements of fast-food diets are not good for you. In the list I saw online, there were warnings about type 2 diabetes, heart problems, obesity, certain cancers and a variety of other quite worrying issues. But, as with many things, moderation is the key. Many experts say a trip to McDonalds once a week won't do much damage.

The trick for many parents is to prevent fast food becoming their children's meal of choice on a regular basis. Staff at the Crediton McDonalds say that it's "all hands on deck" at the end of the school day when waves of youngsters pour in. I speak with some authority on this matter, as I was absolutely useless at imposing discipline on one of our brood.

On the positive side, the restaurant has created jobs for more than 120 full and part-time staff, and lots of the produce is sourced locally. That has to be good news for our farming community, many of whose members seem to be in serious need of cheering up.

Maybe I'm in a minority of one, but I like the look of the restaurant and think it fits in nicely and colourfully with Mole Avon, the Red Deer and Tescos. It creates a unique hub that puts Crediton on the map and draws visitors from all around.

Footnote: We tried out the McDonalds a couple of weeks after the opening – and I can report it was an enjoyable experience. Dasher, the oddly named young lady who took our order in the Drive-Thru, said this was her first job and she was “so, so happy”. She said that her workmates were all friendly and the company treated her well.

It all took less than 15 minutes from the moment we joined the two other vehicles in front of us to the time we exited the car park with our meals. All very slick, with lots of smiles from Dasher and the equally cheerful lass handing out the food at the next window. No matter what you may think about McDonalds, people are obviously lovin' it! And the staff seem to be too.



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GOOD DRINK
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BEER ENGINE**
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Pub: 16:00-20:00 Kitchen CLOSED
Thursday/Friday/Saturday Pub: 12:00-23:00
Kitchen: 12:00-15:00 and 17:00-21:00
Sunday Pub: 16:00-21:00 Kitchen CLOSED

Newton St Cyres, Devon, EX5 5AX
01392 851282

NEWTON St CYRES PARISH HALL

QUIZ & PASTY EVENING

A very successful evening was enjoyed by 12 teams at the 8th March quiz evening, held to raise funds for the Hall. It was great to see so many villagers get teams together for an evening of brain testing and laughter! We were really pleased to welcome teams from CREDITON and CLYST HYDON.

Booking secretary Peter Watts had recommended a friend, Stuart, to be host Quizmaster with Liz as scorer. Stuart produced a wide range of questions on the following topics:

Over the Hill & Far Away, Sporty Stuff, Child's Play, Local Affairs, Polymathical and Noted Dramas. There was also a Marathon Round (worth 50 points) with photographs of the faces, recent and not so recent, of famous people.

In the interval, 'Moores of Exmouth' pasties were served and the raffle was drawn.

The winners of the Quiz, with 153 points, were KFC (nothing to do with chicken!) from Kingfisher Close. In 2nd place were Izzy Bizzy Let's get Quizzzy with 147 points, and Quizzly Bears came in 3rd with 143 points.

At the end of the evening, Nicola thanked Stuart and Liz for a most enjoyable evening, and presented them with a bottle of wine and flowers in appreciation of their hard work.

Thank you to all who took part, and to all those who helped organise and run the event.

Details of future events in the Hall are:

21st June – Johnny Coppin and Phil Beer: a rare duo gig, tickets now on sale from Nicola 01392 851985

14th September – Hungrytown, a duo on tour from America

31st December Village New Year's Eve Ceilidh

We hope to see you in the Hall soon

The Annual General Meeting of the Newton St Cyres Parish Hall

will be held on Monday 28th April 2025 in the main hall at 7.00 pm

You are invited to attend and this is an opportunity to raise any questions or suggestions you may have about the Hall and its activities.

How well do you know your village?

Can you answer the following questions:-

- 1. WHEN was the picture taken?**
- 2. WHERE was it taken?**
- 3. WHO is in the Picture?**

No 97



**For a closer look see our website:-www.newtonwonder.net
On the Home Page you will find this picture and a link to all the quiz photos so far and an easy form to submit your answers.**

David Baker

a Legend in the Parish



David Baker with his wife Jill pictured at the presentation of a painting of Pump Street on their leaving the village for North Devon in 2018

It was very saddening to hear about the passing of David Baker. He was a true “Village Legend” who really cared for the people around him.

I first came across David in July 2010 following an article in the Newton Wonder asking for a volunteer to take over as Editor of that prestigious monthly local magazine. I was given the role and produced the September edition.

In November 2010 an article was put in by Newton St Cyres Parish Council explaining that there was a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. I met up with David and decided to apply and was voted in at the next meeting. Several months later I was upgraded to Vice Chairman as no-one else wanted the role.

It meant that I worked more closely with David and got to see how he used his guile to get things done.

Over the years, under his leadership and together with other Councillors, we worked on many projects, two of the biggest being the building of a new Primary School in Station Road and the installation of a Pedestrian Crossing in the centre of the village.

Our biggest regret was not being able to find a suitable site for Affordable Housing, which still remains outstanding.

When in 2018 David and Jill decided to move to North Devon to be nearer to family I took over as Chairman thus putting the skills that he had taught me to good use, with his last Parish Council meeting taking place in early 2019.

David cared about the Village, he cared about the people and, over his 14 years on the Parish Council, he did his very best to make Newton St Cyres a nicer place to live.

David gave his time to help within the Village including working with others in helping the Recreation Ground, the Village Hall, the Arboretum and the Village Car Park amongst others. And his favourite was probably the Gardening Group.

Partly due to Covid, many of us lost touch with David over the past five years, but the legacy he has left within Newton St Cyres will remain visible for many decades to come.

Jim Enright

Neighbourhood Watch

**A meeting will be held for all
Neighbourhood Watch deputies,
past, present and future
on**

Thursday April 24th at 10.30 in the Parish Hall Club room

**It will be an opportunity for a social get together and
to meet our PCSO Nicola Payne.**

**It will also be an opportunity to meet other like minded parishioners. And,
if you've ever wondered about the scheme, this is the time to come along
and find out.**

Looking forward to seeing you then,

Monika Herpoldt-Bright

NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP



Sweetham & the Beer Engine

The History Group had a bit of a BOGOF ('Buy One Get One Free') evening on 12th March, with two speakers on the agenda. Midge Kelly talked about the general history of Sweetham, the northern hamlet of Newton St Cyres near the railway station, from before 4000 BC to the present day. Peter Hawksley, landlord of the Beer Engine from 1983, then entertained us with anecdotes from the pub's colourful past.

Chris Southcott brought along some of the interesting items that he has found in Sweetham, some of which date back to Neolithic and Roman times. The crop mark of a possible Roman fortlet between New Estate and Lake Barton, and recent LIDAR investigations showing a Roman road running through Newton St Cyres are further evidence of Roman activity in the area.

Sweetham used to be part of the ancient Manor of Norton, which was held as security when the Bishop of Crediton monastery borrowed money from a gentleman called Beorthnoth in 1018. After the Bishop died, the Manor was purchased or given to Exeter Monastery, and it remained under the control of the Church to the present day (for many years administered via the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral), though much land has now been sold off.

A fabulous map of 1792 commissioned by the Dean and Chapter to record its landholdings in the Manor, including land values, leaseholders and occupiers is an amazing resource that has revealed much about the area's past.

The Manor's heart was in Norton, and during the 1300s there were probably many features there, including the manor house, barns, chapel, a water mill with millpond, and a medieval road. Some of the oak timbers used in the construction of the (present) Exeter Cathedral were treated in the steeping ponds near Newcombes, including the Bishop's Throne (completed 1316).

Only three (possibly four) dwelling houses are shown in Sweetham on the 1792 map, corresponding in today's world to Lake Barton, Withylake Cottage and Blenheim House. Though the farm at Lake has been around for centuries, the present farmhouse was probably rebuilt circa 1870 by the Dean and Chapter, just before grain prices plummeted due to an influx of grain from overseas when import duties were reduced.

Withylake Cottage was called Late (meaning 'formerly') Westerns in 1792, and adjacent field names indicate that a farmer called Western had occupied it before that date, possibly between 1722 and 1742. Other records reveal later occupants, including Barber, Southcott and Lee in the period to 1870.

The Southcotts above moved out of Withylake in 1789 when his daughter got married, moving into a house that was formerly the Ring of Bells Inn. The 1792 map shows that this house was probably in the position of today's Blenheim House, down by the present railway station. Before the railway opened in 1851 with the bridge over the tracks, the road from the main part of the village (now Station Road) to Crediton, Shobrooke, Winscott and Langford ran along Station Approach and past the front of the Ring of Bells.

During the years between 1809 and 1841, a row of eight semi-detached cottages was built in Sweetham by Thomas Pasmore, a wealthy yeoman farmer who lived at Newcombes. The cottages were built on land called Gales Meadow, probably to house the families of farm labourers and tradesmen such as thatchers, masons, carpenters, wheelwrights and shoemakers who found employment on nearby farms. They were simply constructed, over-crowded and had rather

dodgy sanitation. Mains sewerage wasn't connected until 1964.

After the railway came, the occupations of the cottagers became less centred on farming and property maintenance, and more around the railway. The railway brought many opportunities for



Old Methodist Chapel circa 1920 with adjoining cottages

the area, in terms of more accessible markets for produce and livestock, and far easier personal travel. It brought considerable employment for Sweetham, and many plate layers, labourers, machinists, porters, signalmen, station masters and telegraph clerks lived in the hamlet over the years.

In 1860 the occupant of Withylake sold part of his garden to the stationmaster, and a Bible Christian Chapel was built on the land, which opened in 1863. The fortunes of the chapel waxed and waned until its eventual closure in 1988, influenced by factors such as the reopening and subsequent closure of the manganese mines in the village, and the skills and dynamism of chapel members.

In the 1920s, several new houses were built by the council, in Creedy View (3 pairs of 2) and later New Estate (3 blocks of 4, 2 blocks of 2 – with another pair of semi-detached houses added later). (It is not known when Nos. 19 and 20 were built, or by whom). In New Estate, drinking water from a well in the garden of No. 2 was moved by wind pump up to large tanks that then supplied all the properties.

Peter Hawksley rounded off the evening like a smooth single malt, recounting tales of the lip-smacking Constable Lamacraft helping himself to his first (frothy) beer, and the unpleasant second husband of landlady Polly Kemp, who drank away the inn's profits.

The Beer Engine (originally the Railway Inn – then the Iron Horse, later, the Old Barn Owl) was built around 1851, probably by Thomas Moore, a builder and master carpenter who lived in the village and employed 12 men in 1841. Thomas became the first landlord, probably in 1851 although he was listed in the 1851 census as a shopkeeper. The premises were multifunctional until recent years, incorporating at different times a blacksmith's workshop, timber yard, linhay (barn), assembly rooms, brewhouse, stables, garage, coal store and petrol pump (with 300 gal tank). There was also a large vegetable garden with fruit trees on its railway side. The inn was clearly a central part of the community in the 19th century, being used for inquests, church teas, balls, concerts and Morris dancing, as well as more conventional pub functions.

Peter pointed out that there are several puzzles surrounding the inn. In 1920 it was purchased as a freehold from the Quicke estate, but who owned it from the beginning? Possibly the Railway Company, who may have acquired the land to build the railway, the Dean and Chapter, on whose land, part of Lake Farm, it was built, or, definitely by 1909, the Quickes?

Why does the Beer Engine have the rather unusual shape resembling a tollhouse? Could it be because of the shape of the available plot that it was built on, up against the embankments associated with the railway and bridge?

And why have the vast majority of landlords since 1853 stayed for just a couple of years, before moving on? Three families, though, cover 76 years of the pub's 174-year history. Although two families held the licence for long periods, with different members of the family at different times or under different names, Peter held the licence without a break for the longest – at almost 22 years.

Our understanding of the history of this small hamlet still has many gaps and question marks. There is much left to discover, and if anyone has historical evidence that they can share with us, both Peter and I would be delighted to hear from you.

Midge Kelly

Nick Baker Local History Essay Competition 2025

Two Prizes of £100

This competition was established to commemorate the life of Nick Baker, an avid local historian, who was always keen to share his knowledge and expertise with others.

Entries are now warmly invited for 2025.

Summary of Rules

1. The competition is open to all residents of the parishes of Brampford Speke, Newton St Cyres, Thorverton, and Upton Pyne and Cowley
2. Entries should consist of an essay of 1,000 to 2,000 words on a topic clearly connected to one or more of the parishes — for example: a local person, event, place or building. Associated illustrations are welcomed.
3. There will be two prizes — one for entrants up to the age of 18, and one for those aged over 18, with age taken as at 1 December 2025. If you are 18 or younger, please state your age, as this will be taken into account by the judges.
4. Entry to the competition is confirmation that you consent to your work being published by the three parish magazines at the discretion of their respective editors in

This competition is run by Newton Wonder in association with Focus on Thorverton

The prizes are wholly funded by Nick's family and friends.

Margaret Squires to step down from local politics

When local elections are held on 1st May, a familiar name will be missing from the ballot paper. After more than 40 years in politics, Margaret Squires has decided not to stand for re-election as a County Councillor. This will mark the end of an era in local politics as the 74-year-old has served at all three levels of local government – parish, district and county.



Picture: Ann Quon Cordingley

Margaret Squires

A farmer's daughter with five brothers, Margaret grew up in Tiverton and started her career in politics in 1981 as a parish councillor representing Sandford. She wanted to use her farming background to make a difference, representing the interests of the farming and rural communities. She practised her craft at the parish council level for 32 years before moving to the district and county councils.

For the past 12 years, Margaret has been the Devon County Councillor for Creedy, Taw and Mid-Exe, with the task of representing a geographically sprawling

constituency comprising a whopping 29 parishes – that's almost half the 62 parishes in Mid Devon, covering an area stretching from Wembworthy across to Bickleigh and from Thelbridge down to Newton St Cyres.

School, social services, public transport, the state of the roads, waste disposal – you name it and she has dealt with it all during her 44 years of public service. This is especially evident in areas that she cared deeply about – social services, education, and council funding.

While Margaret spent most of her political career as an independent, when Tony Blair's Labour party came to power in 1997, she joined the Tory party because she felt Labour wasn't doing enough for rural communities, especially for farmers.

Today, as she prepares to step back from politics to spend more time with David, her husband of more than 50 years, and her family, she spoke to Ann Quon Cordingley about her decades-long political career.

As you look at your life of public service, what would you say are the highlights?

I have enjoyed my time as a councillor. There are a number of things I can look back on! Getting to know the area and the people and the local community was the most important thing to me. I joined the Devon Association of Parish Councils as a Mid Devon representative of parishes and served on that for 12 years. During that time, a Devon Land Bank was formed with an ambition to achieve affordable housing. Here in Sandford, a local farmer put forward a piece of land and, working together, we as a parish and a housing association were the first in the county to finish the scheme.

It was a marathon to go through legal processes and setting up the first S106 (an agreement between a developer and local planning authority) drawn up with Mid Devon District Council for managing these schemes.

Another Sandford achievement that I was pleased to work with was the Millennium Green and footpath into Crediton.

What do you consider your proudest accomplishment?

I have found over the years that being a councillor means that, working together with others we can exercise influence as an individual. I also worked in Sandford with purchasing the post office shop – organising and leading a sponsored boundaries walk of approximately 25 miles. It is lovely seeing the community shop.

Being a County Councillor, especially in a very rural area, is a busy life, especially keeping in touch with the parish councils. I am out quite a few evenings, attending two or more meetings in an evening. Newton St Cyres Parish Council is on the first Thursday of the month, on the same evening as the Sandford Parish Council, but thankfully NSC meet earlier, at 7 pm.

Over the years I have tried to attend regularly. I have enjoyed working with them and County on projects. The development of the new NSC primary school was a highlight, and helping with my locality budget towards new furniture and equipment. It was also good to work towards the pedestrian crossing in the centre of the village.

Any unfinished business?

I am really pleased that the Boniface Trail (a planned cycleway and footpath between Crediton and Exeter) is included in the Devon County Council LCWIP programme [a list of approved projects to improve the county's transport infrastructure under its Transportation Infrastructure Plan]. It's going to take a number of years to finish, but possibly a length at a time will happen.

continued on next page

How do you feel the Tories did during their 14 years in power, especially for the rural communities that you mostly represented?

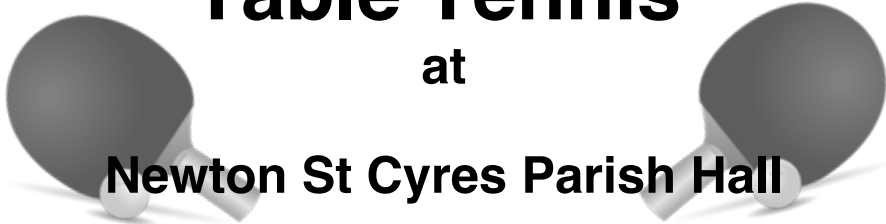
I am not sure it is appropriate to make a political statement now in the election period, but I remain a Conservative member, having worked with a Conservative-led Devon County Council for 12 years

Finally, any message for whoever succeeds you on the County Council?

Whoever is elected, I wish them well and hope they will enjoy being a councillor as much as I have. It will be a very different council going forward, with the new unitary authorities and combined authorities that the government are proposing. At present, both the County Council and the District authorities are working on options. It is a very busy time for the newly elected to be entering Devon County Council as it is now, and with the changes that will be taking place with reorganisation.

For election information: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/your-council/voting-elections/2025-elections/devon-county-council-election-2025/>

Table Tennis at

Two table tennis paddles and a ball are positioned on either side of the text 'Newton St Cyres Parish Hall'. The paddles are dark grey with light grey handles, and the ball is a small, light grey sphere.

Newton St Cyres Parish Hall

every Thursday from 7 to 9 pm.

As well as seeing present members of our Group, we are keen to welcome new players – with or without experience adults and children from the age of 12.

There are four tables, so we can fit in people from beginners and rusty former players to League players. Equipment is available.

You pay for the evenings you come - £3 for adults; £2 for schoolchildren.

Just come on the evening, but for any further information contact Roger Wilkins – rogerwilkins1@btinternet.com

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A WEEKEND WITH THOMAS AND FRIENDS

Youngsters of all ages gathered in the parish hall for a weekend of celebrations of 80 glorious years of Thomas the Tank Engine ... and his connection to Newton St Cyres. That connecting rail line runs through Sherwood House, home of Mark Chambers, grandson of Thomas's creator, the Rev Wilbert Awdry, and, like his granddad, a dedicated railway enthusiast.

Mark was on hand in the parish hall with his own working models of Thomas and Friends, while his mother, Veronica Chambers, the elder daughter of the author, enthralled her audience of Thomas fans with tales of her clergyman father's life and how the story of the cheerful little railway character developed into the books and TV series that continue to inspire new generations of Thomas the Tank Engine lovers.

Ann Quon Cordingley reports on the fascinating talk by Veronica Chambers

How it all began

Born in Ampfield vicarage, near Romsey, Hampshire in 1911, young Wilbert Awdry and his family moved to Box, in Wiltshire, a short distance from the main Great Western railway line.

At the age of eight, Wilbert would lie awake listening to the sounds of the trains passing nearby and would imagine they were talking to each other. Veronica recalls: "He would imagine a goods train picking up a banker locomotive at the station to help push it up the incline, and the struggling engine would seem to be saying: "I ca-a-an't do it, I ca-a-an't do it," while the equally struggling banker would be hissing, "Oh yes-s-s-s you can, oh yes-s-s-s you can."

Years later, Wilbert's tales about talking engines would be the basis for the stories he told his infant son Christopher when the youngster contracted measles. To entertain the bored child, Wilbert would regale him with rhymes and stories. According to Veronica, there was one rhyme – 'Down at the station early in the morning, see the little engines all in a row', which Wilbert recounted many times. "To make it more interesting, Father illustrated the rhyme with drawings of faces on round heads and gave them different expressions – angry, sad, happy and so on."

"As you know," Veronica told her audience, "children like stories to be repeated and ask a lot of questions. So he had to move from oral storytelling to writing them down on paper as he would get asked a lot of questions."

It being wartime Britain, paper was in short supply, so Wilbert would cut up parish circulars into small pieces and write on the reverse side. "I can remember him telling us: "Actually, it was much the best way to use parish circulars," she smiled. This from a clergyman!

The road from writing on scraps of paper to publishing was a long one. In those war years there were very few children's books – a situation that is difficult to imagine today. Wilbert's wife and his mother felt these tales were as good as any in the shops and passed them on to a distant cousin who happened to be a literary agent.

At first the manuscripts were turned down by publishers, but were eventually accepted by Edmund Ward, a publisher in Leicester, who was on the look-out for new authors. The *Three Railway Engines* was published in 1945, the first of 26 books that Wilbert would write.

All of his stories were based on real incidents in railway lore, Veronica said. "The only fiction is that the steam engines have personalities and can express it. Wilbert had countless numbers of magazines, cuttings and drivers' stories for reference and people were always sending him ideas."

New stories were always tested on the family. Awdry would appear at mealtimes with script in hand and read out loud to his wife and children. "Often, Father was able to tell for himself if something didn't sound right. If we didn't approve, we would get the same story up to half a dozen times until it passed muster," she said.

The number of words per page was vital, with only 80 to 90, as was his careful choice of what words to use. It's said that he rewrote one page of one story 26 times to get it absolutely right. "Father didn't believe in talking down to children and would use big words if he felt they were right and in context. So Oliver, the Western engine, is described as having resource and sagacity."



picture: Ann Quon Cordingley

Veronica and Mark with the "Puff, Puff Parson"

A disciplined writer, Awdry would set aside every Thursday for writing. Veronica describes an *Observer* magazine cover illustration from 1979 as an iconic image of her father. "He always had thick hair, much to my mother's annoyance because hers was growing thin, and a pipe that earned him the nickname "Puff, Puff Parson", presumably because the pipe smoke resembled steam from an engine. History does not record what he thought of the nickname, she said.

The Rev Awdry's grandson, Mark Chambers, whose home is Sherwood House, says he grew up with Thomas as a permanent fixture in his life. "The stories are all based on different characters that children can relate to," he says. "There's also the colours and the numbers, which play a big part in identifying them. At its core level, it's gentle, kind and honest and about friends who support one another. They all make mistakes and get things wrong, but they learn from them, and those things are universal."

How would the author feel now about how enduring his stories are to new generations of Thomas fans? "I think he would be humbled, said Veronica. "Thomas unites the world in friendship and, as a father, who was an essentially a peace-loving man, he would be very glad. The name Thomas is internationally understood and a name that breaks down barriers."

.....

Saturday's event finale was the superb **Exeter Railway Brass Band** and their brilliant programme conducted by 'Sir Topham Hatt' alias 'The Fat Controller'



Sunday 16th March saw dozens of families and young children feasting their eyes on the wonderful rail track with Thomas and Friends going round and round.





*Geoff Jackson and his
"Rocket"*

The Model Railway had a second complete set up in the Club Room opposite Geoff Jackson's wonderful display of engines, some of which he powered up to the delight of all who watched.

Geoff Jackson's model of Stephenson's Rocket – in yellow – will be on display at Crediton Library for their launch of the 'Devon Heritage Railway Archive' event on 22nd March.

*Children enjoyed Story-Telling with
Sue from Crediton Library..... or
they got to work with 'Thomas'
colouring pens at the Art Table or
Puzzle Table*



Harley with Veronica, the cake and the baby

Congratulations to Harley Law for his truly magnificent cake (made with 37 eggs!) which was the clear winner of the Cake Competition. Veronica Chambers presented Harley with his prize before cutting the cake – and the cake was shared with everyone who wanted to take a piece of delicious 'history' home with them!

Among the wonderful team of Newton St Cyres Volunteers (they know who they are) was our super chef, Jocelyne Whittaker. Asked to do "tea and biscuits for everyone", she laid on a spread that was worthy of a palace banquet.

*Harley presented Jocelyne his special second
cake on behalf of all who had enjoyed a
wonderful day. Thank you, Jocelyne!*



Thank you to everyone for this lovely celebration. (Christine & Julie)

Pictures: Christine Fraser and Julie Furniss

April on the Farm

Get to know Holly and Sarah

If you have visited our cheese shop, then you are bound to have met the brilliant Holly and Sarah, who run both our regular and online shops. With Easter on the horizon, we asked them a few questions, including what their favourite pairings are for this time of year.



Holly Gill (Left of picture)

How long have you worked at Quicke's ?

4 Years

What's your favourite part of your job?

I love trying lots of new cheeses and pairings when we are looking to stock new products in the shop. It is also fascinating to meet lots of different customers, from our local regular customers to people from all over the world! We get quite a lot of people from America stopping by to try our cheese, as it is far better than the Cheddar back there!

What is the one product in the shop that is special, that you would recommend?

Apart from Quicke's, I love all the cheese from White Lake Dairy in Somerset. They make beautiful goats' milk cheeses from their own herd and also ewes' milk and cows' milk cheeses, where the milk is sourced from local farms. The Eve is my particular favourite –

a soft goats' milk cheese soaked in Somerset cider brandy and wrapped in a vine leaf. The vine leaf gives it a lovely green colour and the cider brandy gives it a nutty flavour, with a melt-in-the-middle centre when ripe.

Easter is approaching. Are there any pairings you'd commend or a cheese?

This Easter I would recommend one of our delicious Cheddars. My favourite is the nice and strong Vintage, paired with a deliciously rich Mrs Gill's fruit cake. Cheddar and fruit cake sounds odd, but it works! Mrs Gills are made in Tiverton, so it is great to support another local small business.

What makes Quicke's cheese special?

Quicke's is special because of the care and attention to detail from all members of the team – from hand-cheddaring the curd in the cheese dairy to the cheese being cared for up to two years in the cheese store, to finally the cheese hampers being packed and shipped in the shop. Also, because the cheese is made from our own cows' milk, the flavour can vary throughout the year, depending on the cows' diet. Varied flavours but always delicious!

Tell me more about your Celebration cheesecakes?

We have a beautiful range of Celebration cheesecakes that have been designed by our small shop team. They are made up of several local and British cheeses (including our own, of course) arranged in a 'Tower'. The cheesecakes are perfect for birthdays, parties and weddings. Of course, I had to have a Quicke's cheesecake for my own wedding. I decided on the Lilley Top Celebration Cheesecake, which looked and tasted absolutely stunning and added an extra *wow!* factor to the celebrations.

Can I try the cheese when I come into the shop?

We love tasting cheese and if you ever want to try before you buy, please ask!

What's your best cheese joke?

What do you call a dinosaur made of cheese? Cheddarsaurus!

Sarah Carter (right in picture)

How long have you worked at Quicke's

Nearly 5 years.

What's your favourite part of your job?

I love the variety of work. You really never know who you might meet or what you might be doing! There is always something new to learn, and we laugh a lot.

What is the one product in the shop that is special, that you would recommend?

Clare's Preserves Sweet Pickles Cucumbers, on a cracker with Cheddar, Cornish Kern or a Brie – delicious! Clare's Preserves are made not far away in Bovey Tracey.

Easter is approaching. Are there some pairings you recommend?

Cornish Gouda with a smoky tomato relish is a delicious pairing any time of the year.

If Quicke's cheese was in a line up with all the cheddars, why choose Quicke's?

You can really taste the flavours that come through from the land here in Newton St Cyres. This can make the cheese vary slightly through the seasons, so no batch is completely identical. Every batch of Quicke's cheese is handmade and graded to get the best flavour. It is not mass-produced, so it tastes very different from the average supermarket Cheddars.

Tell me more about your Letterboxes?

Our Letterbox cheese hampers are a great gift that can be posted straight through your letterbox, so you don't have to worry about the recipient being in. We have 3 different Letterbox hampers available all year round. There are also guest Letterbox hampers throughout the year; for example; our Easter Letterbox filled with cheese, chocolate, chutney, crackers and a yummy, iced Easter biscuit.

Can I try the cheese when I come into the shop?

Yes, absolutely. We love to talk about cheese with our customers and find out which is their favourite. We also have a great time taking Quicke's cheese to the county shows, so people get to taste the full range of Cheddars and clothbound cheeses. It is fascinating how people's opinions and taste buds differ.

What's your best cheese joke?

What does the cheese say when he looks in the mirror? Halloumi!

Rachael Kinsella

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Do You Remember....April?

April 1975

The Cowley Bridge improvements had been completed but they yet had to be proved to be a success.

Three new P C members were elected at the Church, Mrs West, Mrs Cooke and Mrs Foxwell.

The Church was making an appeal for handy men with skills such as painting and decorating, fetchers and carriers, standers on ladders, plastering etc.

An advert appeared to encourage residents to start training for the Newton Walkabout – a sponsored walk round the parish boundary in May.

40 residents attended a lively Parish Annual meeting.

The Playgroup had vacancies and was inviting young mothers to make contact.

NSC Players elected a new Committee: Rosemary Smith (Chairman), Joan Dymond (Secretary) and Paul Gitsham (Treasurer). The next production would be 'Love's a Luxury' in April.

The Hall AGM elected their committee: J Quicke (President), Miss M Staddon (Secretary), Mrs J Rooke (Booking Secretary), Mr J Knightley (Treasurer).

An art exhibition by Prue Quicke was being staged in the Nail Cellars at Topsham with paintings and sketches mainly of Sherwood.

April 1985

The Annual Parish Meeting was held and the speaker was Mike Body, Assistant Road Safety Officer for Devon County Council.

The British Legion had raised £85.

The Cancer Research group were collecting old halfpennies for their funds as they had been withdrawn from circulation.

The Playgroup were trying to raise funds by organising an Under 16 Disco and a Bingo Evening.

It was hoped to start a Scout Group in the village – there was already a Cub Group.

The final results of the Skittles League were printed and the Hillbillies were the winners.

April 1995

Parishioners were being encouraged to stand for Parish Council as it was election year. The Twinning Group held a successful Wine Tasting evening hosted by David and Zoe at Old Beams.

The Afternoon Club were desperate for new officers and unless any could be found, the Club would close.

The PCC were very concerned about its financial viability due to the Parish Share it had to pay.

The Young Farmers had contributed £250 towards refurbishment of the Ladies toilets in the Hall

Youth evenings were proving popular on a Friday evening.

The speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting was the Local Dog Warden.

continued on page 44
page 31

Bert Jewell writes Rhymes and Ways about Gardens and Gardening

April

Have you ever stood still in a city or town,
The traffic, the people, a continual sound,
Shops playing music, a busker on the street,
That unmissable sound of hundreds of feet.

As people do their shopping, from this shop to that,
A jacket for the summer or maybe a hat,
to help keep you cool when the sun is quite high,
And if it should rain, it could help keep you dry.

With the shopping all done, it's time for a break,
Maybe a coffee and a nice piece of cake,
Or why not a pub for a hot tasty meal,
The one that I know has a drink in the deal.

Then it's time to head back to the tulips and daffs,
The pansies, they look like their having a laugh
as they move in the breeze like performers on stage,
Whilst you sit with a book, now where is that page.

As the sun slowly sets, you look back on the day,
To the garden where your worries seem to drift away,
Till the next time you go to the city or town,
The traffic, the people, a continual sound.

Things to do in the garden

Shopping: I often get the feeling that folk either love it or hate it. But it's something we have to do, food for the table, clothes to wear and for just everyday items. For me, I usually know what I want, go to the shop, YES I like to see and feel what I'm buying, try it on if it's clothes and then make my way back home.

If there is a garden centre on the way, then we will usually stop for a coffee and a look around the plant section. New plants are continually coming on the market and it's good to see them on display.

Last year I bought a variety of petunia called "Bees Nees", a yellow flowered variety that worked well around the sides of our hanging baskets. Breeders are always trying to improve or change the way that plants perform and this year there is a petunia in the catalogues where the foliage has lost it's sticky feel.

Talking of baskets, April is a good time to plant up baskets if you have somewhere to keep them sheltered and away from frost, like a cool greenhouse or conservatory. We tend to use the plastic baskets with the detachable side panels and a reservoir.

We start by filling the basket to just below the bottom of the side openings, insert the plants and clip in the panels, then fill the basket to just below the rim. We use soil-based compost John Innes No 2 (for permanent planting, use No3). We then plant the top with trailing begonias, ivy leafed pelargoniums, bacopa, napeta variegata and lobelia Crystal Palace. All in all about 12 to 15 plants per 12" basket. Stand them on an upturned flower pot in the greenhouse and keep moist.

Make sure to put in the chains and insert a split cane into the middle of the basket, tie the hanging loop to the cane to stop it from becoming tangled up in the plants. Start to harden up the baskets by standing them outside, mid May onwards, a couple of hours at first, then longer each day until they are ready to hang out, end of May early June.

If you have over-wintered zonal pelargoniums and you find the leaves are turning red, this is caused by temperature changes, hot during the day, cold at night. These leaves will fall off but the plant should recover.

Plant of the month

"Prunus Incisa"

"Koja-No-Mai"

A small flowering cherry, grows to about 6' high. Ideal for large containers and small gardens. White flowers, maybe with a hint of pink, good autumn colours and hardy. If you need to prune any trees or shrubs that are related to the Prunus family, like plums and cherries – trees that have a stone in their fruit – always prune them when they are growing, not when they are dormant.



Enjoy your gardening

Newton St Cyres Gardening Club

Spring flowers have been filling our gardens and the roadsides where people have planted bulbs for everyone to enjoy, really brightening our journeys. Did you find any of the rare daffodils that the RHS were looking for in their 'Daffodil Diaries'? Once again, late snow was seen at the Cheltenham Festival and we had some hard frosts here in March.

April is always a very busy month in the garden. We are looking forward to more sunshine and longer days. In our garden as I write, the grass is lengthening. I decided that I needed to 'trim' the grass on the banks where the primroses are growing, so did this by hand. In no time it had re-grown even longer than before, but the primroses still pushed their way through, to give a glorious show.

When it comes to **lawns**, the first cut after winter should be when the grass length is around 2"-3". Choose a day when the grass has recovered from any overnight frost, and has been allowed to dry. Wet grass can flatten under the mower blades leading to an uneven cut. Mowing too early in the spring can also cause stress to the dormant grass blades, weaken the roots and increase the risk of disease. Most advice says that the first cut should not remove more than 1/3rd of the grass length, so have the blades set high to give a light trim. After this first cut, future mows will probably be once a fortnight with the frequency increasing in summer as the grass growth accelerates.

Mid-April to early May is the ideal time to sow seeds for your own home-grown **sweetcorn** (*Zea mays*). Sweetcorn is most successful in long, hot summers, although many modern varieties are better suited to our cooler climate. Start by sowing 2 or 3 seeds, around 1" deep, either in modules or individual pots. Place these on a windowsill or in the greenhouse and leave to germinate. Once germinated, leave just the strongest seedling per module/pot and allow these to reach around 6". Once the risk of frosts has passed they can be planted out in blocks, rather than rows, as they are wind pollinated.

Outdoor-planted sweetcorn really only requires watering when the plants are young, and when in flower. Cobs can be harvested once their tassels begin to go brown. Personal experience has shown that badgers do tend to have a liking for sweetcorn, so it is advisable to protect the block with some form of fencing.

Many varieties of sweetcorn are available and these are described as Supersweet like 'Goldcrest', 'Ovation' & 'Earlibird' and Extra Tendersweet such as 'Swift'. These are almost as sweet but less chewy. One edible variety that is also ornamental and provides colour in your vegetable patch is 'Double Red', with its white and red, or sometimes purple-red, kernels, stems and male flowers/ tassels. This variety is a shorter stocky plant and is one of the few reds that matures in



Double Red Sweetcorn

80-100 days. It is recommended that different varieties are kept apart, as cross pollination can result in a reduction in flavour.

If you are growing baby sweetcorn, one variety is *Zea mays* var. *rugosa* 'Minip op', These are ideal for a smaller plot and should be planted in rows about 8" apart, not blocks, to prevent the female flowers being pollinated. Again they can be planted indoors between March and May, sown or planted outdoors May to June and should be ready to harvest July to October.

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A-Z of Rose Growing (final instalment) from Peter Beales Roses

Y – Year: Keen to know how to keep your roses at their best throughout the year? The experts at Peter Beales Roses have produced this handy, month-by-month guide to growing like a pro. From pruning to feeding and watering to pest control, you'll find top advice on tending plants throughout the seasons: <https://www.classicroses.co.uk/blog/post/rose-gardening-calendar>

Z – ‘Zephirine Drouhin’: Okay, so we struggled with the letter ‘z’, so we thought we would inspire you with a look at *Rosa* ‘Zephirine Drouhin’, one of the most famous climbing roses of all time. Thorn-less and tolerant of poor soils, this remarkable rose was first introduced in 1868 and rewards with exceptionally fragrant, cerise-pink, semi-double blooms.

JOBS FOR APRIL include

- Weed & mulch around gooseberry bushes
- Split pond plants to avoid them becoming congested
- Deadhead daffodils & allow the leaves to die down naturally for the nutrients to return to the bulbs
- Ventilate your greenhouse on sunny days
- Repot house plants that have outgrown their existing pots. Split if required to give additional plants
- Hard prune Hardy Fuchsia. Cutting back to between 2” to 4” above ground will prevent them becoming too woody & will promote new growth
- Plant out chitted potatoes
- Keep bird feeders clean & topped up with seeds as nesting season will have begun. Also ensure that birdbaths are clean & filled with fresh water each day.

What’s On?

Sunday 6th April NGS Open Garden **Ashley Court, Ashley, Tiverton EX16 5PD** “Ashley Court is a small Regency country house with an historically interesting walled kitchen garden currently undergoing restoration. It is situated in a deep valley and has a frost window and the remains of several glasshouses and cold frames. View the apple loft, root stores, stable buildings, woodland walk and lawns, borders and beautiful mature trees. A walk-through discovery and history”. **Refreshments:** Speciality teas, inc. many delicious vegan recipes & cakes containing fruits & vegetables from the walled kitchen garden. **Admission** Adult: £6, Child Free **Opening times** 12:30-16:30

Saturday 12th April, 2pm Upton Pyne_ *SPRING FLOWER SHOW & PLANT SALE*. See separate advert

Sunday 13th April NGS Open Garden **Bickham House Kenn EX6 7XL** 6 acres with lawns, borders, mature trees. Formal parterre with lily pond. 1 acre walled garden with colourful profusion of vegetables and flowers. Palm tree avenue leading to millennium summerhouse. Late summer colour with dahlias, crocosmia, agapanthus etc. Cactus and succulent greenhouse. Pelargonium collection. Lakeside walk". **Refreshments:** Home-made teas. **Admission** Adult, £6, Child Free **Opening Times** 14:00-17:00

Tuesday 22nd April – Crediton Garden Club **‘The best of Friends’ – Companion Planting** by Bex Flintham 19:00 Crediton Library

Wednesday 23rd April **Newton St Cyres Garden Club – Saul Walker** returns with part 2 on Propagation. 15:30 in the Parish Hall admission. Admission: £3 to include hot drink and biscuits. Membership not required. All welcome

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th April **RHS Rosemoor National Rhododendron Show** Exhibitors come from all over the south and west, including the Royal Parks Department, Exbury Gardens and several National Trust properties in the southwest as well as Caerhays Castle Gardens, Cornwall, famous for its stunning magnolias. Competitions are free to enter and show schedules and entry forms can be requested by emailing the RHS Shows Competition Manager Georgina Barter at georginabarter@rhs.org.uk Entry times Saturday: 11:30 (after judging), 16:00., Sunday: 10:00–16:00.

Monday 28th April- 4th May **RHS National Gardening Week**

“From beginner gardening tips, how-to guides and videos, to a series of easy gardening challenges to help all keen gardeners to develop a lifelong love of gardening” Visit <https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/national-gardening-week/rhs-staff-stories> for details of what RHS staff say they wish they had known when they started gardening. You can also share your stories with them – or why not let me know if you are happy to share them in the Newton Wonder?

Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd May **Toby’s Garden Festival at Powderham Castle** <https://tobygardenfest.co.uk/> Tickets via NSC Garden Club just £13.50. Please contact Nicola on 01392 851985

Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th May **RHS Rosemoor, Bonsai South West Show** 10:00:16:00 each day. “Some of the best professional bonsai nursery people and traders will be on hand at the show – two of whom are RHS Gold medal-winners. They have vast amounts of knowledge to help the novice to the experienced. There will also be trees, accessories and tools to buy if you want to start this hobby or extend your collection”

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter and Happy Gardening

Nicola Baker

NEWTON ST CYRES IN BLOOM!

We've entered the South West in Bloom competition this year and so lots of us have rolled up our sleeves to see what awards we can achieve (Bronze, Silver, Silver-Gilt, Gold!) after the village has been judged in July.



SOUTH WEST



Tubs and troughs being prepared with donated plants in Exeter, to improve a busy and drab street in the city, ready for judging but, more importantly, to delight residents and visitors alike.

*Plant Sharing?
Where people are dividing up established plants to re-organise their own gardens, or if seed-sown plants turn out to be abundant, let Julie know and a good home will be found for them and greatly appreciated.*



We held a 'team' meeting on 19th February – and the 'team' includes anyone/ everyone who wants to help achieve the best result we can at the October Awards event in Torbay for groups, councils, businesses, individuals. If anyone would like a copy of the minutes of that February meeting, please contact Julie or Christine).

Inspired to join the 'team'? It's an 'open' process, so please just come along to the next meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 16th April at the Beer Engine (thanks to Will and Vicky for their hospitality again).

How does it work? The 'team' has agreed a draft 'Judging Tour' for July when our judges will assess the village over a 2.5-hour visit – see Judging Route on the next page. There are a number of 'stops'. However, *every* space between those 'stops' will be observed, assessed and be part of the overall marks.

What does that mean? Well, it means we ALL can play a part. As well as imaginative planting of trees, shrubs flowers and landscaping, conservation and recycling projects are essential. And attention to cleanliness and lack of litter is essential.

Do you want to find out more or become a volunteer/sharer? Then ...

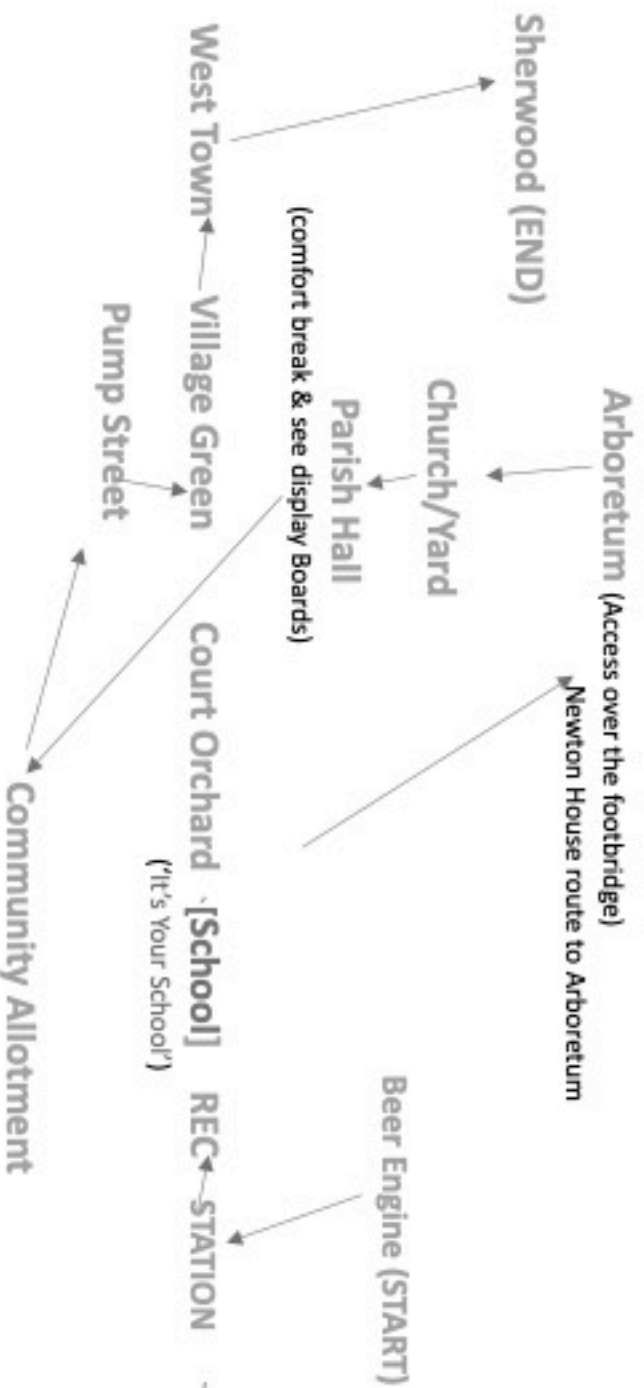
- Come to the 16th April meeting at The Beer Engine, 7pm
- Join the village volunteer 'Litter-Pickers'*
- Contact Christine and Julie for a chat (and coffee!)
- And check out the SW in Bloom website - <https://www.southwestinbloom.org.uk/default.aspx>

Britain in Bloom is the biggest horticultural campaign in Europe. 2025 judging will be taking place between 1st July and 31st July (date for NSC to be announced).

Christine: 01392 851988 and 07773038689

Julie: 01392 851601

Newton St Cyres - Britain in Bloom 2025 Judging route plan



Organisers: Christine Fraser/Julie Furniss
(Adviser: Prof Paul Collier (retired judge)
(Judging date? Late June/early July)

WHAT ARE THE 3 KEY THINGS JUDGES ARE ASSESSING?
Horticulture – quality of planting and veg etc.
Environment – clean area, wilding
Community – engagement with volunteers

Newton St Cyres **Open Gardens**

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th June

Would you like to open your garden and play a vital part in our village "Britain in Bloom" entry?

The theme is "**Our Garden Haven**" from feeding the birds to planting for pollinators, we invite you to enter your garden into Newton St Cyres Open Gardens.

Whether your plot is large or small, traditional or wilderness, you will help create a buzz by sharing ideas, inspiring others and celebrating the ways we welcome nature.

To find out more about how to take part contact Gill and Emma from Newton Environmental Wellbeing Group on:

newnewgroup@protonmail.com

by the 30th April.

We look forward to hearing from you!

UPTON PYNE & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Events are held in the village hall - contact Anne Nicks 01392 841272

Annual membership £15 Non-members welcome at all events (£4 per talk)



SAT 12th APRIL 2.00pm

ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SHOW

Free Admission

A variety of categories to display the best from
your garden - we welcome new exhibitors
Cookery & Photographic competition

Children's Artwork - Afternoon teas - Raffle
Everyone votes for their favourite in each class



INCLUDING

MIXED PLANT SALE

anyone who has spare, unwanted
plants we would love to have them

The schedule will be available at the March meeting
or contact Anne on 01392 851457

MON 19TH MAY 7.30pm a talk by **BEN RUSCOMBE-KING**

Head Gardener at Hotel Endsleigh Gardens

Overlooking the River Tamar

(part of the Polizzi Collection)



Upton Pyne and District Garden Club

Chairman Mrs June Nicks; Show secretary Mrs Anne Roberts tel: 851457

FLOWER SHOW

SATURDAY APRIL 12th 2025

Upton Pyne Village Hall 2.00 to 4.00 pm

Bring your entries in the morning between 10.00 and 12.00

Free entry to the classes and the Show, all welcome!

Tea and cakes - Raffle - Plant Sale!

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Anyone can enter, please read the schedule carefully and make sure that your entries match the description. Only one entry in each class.

1. Daffodils or narcissi, three cut blooms in a vase, can be mixed.
2. Three tulips in a vase
3. Collection of spring garden flowers in a bowl or vase
4. Wild spring flowers in a container
5. One stem each of three different foliage shrubs, maximum width 18" and height 24"
6. One flowering head of a rhododendron in a container
7. Single camellia in a container
8. Table centre decoration, may include non-plant material, 12" overall
9. One stem or branch of a flowering shrub or climber
10. Spray or small bunch of flowers to be judged for scent
11. Cactus or succulent
13. Miniature arrangement, maximum overall size 4.5"
14. An arrangement of fresh flowers in an unusual container
15. Any living plant, indoor or outdoor, not already in other classes
16. A crafted object linked in some way to plants or garden
17. **Children** - Miniature garden
18. **Children** - Easter bonnet

homecraft CLASSES

19. Carrot cake (own recipe)
20. A preserve

PHOTOGRAPHY/PICTURE CLASSES Maximum size of entry for photographs A5 - approx. 6" x 8" including mount. No framed photos please.

21. "Your favourite garden photo" or "Wildlife in the countryside or your garden"
22. **Children** - Painting or drawing of a flower or plant

April 2005

A successful Comedy and Musical evening was held in the Hall with an instant poetry competition about a person and an inanimate object, i.e. Elton John and a spanner. The winner was judged by Matt Harvey.

The Church held a fundraising event at Sherwood with teas and a walk in the gardens. A registration form was published for the Southside Walkabout with lengths of 6, 8, 10 or 12 miles.

An article appeared about bequests made in NSC for the poor of the village in 1714 and details were on a wooden plaque in the Church

The ramblers visited Knightshayes with a walk through the park and also a bluebell walk and visit to Sherwood Gardens.

Sandy Fleming printed an article called 'Why - Oh Why?' Why doesn't glue stick to the bottle? Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard? Whose idea was it to put an 's' in the word lisp?

April 2015

The Newton St. Cyres Parish Hall has been the venue for many events held in aid of the Church but few had matched the performance given recently by Circus Berzercus, a group specialising in the recreation of circus acts either long forgotten by adults and not even experienced by children.

The Parish hall was struggling to find a caretaker.

The Exe Valley Federation celebrated its third anniversary, head teacher Heather Perry wrote that the co operation between the schools had brought great benefits.

The Rev. Christopher Pidsley told the the History Group about the Palk's of Haldon who built the Haldon Belvedere.

Jean Wilkins continued her accounts of the soldiers lost in WW1 with the tale of Ernest Lee Richards.

Bert Jewell talked to the Garden Club about pests. At the end of the meeting Sue Dowle auctioned of a variety of seeds and plants.

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WE ALSO SUPPLY WOODCHIP AND LOGS

Film Show raises £200 for Newton St Cyres Church Community Association

Fred Oliver, president of CREDITON Boniface Rotary Club presents a cheque for £200 following a meal and streaming of The Midas Man film in which Rex Rosario, a local businessman has a cameo role.



Left to right, Rex Rozario OBE, Fred Oliver (Rotary president) and Tom Langdon Davies (chairman of NSCCCA)

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Fri 4 April MUSIC:
Eduardo Martin & Ahmed Dickinson Cardenas. An innovative collaboration of two virtuoso guitarists exploring Cuban classical guitar playing.
19:30



Sun 6th April MUSIC:
Revival: The Music of Gillian Welch & David Rawlings. Local favourites Etchechuria, Pauper's Fortune and The Wee Free men join forces
19:30



Sat 12th April THEATRE/COMEDY:
It is I, Seagull. Fusing opera and comedy, Lucy Mellors exposes current and historical everyday sexism to ask what it takes to achieve something extraordinary, and is it worth it?
19:30

Sun 13th April THEATRE:

Tongues / Savage Love Two fascinating plays by American playwright and screen icon Sam Shepard, presented by new company Talking Faces.



Afternoon from 16.30 or Evening from 19.30

MAY EVENTS COMING SOON

Fri 2nd May THEATRE:

The End is in the Beginning. A compilation of 16 of Samuel Beckett's plays, prose, poems. This intimate performance offers a new way to experience his language and meet his characters as they struggle to tell their stories.

WHAT'S ON THIS APRIL

www.creditonartscentre.org
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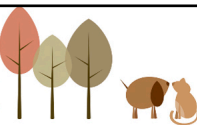
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NEWTON ST CYRES GARDENING CLUB

are pleased to welcome

SAUL WALKER



Who will be speaking on

PLANT PROPAGATION

(part 2)

Wednesday 23rd April at 7.30pm

at NSC Parish Hall EX5 5BW

£3.00 admission

to include Tea/Coffee & Biscuits All Welcome

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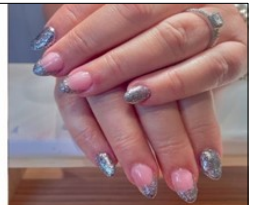
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THE RETREAT

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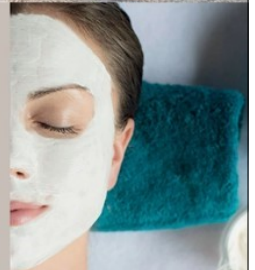


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Newton St Cyres



www.newtonwonder.net

How much would you like to know about the past in Newton St Cyres?

Newton St Cyres History Group has a growing library of publications.

- **Newton St Cyres – A Village Story (£5)**

Compiled by residents of this village in 1999 (the green 'millennium book') containing a wealth of reproduced photographs.

- **Newton St Cyres Historical Village Walks (£1)**

Four brief walks around the Village, the Western Bluff, West Town and Station Road with maps and an explanation of the road cuttings, levelling and straightening.

- **Newton St Cyres Mining and Miners (£1)**

Our mining heritage, both manganese, claimed to be "*the first commercially successful manganese mines in the world!*", and lead & silver up on Tin Pit Hill that may go back to Roman times.

- **Newton St Cyres Church – Statement of Significance (£2)**

Describes the history and most important features of the church, dedicated to St Cyr and St Julitta.

- **Memories of Boyhood in a Devon Village (£3)**

Written by Alfred Abraham, born in Newton St Cyres in 1893. He shares his memories growing up in the village at the beginning of the 20th century.

- **Newton St Cyres in the 1940s & 1950s (£5)**

Written by Stella Cork, born in Newton St Cyres in 1934 and the daughter of the village postmaster. She gives a remarkable description of families in the village and an insight into village life.

- **Newton St Cyres and The Civil War 1642-46 (£5)**

Written by Jean Wilkins. The story of grief, hardship and a little excitement for those living in the village almost 400 years ago during the English Civil War supported by coloured photos and maps. Would you have been a Roundhead or a Cavalier?

- **Newton St Cyres in the WW2 Years (£5)**

Written by Roger Wilkins, The contributions of the village to the war effort are described, as are impacts on village activities and businesses.

- **Newton St Cyres & the A377 (£5)**

Written by Jean Wilkins, A window into the history of transport into and through the village and the development of the A 377.

Also visit **newtonwonder.net** where you will find data and analyses on:

Births, Deaths and Marriages in Newton St Cyres (16th–18th century)

UK Censuses on Newton St Cyres (1841-1911)

Newton St Cyres Tithe Map of 1843

Copies can be purchased by contacting

Jean Wilkins 01392 851337 jeanwilkins1@btinternet.com



RECITAL

Saturday 12th April 2025, 4.00pm

Soprano - Sarah Baillie

Accompanied by Jonathan Rawles

Holy Cross Church, Crediton

Well-known songs and arias sung in English

£10 tickets on the door - cash /card or from TicketSource

Includes tea & cake in the Boniface Centre



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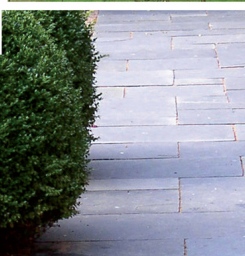
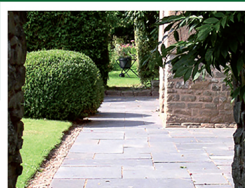
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Increased Council Tax

All our bills are creeping up and Council Tax increases are also anticipated. There are, however, several options to potentially reduce Council Tax bills.

If you're an adult living alone, your bill can be reduced by 25%. Simply notify the council that you are living alone and the date that became effective. You will be entitled to the discounted rate from that time even if it was some time ago. Some people are 'disregarded' when calculating Council Tax. This includes under-18s, full-time students, long-term hospital patients, people with severe mental impairments and many more. Check if you can pay less council tax - Citizens Advice (<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/council-tax/check-if-you-can-pay-less-council-tax/>)

If everyone in a home is disregarded the bill will be reduced by half. If everyone in a home is a student or severely mentally impaired there will be no Council Tax to pay. If you live with an adult who isn't disregarded but who is on a low income or receives certain benefits you might be able to get a 'second adult rebate.' Getting a second adult rebate on your council tax - Citizens Advice (<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/council-tax/check-if-you-can-get-second-adult-rebate-on-your-council-tax/>)

If you or someone you live with is disabled and your home has been adapted, you can ask to be placed down one band. Ask your Council about Council Tax Reduction for people on low incomes. They will ask questions about your income and circumstances; if you are eligible, they will reduce the amount you have to pay. There are also different rules that apply when you've reached State Pension Age. Check your State Pension age - GOV.UK (<https://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age>)

A 'discretionary reduction' is available whereby your council can reduce or cancel your Council Tax if you can provide evidence that you're suffering severe hardship and can't afford to pay your bill. If you don't get this you can still appeal to a valuation tribunal who, if they agree with you, can order the council to reduce or cancel your bill. Applying for Council Tax Reduction - Citizens Advice (<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/council-tax/applying-for-council-tax-reduction>)

You can always contact us on our AdviceLine, 0808 27 87 999 (free and local), or via our website www.citizensadvice.tnmwd.org.uk or call in at one of our offices. Opening hours are also on our website.

If you would like to help people with problems like this do get in touch! Check out our website or contact recruitment@citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk

More and more people are asking for our help, so we need more volunteers to try and meet the demand. You will receive full training, make new friends and learn new skills; one day a week is all it takes!

RosannaTeale

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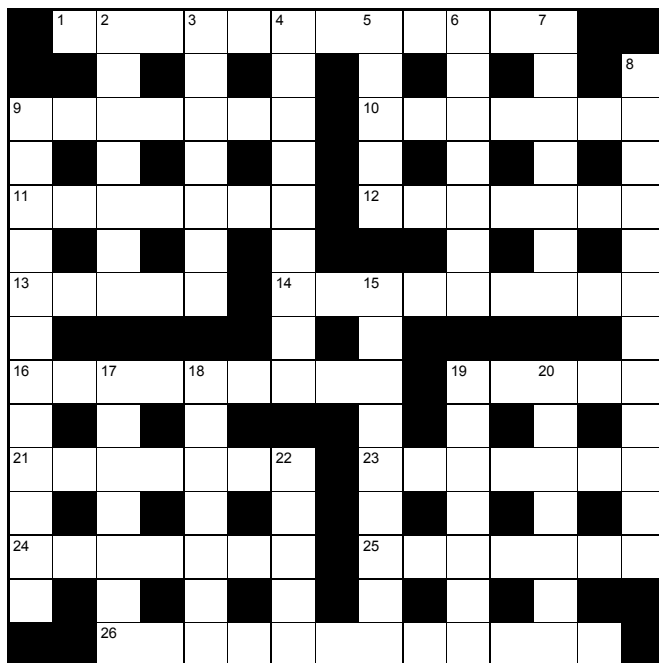
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Cryptic Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 What's-his-name is lanky, sticky fellow (12)
- 9 Aviatrix gives listener courage we hear (7)
- 10 Some birds do this at the speed of a fighter plane? (7)
- 11 About to be taking drug to ease pain (7)
- 12 A moist perfume ultimately designed to make fine spray (7)
- 13 Petty quarrel involving river fish (5)
- 14 Failure to notice supervision (9)
- 16 Suitable means to an end (9)
- 19 Rex gets stuck into finest French port (5)
- 21 I tried swimming with Penny in disturbed sea (4,3)
- 23 Foster child's fuss disturbed Pete (7)
- 24 Terrible cruelty with knives perhaps (7)
- 25 I'd plunged into river to find spear (7)
- 26 Furniture of actor's assistant from Cardiff? (5,7)

DOWN

- 2 Athlete Ben led off run (7)
- 3 Closest home houses a Royal Engineer (7)
- 4 Crazy place to find flag? (2,3,4)
- 5 Old lady captivates a doctor with snake (5)
- 6 Plant causing disappearance of pests? (7)
- 7 Putting up with demeanour (7)
- 8 Teen regrets bad time in London thoroughfare (6,6)
- 9 They don't want to see Brussels sprout! (12)
- 15 One removes former motor vehicle (9)
- 17 Flat pack from Cornish town (7)
- 18 Writer is awfully rude about Rugby's first students (7)
- 19 They give better odds (7)
- 20 Militant leader in Exeter excited radical (7)
- 22 Mentally defeat some tipsy characters (5)

Set by Alberich

Sudoku

All you have to do is fill in the squares so that each row, each column and each square contain all the numbers from 1 - 9.

	9		5				1	
6		5				7		
			1		9			6
8	3	2						4
			2		1			
1						2	6	3
3			9		2			
		1				6		5
	5				6		8	

© Web Sudoku 2025 - www.websudoku.com

Solution to March 2025 Cryptic Crossword

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	
	M	A	L	A	G	A	O	R	G
8	W		L	P	D		C	R	D
9	O	U	I	J	A	10	E	T	E
	L		B	R	I		A		A
12	F	R	I	T	T	E	R	13	G
	W				M		A	O	
14	H		15	N	G	E	16	L	A
	I		A		N				
18	S	T	R	A	T	A	19	G	E
	T		R				A	O	
22	L	O	A	F	E	R	S	24	B
	E		T		R		P	S	E
	26	B	I	G	A	M	I	S	T
		V		T		N		E	A
	28	B	E	L	O	N	G	29	R

Midweek Holy Communion

1st Wednesday of the month

9.30am

upstairs at the

Exe Valley Farm Shop, Thorverton

Can't get to church on Sundays?

Maybe your children or grandchildren have commitments
which clash with existing services.

You were on holiday and missed your usual service.

You would like something a little more relaxed and
informal.

You need a midweek time of worship and reflection.

We are holding an

Informal Service

All are welcome

5th March

2nd April

7th May

for anyone who would like to come along.



If people wish to
stay a little longer, we can enjoy
breakfast together afterwards.



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COME AND JOIN US

Our Vision and Goals

To provide hot freshly cooked healthy
meals to our community.

To empower those who wish to learn
how to prepare healthy meals



**DELIVERY WITHIN THE VILLAGE - IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO COME WHY NOT EMAIL US AND WE WILL TAKE
YOUR MEAL TO YOU (1.00 - 2.00) Or you can collect it from the Parish Hall from 12.30 - 2.00pm**

We are looking for volunteers/young people doing their DSV, Tutors or looking for community experience for their CV, before attending university. We also would appreciate anyone that is free on a
Tuesday or Wednesday from 11 to 3pm to help with our Community Kitchen in Newton St Cyres Parish Hall.



Jesus: Laughing & Loving

*An exhibition of contemporary art
to inspire, challenge and explore*

Newton St Cyres parish church, 16th-18th May 2025

Here in the Netherexe Mission Community, we are blessed with nine amazing, incredible churches, each with its own style and beauty. They reflect not only the worshipping communities, holding the prayers and presence of countless generations, but also the villages and the environment in which they have sat for hundreds and hundreds of years. A real presence, and the spiritual heart of our communities.

Our congregations are forever exploring ways to encourage greater participation and engagement with the churches. To this end, Newton St Cyres parish church is hosting an exciting and challenging art exhibition. We are reproducing – as closely as possible – images of Christ created by a host of international artists. As it says on the tin, images of *Jesus Laughing and Loving*!

As an introduction to what you will see, I offer some words from previous exhibitions.

Firstly, Rev Tim Costello AO CEO World Vision Australia:

A collection of pictures featuring Jesus 'loving and laughing' sounds trivial at best, perhaps blasphemous at worst. Western art has made Jesus a holy and solemn figure usually shown suffering or dead, or perhaps teaching a crowd or making a ghostly appearance to startled onlookers. In modern cinema he has been portrayed as otherworldly and formal. We are not used to thinking of Jesus 'laughing out loud' or being a loved and loving friend.

Yet he ate and drank with tax collectors, was accused of consorting with prostitutes and broke many of the laws of his day regarding purity of diet, association and sacred days. The human Jesus lived among ordinary people and shared their lives. He often scandalised the pious and brought joy and hope to the disreputable and despised.

The church that bears his name has not always been as free and joyful as the Jesus presented in these paintings. It has mistrusted laughter and often presented a sterile and domesticated vision of Jesus strangely at odds with the robust, challenging but also attractive figure we see in the gospels.

This exhibition is a step towards liberating the person of Jesus from the traditional other-worldly image so that his power and relevance for modern living might be rediscovered and enjoyed.

And some words written by Dr Richard Frazer, Minister at Greyfriars, Tolbooth and Highland Kirk, Edinburgh as he introduced the exhibition at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2004:

My reaction on first hearing about this exhibition was a cautionary disdain for the idea that Jesus laughed, a fear that we might be leading people to think of a sugary anodyne Jesus.

This is odd when many of us look for opportunities to laugh and if we have any sense of humour, we try to see the funny side of things before all else. We [...] recognise humour to be one of the highest of human qualities. Why, then, do we want to deprive Jesus of laughter or worry that by suggesting he laughed we might be demeaning his moral seriousness and trivialising his message?

This exhibition is a step in the direction of liberating the person of Christ from the clutches of religion so that the scope of his relevance, power and humanity might be liberated and rediscovered.

I offer very grateful thanks to *Major Issues and Theology Foundation Ltd, Australia*, for allowing us to reproduce the art you will see; and to the *Posbury St Francis Trust*, who gave us a grant towards the cost of the displays. While we have not been able to loan the original paintings – and so you are not able to fully appreciate the range of media used in their representation of Jesus – we have attempted to reproduce the exact size of the originals, from which you may be able to glimpse something of the originals.

Please do 'dip your toe in', as it were, and I hope that our exhibition opens your heart and mind to a different understanding of Jesus Christ.

All blessings,

Tim

*Revd Tim Collins, Rector,
Netherexe Mission Community*

The Parish Church of St Cyr and St Julitta



Lent – a Journey of Discovery ... Part 2

As you read this, we're more than half-way through Lent, and the drama and deeply emotional and challenging time of Holy Week and Easter will soon be played out across the Christian world – and more directly within our parishes and churches and communities.

The drama starts with ***Palm Sunday***, so called because palm branches were stripped from trees, waved by the multitude singing and cheering Jesus as he approaches from Bethany, and laid in his path as he rides into Jerusalem. And yet, even at this moment of celebration and jubilation, Jesus turns expectations upside down. This is no triumphal entry of a king or soldier, preparing for a monumental battle with the ruling powers, riding a powerful warhorse or prized stallion. No, Jesus arrives humbly, riding on a donkey! This is a statement of peace, not war. This is Jesus fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah, 'and he will be called wonderful, counsellor, Prince of Peace.' Words we heard at Christmas, echoing around us at Easter.

From that moment of arrival in Jerusalem, the gospel writers then carefully, meticulously, detail the story of that unforgettable week, weaving prophecy and hope and expectation in and through their telling. This is a detailed and intimate insight into Jesus's last days on earth: turning over the tables in the temple; being anointed by oils; teachings and healings. The week building to the climax of the final 48 hours.

The gathering of his disciples, his friends for a meal, his last with them before the eventual Heavenly Banquet – this is ***Maundy Thursday***. A time of Passover and celebration for the Jewish people; a time of farewells and betrayal for Jesus. The Last Supper, eaten in the Upper Room, the last moments with his friends. The final teaching, and the first communion – that sharing of bread and of wine: do

this in remembrance of me...

As the disciples begin to try and understand all that is happening, try to make sense of Jesus's words, of going where they cannot yet follow, one of them, Judas, leaves the gathering and, for thirty pieces of silver, betrays the hope of a people.

The Thursday night becomes the early Friday morning with all the emotion and terror of Jesus's arrest, trial and execution. A deeply dark day for all concerned. A day of pain and betrayal, of denial and desertion. Bleak and black and sad. So why, oh why, is it called **Good Friday**? Well, the reality is that nobody really knows! Many have suggested that one of the original meanings of the word 'good' is 'Holy' – with echoes of the first book of the bible, Genesis, the moment of creation, when God declares for each particular 'day', that 'It is good.' And on the final day of creation: 'It is very good!' - all echoing with a deep, subliminal resonance of 'Holy' in those words.

However, others have argued that it originally comes from the German "Gottes", meaning God's – so God's Friday. Whatever its derivation, Good Friday is a day of deep emotional pain and loss – as the Bible tells us, 'From noon, darkness came over the whole land' (*Matt. 27:45, Mark 15:33, Luke 23:44*); it is a day for us now to reflect on and explore what such an event might mean for us today.

But, of course, while Good Friday marks the end of Lent (well just about), it isn't the end of the story. Because, for us as Christians, the most wonderful, glorious day of all comes after the darkest of days.

But more of that wonderful day next time...

We have a significant number of services across the parishes during Holy Week and Easter, when something will be happening every day. Services of celebration on Palm Sunday; quiet reflective services on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings; a wonderful, shared meal on Thursday; and challenging times on Friday.

And as the week reaches its climax on the Saturday and Easter Sunday, all our churches will be offering something to reflect on and engage with the most important week in Christianity.

Please do see the details of these services and times of reflection elsewhere in the magazine. And please do become a part of this most challenging and wonderful of weeks.

All blessings

Tim

Rev'd Tim Collins

Priest-in-Charge, Netherexe Mission Community

SERVICES & INFORMATION APRIL 2025

The Netherexe Parishes - A community of Anglican churches in Devon

Please see our website at www.netherexe.org under "Services" section.
We also have a calendar for services & latest events are under "news".

Wednesday 2 April

09:30 am	Mid-week Holy Communion	Thorverton [Exe Valley Farm Shop]
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Sunday 6 April

10:00 am	Bubble Church Baptism	Thorverton
11:15 am	Service	Cadbury
05:00 pm	Communion	Stoke Canon

Wednesday 9 April

09:30 am	Chattertots [with Lent Coffee morning 10:30-11:30am]	Thorverton
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Sunday 13 April [Palm Sunday]

09:30 am	Bubble Church	Thorverton
10:30 am	Communion	Upton Pyne
11:15 am	Informal Service	Rewe
06:30 pm	Choral Evensong	Thorverton

Monday 14 April

06:30 pm	Reflective Service	Thorverton
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Tuesday 15 April

06:30 pm	Reflective Service	Thorverton
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Wednesday 16 April

02:30 pm	Cross making [for children]	Upton Pyne [The School House]
06:30 pm	Reflective Service	Thorverton

Thursday 17 April [Maundy Thursday]

06:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Fellowship supper	Rewe [Village Hall]
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Friday 18 April [Good Friday]

10:00 am	Good Friday Service	Stoke Canon
10:00 am	Good Friday Service	Newton St Cyres
11:00 am	Good Friday Service	Cadbury
11:00 am	Making Easter Gardens	Thorverton
03:00 pm	Good Friday Service	Brampford Speke

Saturday 19 April

08:00 pm	Easter Vigil	Cadbury
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Sunday 20 April [Easter Day]

06:00 am	Sunrise Service with Communion	Netherexe
09:30 am	Family Communion	Thorverton
09:30 am	Communion	Brampford Speke
10:00 am	Communion	Newton St Cyres
10:00 am	Communion	Stoke Canon
10:30 am	Communion	Upton Pyne
11:00 am	Communion	Huxham
11:15 am	Communion	Cadbury
11:15 am	Communion	Rewe
03:00 pm	Easter Service	Netherexe

Sunday 27 April

10:00 am	Messy Church Communion	Stoke Canon
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Every Tuesday at 6:00pm we gather for prayer in Rewe Church

At **Communion** services we share bread and wine: you are welcome to join us for the service and to share communion if you wish. A lay minister occasionally leads this service.

At **Coffee and chat** we enjoy time together in conversation with coffee and cake to hand.

At **Services** we share together in song, prayer and the bible. Special services are noted in the description.

Bubble church is for young families and **Messy Church** for families who enjoy craft.

If you would like to know who is taking any service, please email administration@netherexe.org

Rev'd Tim Collins [Priest in charge] Tel: 01392 860767 tim.collins@netherexe.org

For more information about the Netherexe Parishes please see www.netherexe.org or contact:

Juliette Lea [Administrator]
Tuesday & Thursday [09:00 – 15:00]
Tel: 07594 714590
Email: administration@netherexe.org

Peter Shepherd [Administrator]
Monday & Wednesday [09:00 – 13:00]
Tel: 07551 844321
Email: administration@netherexe.org

Newton St Cyres Church

Is revising its Electoral Roll.

Would you like to join?

**Interesting times ahead as the Church embarks
On a project to install community friendly facilities.
Application forms are In the Church**

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

Priest-in-Charge	Rev. Tim Collins	
Church Wardens	Sue Browne, 1 Glebelands, Sand Down Lane	01392 851460
PCC Hon Secretary	Pita Burt pitaburt@gmail.com	01392 851410
PCC Hon Treasurer	Jackie Enright	01392 851859
Electoral Roll Officer	Jen Holt, 21 Woodlands	01392 851521
Tower Captain	Mary Quicke - mary@quickes.co.uk	07729 844945
Doctors (Crediton)	Redlands Primary Care Joseph Locke Way, Crediton, EX17 3FD	01363 727111
Newton Wonder Magazine and Website	Editors:-Peter Hawksley - editor@newtonwonder.net Peter Cordingley. - cogscord@outlook.com	01392 851269 01392 851778
Parish Council	Chairman - Graeme Barnell graemebarnell@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk Clerk - Jane Hole	01392 851308 01392 851148
Parish Hall	Chairman – Nigel Chambers nchambers@ctc.uk.com Booking Sect - Peter Watts, peterwatts369@btinternet.com	01392 851400 01392 851369
Primary School	Head of Teaching - James Akhurst School Office	01392 851267 01392 851267
Newton Nippers Pre-School	Contact the school	01392 851267
Newton Nappies Toddler Group	Kelly Berry	07890313010
Recreation Club	Chair- Carrie-Ann Finning - email: finning-newtonstcyresrecreationalclub@outlook.com Bookings - Claire Digby - email: newtonrecbookings@outlook.com	07834764471
Art Group	Jenny Hallam:- jennyhallam6@gmail.com	7787383658
Neighbourhood Watch	Monika Herpoldt- Bright. monikaherpoldt-bright@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk	
Footpath Warden	Steve Parker, Lilly Farm.	01392 851505
Newton Environmental Wellbeing Group	Andrew Broadhead, newnewgroup@protonmail.com	07813 532544

Community Police	PCSO Nicola Payne, Police Station, Crediton Nicola.payne@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk	Dial 101
District Councillors	Sandy Chenore:- schenore@middevon.gov.uk Martin Binks:- mbinks@middevon.gov.uk	
County Councillor	Margaret Squires	01363 758142
Local M P	Mel Stride mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk	01392 823306
Football Club	Mark Smaldon	7733455177
Friends of NSC Station	Chris Southcott	01392 851569
Luncheon Club	John Salter, Hill Park	01392 851346
Mah Jong Club	Geoff Jackson _megalops@btinternet.com	01392 851551
Newton Ramblers	Rosemary Chambers	01392 851400
Tennis Club Secretary	Laura Leigh	01647 24259
Young Farmers	Harry Grigg harrygrigg456@gmail.com	7453034637
Archery	Alison Couling	01392 841282
Gardening Club	Nicola Baker	01392 851985
History Group	Jean Wilkins	01392 851337
Table Tennis	Roger Wilkins	01392 851337
Friends of the Arboretum	Roger Wilkins	01392 851337
Adonai Community Kitchen	Jocelyne Whittaker	07508 871172
Community Allotment	Gail Meldrum meldrumgail@gmail.com	07999 958799
Crediton Citizen's Advice	Adviceline (10.30 - 3.30)	03444 111444

The **NEWTON WONDER** is delivered within the Parish at a charge of only **£10.00** per year(in 2025. Subscriptions are due in January).

Please contact Gerry Radford on 01392 851504 or email paul.radford3@btinternet.com.

To pay online/by BACS please ensure that payment is made to
"Newton Wonder Community Magazine"
Sort Code: 30-93-14 Account Number: 05351394

Please add your address(abbreviated if necessary) as the reference
if you move away the magazine can be posted or

The Newton Wonder is also available online at an annual charge of £5
Please contact editor@newtonwonder.net

Neighbourhood Watch Deputies

Sue Gee	Church Area	Glebe House	851164	asgee@btinternet.com
Tom Dowle	Court Orchard	24	851704	tomdowle@live.co.uk
Chris Lee	Langford Road	Greenlands	851280	
Mike Kersey	Half Moon	12	851603	
Penny Pearkes	Newton House	9	851517	pearkes4@gmail.com
Wayne Meeton	Norton	Glenacre Sweetham	851954	wayne@wvmstudio.com
Derrick Rhydderch-Evans	Pump Street	Old Beams	851443	derrickrevans369@btinternet.com
Anna Mace-Leska	Sand Down Lane	Compass House	851441	leska@btinternet.com
Jacqui Ward	Smallbrook	2 Broadgate Cottage	851918	Jacquiward30@yahoo.co.uk
Jill Hawksley	Sweetham	Station Cottage	851269	peterbrew@aol.com
Clive Wootton	West Town	4 Meadowlands	851428	hollywallydoda@outlook.com
Alan Hancock	Woodlands		851744	
Vacancy	Tytheing Close			
Geoffrey Jackson	"The Village"	Shaplands Cottage	851551	megalops@btinternet.com

For help, further information or to submit a report please go to the Parish Council website or contact the NSC Parish Council Co-ordinator, Monika Herpoldt-Bright
monikaherpoldt-bright@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk, 07834 76447

Newton St Cyres Parish Hall

Available to rent for children's parties, dances, classes, wedding receptions and meetings. It has kitchen facilities and disabled parking. Very competitive rates which have not been raised for nearly 5 years.

UP TO HOURS 3 6 9 12

VILLAGERS

Main hall	£24	£36	£47	£59
Club room	£13	£19	£25	£32
Both rooms	£37	£55	£72	£91

NON VILLAGERS

Main hall	£36	£54	£71	£88
Club room	£19	£28	£38	£48
Both rooms	£55	£82	£109	£136

Bookings Secretary, Peter Watts: peterwatts369@btinternet.com: 01392 851369

A WEEK IN THE PARISH HALL

If you wish to book the Hall or learn more about the facilities, please contact our Bookings Secretary, Peter Watts at peterwatts369@btinternet.com or by phone at 01392 851369

Nigel Chambers, Chairman, Hall Management Committee

Tuesday (weekly)	Line dancing	7.30 pm	Paula Benford	01392 210830	pbenford45@gmail.com
Tuesday (weekly)	Adonai Community Kitchen	12.00 - 2.00pm	Jocelyne Whittaker	07508 871172	TheAdonai-CKitchen@outlook.com
Tuesday (fortnightly)	Young Farmers Club	8.00 pm	Katie Davie	07706 760500	kmdavie@gmail.com
Wednesday (weekly)	Adonai Community Kitchen	12.00 - 2.00pm	Jocelyne Whittaker	07508 871172	TheAdonai-CKitchen@outlook.com
Wednesday (monthly)	History Group	7.30 pm	Jean Wilkins	01392 851337	jeanwilkins1@btinternet.com
Thursday (weekly)	Pilates (from 18th Jan)	11.00 am	Becky	07392 480974.	ivegotyourbackuk@gmail.com
Thursday (Twice per month)	Mah Jong	2.00 pm	Geoff Jackson	01392 851551	megalops@btinternet.com
Thursday (2 nd in month)	Exe Valley Bird Club	7.00 pm	Kevin Smaldon	07710 427817	kevin.smaldon@btinternet.com
Thursday (weekly)	Table tennis	7.00 pm	Roger Wilkins	01392 851337	rogerwilkins1@btinternet.com
Thursday (monthly)	Parish Council	7.00 pm	Jane Hole	01392 851148	parishclerk@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk
Friday (some weeks)	Art class	10.30 am	Sue Rose	01363 772284	suerose9@hotmail.com
Saturday (second in month)	Village Coffee morning sponsored by various organisations	10.30 am	Church Sue Browne	01392 851460	suecbrowne@gmail.com
			Others Roger Wilkins	01392 851337	rogerwilkins1@btinternet.com
Saturday (some months)	Model train group	2.00 pm	Ann Feetham	01392 215837	annfeetham@virginmedia.com

The **Newton Wonder** team consists of Peter Hawksley and Peter Cordingley (editors). Mark Phillips, Sue Phillips, Martin Taylor and Gerry Radford.

Articles for Publication: Please email to Peter Hawksley, editor@newtonwonder.net. Tel: 01392 851269

Notices of Local Events: Please email to Peter Hawksley as above.

Local voluntary Village events are included free of charge.

Advertisements: Please contact **Marketing and Advertising**, email thenewtonwonder@gmail.com in the first instance. Please include your business name, address, ad-size required and number of insertions. **Payment in advance:** cheques or online payments to **Newton Wonder Community Magazine** - Sort Code: 30-93-14, Account Number: 05351394 Please use your business name as the reference.

Advertising Rates for the Newton Wonder

	Black & White	Colour
Small	£40	£50
Quarter Page	£70	£80
Half Page	£110	£120
Full Page	£200	£240

All items for publication must arrive by the 15th of the month before publication. Please send by email wherever possible otherwise they should be sent to the Editor at Station Cottage, Newton St Cyres EX5 5AS

We aim to distribute the **Newton Wonder** at the beginning of the month but this cannot be guaranteed. It is recommended, therefore, that events taking place early in the month be advertised the previous month.

The **Newton Wonder** (Monthly except January) is delivered to local households and businesses at an annual charge of £10

The editorial team of the **Newton Wonder** does not necessarily agree with the views of contributors contained in their published articles. This is a **community magazine** and it is our policy to print reports, articles and submissions that might be of interest to the community - provided that we have sufficient space to do so and they are not libellous in content.

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Email:- printroom@parishmagazineprinting.co.uk

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