

NEWTON WONDER

THE MAGAZINE & WEBSITE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF NEWTON ST CYRES

April 2026

£1.00



photo: Christine Fraser

Drama in Pump Street when a cob and thatched cottage owned by the Quicke family collapsed on Monday 16th March, forcing the closure of the road. No one was injured in the collapse, which also damaged the roof of an adjoining garage. Neighbours reported that they saw or heard nothing. Work had reportedly been going on in the cottage, but it's not known if this had anything to do with the incident.

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Parish Council Report

March 2026

March's Council Meeting was most exciting as we welcomed two new Councillors to our team. Jock Campbell has joined us and has taken over the role of planning. He will be looking at new and existing planning applications as well as pulling together the ideas that parishioners have expressed about the further development of the village. Russell Viner will be joining me in the role of resilience, which needless to say has been rather demanding this year. We will be involved in maintenance of the defibrillators as well as running the flood network and the snow wardens.

Our County Councillor, Steve Keable, and our Mid Devon Councillor, Martin Binks attended the meeting. They spoke about the budgets for next year. Devon County Council has increased its council tax by 4.99%. The big spending budgets of Adult Social Care (£395.9 million) and Children and Families (£268 million) continue to dominate the costs but you will be pleased to know that there will be extra to spend on Roads and Transport. Mid Devon Council has increased its council tax by 2.99%.

Councillor John Dean met with our Road Warden, Nick Gillon and Steve Tucker from Devon Highways to discuss road maintenance in and around the village. He reported that Devon County Council intends to do much work on the drains along our back roads, hoping to minimise future flooding. However, Steve Tucker felt that increased involvement from local landowners could help too. He gave the Parish Council some useful suggestions that we will follow up.

Councillor Monica Herpoldt-Bright briefed us on the latest Britain-in-Bloom entry. Which we will support as best we can.

The Parish Clerk reported that we have submitted requests for maintenance of the public footpaths. These includes replacing a very steep stile on the footpath between Tinpit Hill and Marsh Lane and creating steps in a very steep slope at the entrance to the footpath that goes through up through Whiptail Wood.

Councillor Liz Ouldrige reported on the continued work of the resilience group. We have recruited members in Langford, but we still need members in Half Moon. Work will

continue through the summer so that we can have an even better response to poor weather and flooding. Devon County Council has recognised that not all people find it easy to report road issues online.

You can now ring 0345 155 1004 to report anything to do with road maintenance, street lighting, signs and public footpaths anytime between 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm on Saturday.

The Friends of the Station Garden have been successful in getting a grant from GWR to improve the Station Garden, so watch out for

more exciting news soon.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Parish Hall on **Thursday April 2nd 2026** at 7:00pm. The **Annual Parish Meeting**, where we present the work of the Council, will be held on **Thursday May 7th**. All parishioners are invited to attend. You can also talk to us at the coffee mornings held on the **second Saturday of the month** in the Parish Hall.

Liz Ouldridge
Chair,
Newton St Cyres Parish Council



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Cuts in local library services

Plans are afoot to reduce the opening hours of all 50 of Devon County council's (DCC) commissioned libraries. Crediton's will drop from 38 to 27 hours per week, Exeter's central by just three, but St Thomas's is going from 38 to 15. These are cuts in services, right? Well, not according to your county councillor, Steve Keable, who hailed the proposals as "...plans to transform Devon's libraries through community involvement, with extended opening hours, expanded digital resources, and improved community spaces".

This is rather like reframing the atrocious conditions of our roads as "a bold initiative to rewild the highways with water features and natural landscaping!".

For many people, libraries are the focal point of learning, a warm space to spend time if you struggle to pay the energy bills to heat your own home, and a meeting place for the local community. Crediton is a distribution hub for surplus food from local supermarkets.

My love affair with libraries started as a child and this passion has not dimmed with age. I worked in a local library in a deprived area of Birmingham as a young teenager and recognised the skills of the full-time staff. A

professional librarian is worth his or her weight in gold, someone who will pull out all the stops to track down a text or publication if you are engaged in study or research.

This value would be lost with plans to replace them with a volunteer-led service. Without any sense of irony, Ed Davey, the leader of the Liberal Democrat Party, proposed last week that "...£42m could be spent to extend the opening hours of spaces such as libraries and community centres".

VOLUNTEER URGENTLY REQUIRED

*We require a Bookings
Secretary for the
Local Parish Hall in
Newton St Cyres*

All Enquiries to
Peter Watts on

07534 830377

or email to

peterwatts369@btinternet.com

Perhaps he is unaware that his councillors in Devon are supporting the polar opposite.

DCC has invited us to engage in a public consultation exercise. This is largely a sham, as the budgetary decision to implement these cuts is likely to be ‘baked in’ before the results have been analysed. Moreover, some of the questions invite you to select your preferred option from a list where all are undesirable, rather like being offered the choice to have a leg, an arm or an eye removed. “None of the above” is not an option you can choose.

The consultation ended on 23rd February, but it is still not too late to write to your county councillor to let him know your views. At the last Newton Parish Council meeting I was ticked off for describing the plans as ‘bullshit’. Perhaps readers could come up with their own words. If you rush, you may still find a Thesaurus in your local library.

County Councillor Steve Keable is at Steve.keable@devon.gov.uk

John Dean

Newton St Cyres 200 Club

The winners for March 2026

No. 129	H Pughe	£10.00
No. 203	E Byrnes	£10.00
No. 223	K Moreton	£10.00
No. 15	M Snow	£10.00
No. 125	A Sproul	£10.00

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

APRIL COFFEE MORNING
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NEWTON ST CYRES PARISH HALL



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Newton St Cyres Tennis Club

Spring has sprung and the bulbs are flowering and the trees budding so do join us for Tennis. There seems to be a little less rain! So enough dry weather for your tennis.



On April 1 the new membership year will have started; ready for you to have a go at some tennis. Do contact our membership secretary Laura Leigh on 01647 24259 or membership@newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk for details and you shall have an enjoyable year of tennis, banter and friendships.

A group of keen tennis players tried out their skiing abilities on the Bulgarian slopes and had a marvellous time. This has been all captured in rhyme on the website

And you can soon enter for the Club Tournament which is very popular and the finals will be celebrated in September with a BBQ. This is always a great event and not to be missed.

The Rusty Racket Members' Group is thriving and playing a couple of times a week. When you become a member and feel rusty then do contact Sue Bloomfield at rustyrackets@newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk. A number of the Rusty Rackets are not so rusty any more and they have formed a team and entered the league. Well done; onwards and upwards.

Junior coaching is now run by our junior coach James Temple and is well attended. It takes place on Wednesdays. There is place for more experienced juniors in the older groups.

Jon Wills our coach offers private coaching both individually and for small groups, so if you feel you need to brush up your skills or learn more about the doubles' game, just get in touch with Jon Wills via our website: coach@newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk.

The Tennis Club now has a super ball machine which means you can practise, all by yourself. A number of members are now trained in using the machine so if you would like to have a go, please contact the Club.
www.newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk.

Frederiek Maddock



Table Tennis

Newton St Cyres Parish Hall
every Friday 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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NEWTON St CYRES PARISH HALL

Newton St Cyres Parish Hall AGM on Monday 20th April at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall

This is a SPECIAL AGM because it marks the start of the PARISH HALL'S CENTENARY YEAR. All are invited.

The Hall was given to the village by Captain Noel Quicke in 1926. It was completely remodelled and refurbished in 1970. And now, in our Centenary Year, we are planning major new upgrades to the Hall.

Come and hear the plans, share your views, ideas and expertise!



To mark our Centenary, there will be a **CELEBRATION in SEPTEMBER 2026**. This will also be part of the national **Heritage Open Days** with the theme being: **'Everyday Life'**. We will celebrate everyday village life from 1926 onwards and invite everyone to participate, contribute, share their stories and bring their own ideas to the event.

We'll get the ball rolling at the AGM and look forward to welcoming everyone.

Nigel Chambers (Chair)

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 107



**For a closer look see our website:-www.newtonwonder.net/picture-quiz.html
you will find this picture and all the quiz photos so far .**

JUST A THOUGHT

Ever wondered why the automatic car wash at the Tesco petrol station in Crediton has been closed for months? Me too. The answer, I'm told, is that there's a leak in the concrete floor and the operators can't find a company to fix it. As for who the operators are, I have no idea. Google offers no suggestions. It's all very strange, particularly as oodles of money was spent in the summer on upgrading the facility. As a solution, try the self-wash at the back of Mole Avon. No spinning brushes, of course, but the three bays work very efficiently. No waiting, as far as my experience goes. PC

ARBORETUM NEWS APRIL 2026

I'm writing these few words on the plane over Portugal. Through the window I can see a whole series of reservoirs, all full to the brim with water cascading over the dams. At the end of last summer they were down to 6% in some cases. Everywhere looks green and lush and there is plenty of water to irrigate the farms, including the new interest in avocado plantations, which are notoriously thirsty.

And yet in the UK, in spite of more than 50 days of continual heavy rain, our reservoirs are nowhere near full and lots of areas still have hosepipe bans. What chance do we have of contending with climate change if our water management is so poor?



one of our magnificent Magnolias



L to R: Simon Rickard, Michael Baker, Martin Iver (Instructor), Mark Phillips, Dan Howarth

Climate change is real. Whether the cause is our prolonged burning of fossil fuels to drive our industries and transport systems, which is generally accepted as true, or whether it is due to a natural cycle and nothing to do with us, as some would claim, it is irrefutable that the weather is changing. Summers are warmer and drier, winters are wetter with more violent storms.

This affects the arboretum. Storms snap off limbs and bring down trees. Hot dry summers strain young trees and weaken them, making them more susceptible to disease even if they survive.

Many of our trees are senior citizens and have lived their entire lives in our moderate climate. It is clear that we will suffer more losses. English Oak, Horse Chestnut and Beech are likely to disappear from our countryside over the next century or so. We have been advised to plant more drought-resistant species such as Spanish Oak, Sweet Chestnut and Hornbeam in their place. Our countryside and arboretum will change with the climate.

So it is very good news that several of our volunteers have recently completed a chainsaw maintenance and safety course. This will allow us to clear fallen limbs and trees without resorting to professional help, although our professional colleagues will still be needed for any major tree felling or limb lopping. Safe clearance of debris will allow us to keep the arboretum safe for all to visit.

Visit us now. The Camelias are looking fantastic and the magnolias are starting to come out – some much earlier than others. The deciduous trees are starting to bloom and burst out with new leaves. If you enjoy your visit, make a donation or, even better, become a Friend of the Arboretum and help us to keep this Newton St Cyres jewel in top condition.

Andrew Gee
Chair,
Arboretum Committee

STOP PRESS

A great evening of Caribbean music supported by Jamaican street food from the car park was held at the Beer Engine on Wednesday 25th March.

A very different event for the village which may become regular.

The next food truck and music event will be on Wednesday 29th April 2026.

Watch social media for details.

Message from Neighbourhood Watch

Please forgive this long letter from your Neighbourhood Watch team but, we are often informed of concerns that we feel you would like to know about.



The Devon and Cornwall police say that they have been made aware that there may be cold callers offering gardening/maintenance/glazing work, etc, in our area. They advise that you do not agree to work offered by unsolicited doorstep callers.

If you want work doing in your home or garden, take time to get three quotes from reputable businesses you trust and make your decision on who to use.

If you are concerned someone is at risk, always call the police. If you are concerned rogue traders are operating in your area, always report it.

If someone knocks on your door and you are not sure, don't open the door. If a company claims to be working with a local council, contact the council to check if this is true.

If you see cold callers in the area, have concerns, or have any information, please phone 101. If possible, please make a note of any descriptions and vehicle registrations seen.

Their other recent concern, which we feel could affect us all, is cyber crime. There are six Golden Rules for passwords.

1. Use Three Random Words

The strongest passwords are long and memorable. Combine three random words to create a "passphrase" (e.g., FridgeCloudsTiger). This is much harder for a hacker to crack than a short complex password like P4\$Sw0rd!

2. Make Them Unique

The big mistake is using the same password for multiple accounts. If one site is breached, hackers will try that password on your banking, email and social media accounts. Use a different password for every account.

3. Use a Password Manager

You don't need to remember dozens

of complex passwords. Consider using a reputable Password Manager to store them securely. These act like a digital vault. It is acceptable to write down passwords if you keep them somewhere safe and secure, out of sight and away from the device itself. Please note, some banking/ financial services, forbid users to write down their passwords.

4. Turn on 2-Step Verification (2SV)
Also known as Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) and Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA). This gives you an additional layer of defence. It provides you with a second check, often by way of a notification or a code sent to your mobile phone. Enable this on your email immediately. Most bank accounts automatically set up 2SV when you create your on-line banking account. If you don't have this for your bank account, please contact your bank and get it set up.

5. Length Over Complexity
Remember, longer is stronger. Aim for at least 12 characters. Avoid using personal details such as family or pet names, the make/model of your car, birthdays/dates of birth, addresses/ street names or your hometown. All this sort of information is easy for criminals to find online.

6. Don't Change Passwords Just Because You Think You Should.
Once you have your good password, you only need to change it if it has

been stolen or if a service notifies you of a security breach. Regularly changing passwords often leads to people choosing weaker, easy-to-guess ones

How to check if you've been compromised:

Visit [HaveIBeenPwned.com](https://haveibeenpwned.com) to see if your email address has ever been involved in a data breach. If it has, change your password for that particular service immediately.

More advice on staying safe online can be found at the National Cyber Security Centre's website:
www.ncsc.gov.uk

Reporting Cybercrime

If you believe any of your accounts have been hacked, report the matter immediately to reportfraud.police.uk, the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime, or call 0300 123 2040. Timely reporting can help prevent further damage and assist in catching cybercriminals. If the hacked account contained financial information, immediately alert your bank/financial institution. Call them right away to inform them of the suspicious incident. You can quickly reach many UK banks' fraud departments by calling 159.

Stay safe, stay secure.

Monika

NEWTON RAMBLERS



Sunday 12th April

Our next walk will be a gentle and mostly flat walk of around 3 miles, along the river from Budleigh Salterton to Otterton.

We will meet in the Newton St Cyres Parish Hall Car Park at 10.00 am to arrange car sharing to Budleigh. Alternatively you can meet us at Budleigh at 11 am.

Once at Budleigh, we will park at the Lime Kiln car park and make our way along the river path.

This will give an opportunity to see the recent work that has been carried out as part of the Lower Otter Restoration Project. On the walk we should see evidence of the presence of beavers and it will also give good birdwatching opportunities, so bring your binoculars if you have them.

A table has been booked for lunch for 1.00 pm at the King's Arms. If you would like to join us for lunch please book with Nicola on 01392 851985 by Tuesday 7th April. We have been asked to pre-book our menu selections in advance and Nicola will provide you with details of the menu.

After lunch there will be the choice of a return walk to Budleigh on the other side of the wetlands or we can arrange for those drivers who wish, to travel back to Budleigh to collect their cars.

All are welcome. Please join us! For more information please ring Rosemary or Nigel Chambers on 01392 851400. or to book your place for lunch, please ring Nicola on 01392 851985

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

Newton Ramblers in Haldon Forest

Our March walk in Haldon Forest was a gentle stroll along the forest paths, opening up to amazing views. Well, that was the plan! Unfortunately, the weather had other ideas regarding the views - as can be seen from the photographs. We set off from the Parish Hall and met in Doddiscombsleigh at the kind invitation of Anne Rice, who showed us around her lovely garden and provided cake, cookies and coffee.

We then drove over to the Forest Car Park where, despite the weather, the Forest was really busy with walkers, runners, cyclists and lots of children enjoying the outdoors.

The photos of 'Ramblers in the Mist' was taken by Mark Phillips, and the very atmospheric 'Trees in the Mist' was taken by Laura. We all enjoyed a very sociable walk followed by a wonderful lunch at the Nobody Inn.



Trees in the mist



Ramblers in the Mist

Do check details of our future walks, which are always advertised in the Newton Wonder. All are welcome to join us on these monthly Sunday walks.

Nicola Baker

Bert Jewell writes Rhymes and Ways about Gardens and Gardening

April

I've had to make changes to the way I think,
Spending more time at the kitchen sink,
Preparing the veg for our dinner each day,
Peeling the spuds in my own little way.

Slicing the cabbage, there's carrots to clean,
Parsnips the size like you've never seen,
Then looking at the oven, which button to press,
The last thing I want is a right awful mess.

Then a nod of reassurance from my better half,
We have a cuddle and a good old laugh,
Then on with the task, it's now ready to serve,
It's looking alright, can I just keep my nerve.

As we sit down together, our food to enjoy,
My mind wanders back to when I was a boy,
Shelling peas with my mother, then slicing the beans,
Whilst she did the potatoes and the curly greens.

That came from our garden, as they still do today,
With dinner now over and the plates packed away,
Its time to relax, have a joke and a laugh,
Then an hour in the garden with the tulips and daffs.

Things to do in the garden

I have never been a fan of housework, so it came as a bit of an eye opener when I suddenly had to step up to the mark. My mother always made my sandwiches while I was living at home, then my sister-in-law when I first moved to Crediton, and then I made my own when I moved into a bedsit. That was over 55 years ago. How scary is that? My cooked meals were always made by mother, sister-in-law or my

landlady. Breakfast was out of the question for a few years, because I started work at 5am and usually spent one night somewhere in Cornwall and one night in Bristol or Bath each week, and my washing was also done for me. Now April, like March, can be a busy month, so let's get out in the garden, weather permitting, when it's not pouring with rain.

I know lawns can be hard work, with moss, weeds, bare patches and broken edges, to name but a few challenges. For me the lawn is the centre piece and April is a good time to give it some TLC. If your lawn is square, round off the corners and maybe put a curve on one side. It will make the lawn appear larger and more interesting. Spike areas that stay wet and brush in silver or sharp sand. Give bare patches a good scrape with the points of the fork, then mix a handful of grass seed with a good seed compost and sprinkle it thinly over the patches. Water well and mow around the area until the seed has come up.

April is also a good time to feed the lawn. These days, the feed can contain moss and weedkiller. The grass needs to be dry when applying the feed, followed by rain within 24 hours, so check the forecast first. If it doesn't rain, it will need watering in, otherwise the Nitrogen will burn the grass. Always read the instructions on the package.

Try not to cut leaves off the daffodils until a month or six weeks after flowering. This will help put the bulb in good stead for next year.

In the veg garden, you can sow seeds of summer cabbage, Brussel sprouts, early peas, spring onions, beetroot and parsnips.

In the greenhouse you can check over cuttings of pelargoniums. Remove any dead leaves and pinch out the growing tip, and this will encourage side shoots to develop.

Plant of the month

There are lots to choose from at this time of year, and one of my favourites is the "Snakeshead Fritillary" (*Fritillaria Negeagris*), a native wildflower, domesticated for garden growth. It grows to about 12ins high, and is good for naturalising when it can be left to do its own thing. Grows in any moist soil, in sun or part shade.

Enjoy your gardening



FUTURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

ORGANISED BY NEWTON ST CYRES PARISH HALL

Dates for your diaries, come along and support YOUR Parish Hall

Saturday 25th April 7.00pm –

An Evening of the Folklore of Devon



Singer

Jim Causley &

Folklorist

Mark Norman

**Enjoy an evening of Folk
Songs, Legends &
Customs**

**Doors 6.30pm Advance tickets
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**Teas, Coffees & Cakes on Sale. NO
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drinks**

Saturday 16th May 7.30pm

ROB BARRATT

Comic Poet, Wordsmith & Singer

**Doors 7.00pm Advance tickets £12.00
from Nicola 01392 851985**

**Teas, Coffees & Cakes on Sale. NO
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*"A cracking evening with a talented
wordsmith who made audience
participation voluntarily enjoyable."
(Liz Williams, Butterleigh Village Hall,
Devon, 2024)*





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Newton St Cyres-in-Bloom 2026

At an Open Village meeting on 25th February, hosted by the Beer Engine, it was agreed we would be stepping up from 'Pennant' entry last year to 'Village' entry in this year's Britain in Bloom extravaganza. This confuses some people, but be assured, we will do well!

The judging will take place in July (ideally, 8th, 14th or 15th, to be confirmed with the judges in due course). As this is well before the end of term, the school will again be one of the main features

We hope that the judging route will be the same as last year and include three IYNs ('It's Your Neighbourhood') for additional assessment and awards: the school, Court Orchard, The Village Green, and a new entry, Kingfisher Close. And Jocelyne has promised a lunch (feast!) at the end of the judging tour, as last year.

Martin Taylor has again generously agreed to produce the Village Portfolio and we will collect text and photographs from all the projects. It is especially helpful to have photos showing year-round activity and seasonal displays – and even better if it includes volunteers at work!

For our 'Art in the Landscape' element, we'd love to paint a few old bicycles, include baskets of floral displays and make them visible from the A377 as a nod to the 'Boniface Trail'.

See the May edition of the *Newton Wonder* for how you can get involved –and covered in paint! And check out our page on the *Newton Wonder* website.

Christine Fraser

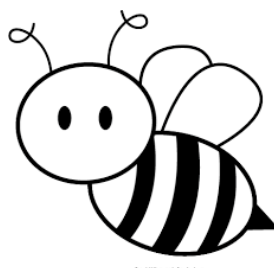
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New Blood for the Parish Council

The Parish Council has been suffering for some time now from a lack of numbers. It should normally have nine members to carry out the many responsibilities and challenges thrown at it, but it has been struggling to get by with just five.

Now, though, things are about to change, as two members of the community have stepped up to join the team.

Meet Jock Campbell, who has lived here for 18 years, and newcomer Russell Viner, who moved here only five months ago.

Ann Quon Cordingley spoke to them both about their plans and what they hope to achieve.

Jock Campbell

As a well-established member of the village, Jock is no stranger to local issues. “I’ve been involved with the Council for 10 years or so in various sort of roles and realise the importance of what it does,” Jock says. “So I thought to myself, ‘Well, if you’re going to be a part of the community, then you’ve really got to pitch in and do your bit’.”

Since moving to the village in 2008 with his wife Helen, a former portfolio manager for the Dept. of Health at Exeter University, he has been actively involved in helping to develop the Parish Resilience Plan (for which he won the Community Volunteer of the Year award in 2022), and in participating in the neighbourhood planning process.

Jock, now 74, started his career as a marine zoologist in Papua New Guinea before returning to the UK to do a masters in law economics and policy making at LSE. He has spent most of his career as consultant in international development, working in over 50 countries on rural projects as a policy, planning and institutions specialist. He retired in 2017.

With his extensive planning and policy background, it is no surprise that he is taking on the role of planning for the Council and will be considering new and existing planning applications.

He will also be looking at how to take forward the ideas from parishioners that came out the neighbourhood planning process and the future development of the village.

In fact, the future of the village deeply concerns him and is what motivated him to join the Council. He feels that with the upcoming changes in local government organisation, Newton St Cyres is going to face some serious challenges in the near future.

The outcome of the reorganisation may determine what kind of community Newton might become. “We need to be clearer about where we stand in terms of what we want,” he says. “Do we want the parish to be a rural, environmentally sustainable area or do we want it to become a housing estate or a commuter belt?” He says that with a railway station and the A377, some people might see the village as ripe for commercial development.

“Unless we say what we want, we’re likely to get something imposed on us. So I would like to contribute to the process of coming up with something that we want as a parish. If we just sit back and let it happen, then, God knows what will happen.”



Jock Campbell brings local knowledge

Despite his involvement in drafting the village’s resilience plan in 2021, Jock is glad that he will not be responsible for overseeing resilience on the Council. “I’ve worked on the resilience stuff for a long time and it might be better to have some fresh blood looking at it and taking it in a different direction,” he says.

He praised the village’s response to the January flooding caused by Storm Chandra and the quick response by Highways to repair Station Road within 10 days of it being heavily damaged.

“Having worked with the Devon County Council on resilience work before, we were one of the first groups to get going on flood planning, and I think they've appreciated the fact that we've pitched in and tried to make things like that work. Because resilience is working and the road warden scheme here is working, they're prepared to say, ‘okay, let's support these guys because they're helping themselves’,” Jock surmises.

He feels that the role of a volunteer is more important than ever. “The reality is that anybody who gives any time at all to the village can have a really important impact. If we do volunteer, we can end up moulding the community to be what we want it to be. And I think that everybody wants their community to be the way they want it to be. So, if they can pitch in, they can contribute to that process.”

Russell Viner

Russell Viner may be new to the village but he is no novice when it comes to public service. The Australian-born British paediatrician and his wife Dasha moved to the village last October after deciding to slowly scale back from their academic careers in London after 30 years – he, as medical researcher and professor of adolescent health at UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, and she, as professor of child and adolescent psychiatry at Imperial College. “We both hit the age of 60 and wanted to start stepping back from work, and Devon is the place we want to be,” he says.

Although they spend their time working remotely from Newton and commuting to London, they have settled into life here quickly, making new friends and getting a feel for the village.

“We've been really blown away by the sense of community there is here. You know, this is our new home and our new life,” says Russell. “I have a strong belief that communities are so important that if we want to get things from the community, we have to give back to that community. And giving doesn't come after, it comes at the same time.”

Besides the sense of giving back, he also likes to know how things work in the institutions and places where he lives and works. “And so, for those two reasons, joining the Parish Council seemed very logical,” he said. In fact, the day after the couple arrived in Newton, two different neighbours gave them copies of the Newton Wonder, telling them how good it was. While reading through the

magazine, Russell saw ads appealing for parish councillors. “When I read it again a couple of times, I started to think, I should do that. Okay, I can do that.”

He then approached Council chair Liz Ouldrige, offering to help out wherever he might be needed. “She asked me to help her focus on the resilience side of things, which potentially is a good fit for me,” he says. “Given my medical background as a paediatrician, I have been involved in government in thinking about resilience and emergencies from a medical point of view,” he says.

When it comes to medical expertise, Russell’s credentials are impressive. During the COVID pandemic, he was a member of SAGE, the scientific advisory group for emergencies,



advising government on children, young people and schools. He is a former president of the Royal College of Paediatricians and Child Health and until recently was Chief Scientific Adviser to the Department of Health.

Currently, he is co-chairing a national review for the government on social media screen time for children which will develop guidance for parents. “That’s a quite a big thing I’ve been doing at the moment, and that’s voluntary.”

Russell Viner brings fresh thoughts

wants to contribute to the strong sense of village community he has found here. “I want to add to that because communities are so important for the nation in all sorts of ways,” he says.

As a new councillor, he has three aims. First, he

“Secondly, help make this a safe place. Villages always have vulnerable people. I believe it's important that the state fulfils its responsibility to its citizens, and the Parish Council is part of that.”

“Thirdly, to protect the village. It’s not just about the flooding and resilience, but issues like who’s protecting the elderly when things like Cowley Bridge being closed at night and buses and trains aren’t running? How do you help them out? So I am thinking about those kinds of issues,” he says.

Russell believes that a strong Parish Council that's speaking for Newton St Cyres is important – “particularly at a time of uncertainty with all the local government changes. If we just become a suburb of Exeter, is that a good thing for us? So it felt like a good time to join the Council,” he says.

Photos by Ann Quon Cordingley

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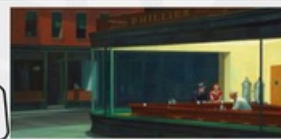
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Creativity Unleashed

By Rod Ashman

Rod Ashman is Exeter based and has spent his life working in art, teaching in various places for many years and inspiring countless students. His enthusiasm and imagination are undimmed!

His method of creating involves constant experimentation, allowing the unexpected to lead, rather than meticulously planning every mark. However, many of his preliminary ideas are sketched first, so he does have an overall idea of what he wants to paint. He likes working en plein air and brought many sketchbooks and journals that illustrated the breadth of his travels and ideas.

Rod uses a huge array of materials and tools, including cardboard, with exciting effects. He stressed the importance of not being “precious”, of not wanting to record every detail, because that kills a painting. He often tears up old work and uses it to create new pictures. If you get stuck with a painting, he advised trying different media, different tools, a different size, playing around and aiming to be just a bit out of your depth, to allow things to happen.

The result was an inspiring demonstration.

Jenny Hallam



A Village Lad and Quiet Hero

It's a hundred years this month since the birth of a Newton St Cyres lad who grew up a farm boy, endured the horror of war and then settled back into village life. His son, Peter Ashmore, tells his story.

Bernhard Ashmore was born in Newton St Cyres in April 1926. His childhood unfolded on the Quicke estate at Woodley, where his father worked the land and his mother kept house. The family's world was bounded by parish hedgerows, oak woods, and the slow rise of the fields towards Dartmoor. Yet that world was also shaped by the hard realities of interwar rural life – low wages, long hours, and a community bound together by shared endurance and humour.

By the age of 12, Bernhard was already following his father into agricultural work, as many boys in farming parishes did in those years before mechanisation. His day began long before sunrise. At five o'clock in the morning, he would rise to the smell of damp earth and the crow of cockerels, pulling on clogs or wellworn boots before cycling or walking to the barns. In those times, a day's work might begin with feeding the beasts — scattering mash to the hens, turning hay for the dairy cows, or helping his father harness the heavy

horses for ploughing. When harvest season came, the pace grew fierce: reaping, binding sheaves, and stacking hay into huge ricks that filled the sky with dust and straw.

The Rhythm of Work and Food

Days on the Quicke estate were defined as much by food as by labour. Breakfast might consist of thick bread spread with dripping or jam, and strong tea poured from a brown pot kept near the fire. Midmorning saw a 'scran' break – a wedge of cheese, perhaps, or a pasty wrapped in newspaper. Dinners at midday were hearty but simple: boiled potatoes, homecured bacon, or stew flavoured by whatever vegetables the garden provided. Sundays brought a small roast, if wages and rationing allowed, followed by suet pudding drenched in treacle.

Leisure was scarce, but the village found ways to make its own amusement. Bernhard and his mates might kick a ball across the meadow after the evening's milking, or cycle into Crediton for the weekly picture show. On fair days, the excitement of horses, stalls, and music filled the air. Church socials, cricket matches on the green, and the occasional village dance gave shape to what little free time young labourers enjoyed.

Despite the routine hardships, Bernhard's bond with the land was strong. He learned every curve of the Exe valley, every birdcall in the hedgerows. The rhythm of farming hardened his muscles and taught persistence – qualities that would serve him well when, at seventeen, he volunteered for the British Army.

A Boy's Choice, A Parent's Fear

It was the spring of 1943. Bernhard, barely old enough to shave, asked his parents for permission to enlist. Britain had been at war for nearly four years, and news of battles in North Africa and Italy reached even the quiet lanes of Devon. His parents, heavyhearted yet proud, signed the papers. They knew the war was claiming boys younger than Bernhard.

He joined the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry – the DCLI – and was assigned to the 5th Battalion, part of the 214th Brigade in the 43rd (Wessex) Division. The training began almost immediately.

From Plough to Parade Ground

If life on the farm was physically punishing, army training brought a new kind of strain – mental discipline and the exhaustion of precision. Bernhard found himself running across windswept moors, crawling through mud under barbed wire, and learning the art of handling Bren guns and grenades. The Light Infantry prided themselves on speed,

endurance, and initiative. Long marches carrying full kit, day after day across the Dorset hills, tested even the most hardened recruits.

The difference between farm labour and army life lay not in effort but in purpose. On the farm, Bernhard toiled for his family's bread; in the army, he trained for survival and for comradeship. Both worlds valued obedience and quiet strength, but military discipline sharpened it into something else – a readiness to act instantly under fire.

By June 1944, Bernhard's battalion boarded ships bound for Normandy. He landed a few days after DDay, on the 20th of June, part of the hard-fighting effort to secure the bridgehead wrested from the Germans by earlier assaults.

Into Battle: 1944

The fields of France were not unlike those of Devon with their hedgerows, orchards, and sunken lanes, yet they were turned into killing grounds by artillery and mortar fire. Bernhard's 43rd Wessex Division fought its way through dense bocage country south of Bayeux and Caen, often at terrible cost. Their task was nothing less than to break through Hitler's best defences in Normandy and begin the long pursuit across northern Europe.

Through July and August, the division crossed the Seine near Vernon and

advanced into Belgium. In September, they joined Operation Market Garden – the ambitious bid to seize three great bridges and open a route into Germany.

Crossing the Waal and Meeting Destiny



At Nijmegen, Bernhard was among the first British soldiers to cross the wide, swiftflowing River Waal under enemy fire. Less than a mile away, a teenage Dutch girl named Dolly was sheltering with her parents in the cellars, listening to the thunder of the guns. Fate would bring them together years later, in Exeter, far from the devastation that had first connected their lives.

After Nijmegen came the desperate “dash to Driel,” where Bernhard’s brigade attempted to relieve the surrounded paratroopers trapped

across the Rhine at Arnhem. Soaked, exhausted, and short of ammunition, the men of the 214th Brigade showed extraordinary courage in a mission that had already gone tragically awry.

The Wounds of November

Bernhard’s final battle came in November 1944, at Geilenkirchen on the German frontier – an assault where British troops fought shoulder to shoulder with American forces. It was bitter, cold, and relentless. During one mortar bombardment, Bernhard was struck by shrapnel across his body and fell unconscious amid the chaos. Left for dead by comrades forced to press forward, he was later found alive by stretcherbearers and evacuated through the chain of field hospitals back to England. A hospital ship carried him home to Cornwall, where he began the long recovery at Bodmin.

A Village Hero Returns

When the war ended, Newton St Cyres welcomed back its sons with quiet gratitude. The vicar spoke for the whole parish when he publicly thanked Bernhard for his service. He, in turn, was simply grateful to be home, alive, among the orchards and lanes where he had grown up. He lived with his parents and younger brother Leonard at 15 New Estate, in the village, rebuilding a modest life from the ruins of youth.

A few years later, while eating fish and chips with a friend outside the nurses' home in Exeter, he met Dolly, the same Dutch girl who had endured the battle of Nijmegen. She was then training to be a nurse. From that meeting grew a companionship stronger than war's memory. They married and settled at Tytheing Close, living peaceably through the decades that followed.

attended. The village veterans' standardbearers flanked his coffin, which lay draped in the Union Jack — a simple, proud emblem of duty fulfilled. For Newton St Cyres, he embodied the countless ordinary men who left the land to fight, endured the unimaginable, and returned to the soil they loved.



Bernhard at his retirement

Legacy of a Generation

Bernhard died aged 60, a husband, neighbour, and quiet hero of a small English parish. His funeral was well

loyalty, and his quiet courage, Bernhard represented the true heart of the West Country, unassuming yet unyielding.

His life traced the story of 20th-century Britain in miniature: from horse-ploughed fields to mechanised war; from youthful toil to unimaginable endurance.

The same strong hands that once lifted hay bales had carried a rifle across Europe. In his steadiness, his



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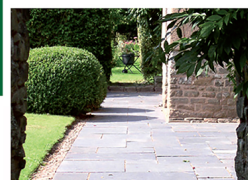
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SPRINGING BACK TO LIFE!

Many villagers will have enjoyed the bounty of fruit and vegetables available free of charge at the village hall larder. But how many people know where the produce comes from, who grows it and how much work goes into providing it? Ann Quon Cordingley has been finding out.

Hidden behind a hedge along the A377, the Newton St Cyres community allotment is about to burst into springtime life once more. A team of more than a dozen or so volunteers have rolled up their proverbial sleeves, getting ready to

once again feed the community with free vegetables and fruit.

All the produce will finish up in the community larder next to the village hall, where anyone can call by and take what they need. And it's all free.



Gail tending leeks

The harvest this year will include an astonishing range of vegetables such as salad leaves, parsnips, broad beans, kale, beetroot, leeks, Brussel sprouts, chard, different kinds of garlic, onions, shallots, potatoes and carrots. For fruit, there will be strawberries and raspberries.

All this is thanks to the Newton Environmental Wellbeing Group or NEW, a group of volunteers dedicated to protecting the environment and providing wholesome, fresh, chemical-free produce for villagers.



Emma and Andrew clearing brushwood

We're hoping for more success with carrots as they weren't particularly successful last year," scays Dave Harris, a founding member of NEW, which manages and tends the community allotment. "We actually harvested a load of parsnips this winter, but because the larder was closed for the season, unfortunately, we had to eat them ourselves."

Dave says not much more will be added this year to what they normally produce. "We'll pretty much be growing what we have traditionally been growing, just more of it," he says.

NEW has come a long way since it
www.newtonwonder.net

first approached the Parish Council with the idea of growing and providing free produce to local villagers in 2022. The Parish Council, which runs the village allotments site and rents out space for a nominal fee, agreed to provide NEW with four allotments totalling 8,000 square feet, rent-free. While there were doubters at the beginning, in a few short years NEW has proven them wrong. Today, the community larder, which is stocked every Tuesday with locally grown fresh vegetables and fruits, has become an integral part of village life.

We've had three growing seasons and are just about to enter our fourth. Each year we've managed to grow more and become more successful with it," says Dave. "It's been a very positive and lovely experience to see people enjoying what we have produced."

plant the potatoes in the ground and as they grow, pile the hay up around the tips to keep them warm and out of the sun. "It means that when you harvest them, you haven't got to dig them up – you just pull them out of the hay," says volunteer Emma Parkin.



The allotment angels with friend

To prepare for this year's growing season, three additional vegetable beds have been installed, with plans to grow more potatoes on two of them.

And for something completely new, they will experiment with trying to grow spuds under hay, using cut hay from the village green. The idea is to

It is all part of the "no dig, no pesticides" approach to gardening pioneered by Charles Dowding, a gardener and author who developed the system in the early 1980s. It means no digging with shovels or spades, so the soil is undisturbed, and using organic matter compost to add nutrients to the soil. "We're trying to build the soil structure and fertility by using organic and natural resources,"

says Emma. “There’s a lot of research about how you shouldn’t disturb the top layer of soil because that is where all the microorganisms live.”

No-dig is calculated to save about 40% on labour. “You also have 31% less impact on global heating because when you dig, you release carbon. If you don’t dig, you don’t disturb it,” says Dave Harris.

The NEW group of volunteers has come a long way since they first took over the allotment on a remote site with no electricity or running water.

When we first took the allotment on, we got a grant from South West Water for 10 water butts, so we now have a total of 14,” says Dave. Another challenge has been getting tools and gardening equipment to the site.

Generally, our volunteers walk to the allotment and bring their tools and equipment with them,” says Dave. “We don’t really use big pieces of equipment because you have to access the allotment from the main road [the A377].” There is space to park in front of the allotment, but it is very limited. “So in general, we rely on portable equipment rather than heavy machinery.”

Despite protective fencing and hedging around the site, it’s proving hard to keep hungry four-legged visitors away. “Last year was the first year we had quite significant

problems with deer. They came and ate two full beds of strawberries, which were the best ones we’d ever had,” says Dave with a sigh.

Wander up to the allotment on any given day and you will usually find one or a group of volunteers working on something. On a recent Sunday, I found Dave, Emma Parkin and Andrew Broadhead laying a section of hedge along the boundary side of the A 377, and burning the discarded brush. “This revitalises the hedge as it gets straggly and allows newer growth,” says Andrew. By trimming the hedge back, they also gained two metres of width to the allotment.

The atmosphere at the allotment is convivial, welcoming and informal. While there is a core group of 14 volunteers who regularly help out, anyone and everyone is invited to come along as there is always something to do and you don’t have to know anything about gardening. “We usually have a workday on the third Sunday of the month, and that’s for anybody to come along,” says Dave Harris.

“We have a WhatsApp group, so sometimes people will say ‘I’m going to the allotment, would anyone like to come and help’,” says Dave. “Sometimes, people will just go there by themselves to do a bit of work. It gives them a bit of quiet time.”

Volunteer Gail Meldrum spends about four hours a week at the allotment and loves it. “I enjoy being outdoors and

growing things, especially food,” says the longtime Newton resident. “I couldn’t do it on my own, but with a team of people, it’s brilliant. And because volunteering is good for me and my psychological health, it’s a feel-good thing. It’s also healthy for the community to get fresh local, chemical-free food. I think it’s important we take responsibility for the environment and our own health.”

With the growing season underway, the first veggies will be ready for harvesting in May and made available at the village larder every Tuesday (except in winter), free of charge. It’s Gail Meldrum’s task to go up to the allotment on Sundays to see what is ripe and ready to go. “Then someone else comes up on Monday to collect all the veg and fruit that is ready, takes it home and tidies it up and then bags it. Then first thing Tuesday morning, they fill the larder with all the fresh produce,” says Gail who is the point person for the larder.

Anyone in the village who has extra produce they can’t use is welcome to leave it at the larder. “Last year, we got lots of damsons and plums, and people bring quite a few apples,” Gail says.

Besides volunteering time, there are other ways to help. The group welcomes donations of spare seeds and plants or surplus plants. And while the produce made available at the community larder is free,

donations are always welcome.

As for funding, most of it is done by individuals in the NEW volunteer group. There is also a donation box at the community larder which helps cover costs as well as donations from local firms such as Bernaville of things such as seeds. The group repurposes as much as possible with materials provided by friends and from skips. Two disused greenhouses were dismantled and rebuilt on the allotment. “We do an awful lot of reusing and recycling things, so a lot of what we have built on the allotment is made using old wood pallets and old wood to create compost bins,” says Dave.

An innovation that NEW is excited to embark upon is to start a community tree nursery, with plans to grow saplings from seed and in a few years make them available to locals. Dave has already been collecting acorns and seeds from Maple, Hawthorn and Blackthorn trees for sowing, and the Devon Wildlife Trust has provided some equipment to get things started. “Local trees are much more likely to survive because their ancestry is here and they are used to this climate,” says Dave.

So a busy time lies ahead for the dedicated band of NEW volunteers who clearly love what they do. They encourage those who might like to volunteer to come forward. No gardening skills are needed.

"You don't have to know anything," says Gail Meldrum. "As long as you can walk and stand, you don't even have to dig. It's good for the planet and our physical and mental well-being. It's just a good can-do thing."

To find out more, or volunteer,
contact the **Newton Environmental
Wellbeing Group** at:
newnewgroup@protonmail.com

Photos by Ann Quon Cordingley



The Sandford Summer Show returns for 2026 to its original timing on Bank Holiday Monday 31 August in Sandford Parish Hall.

Finally, we have some weather that allows us out into the garden, so now is the time for you keen gardeners to be thinking about sowing seeds and growing lots of flowers and vegetables to enter. For the crafters, artists and photographers among you, now is your time to plan that creative project to show in the competition.

Entry forms will be available as hard copy from Sandford Community Stores or via email from sandforsummershow@gmail.com We will let you know when these are ready.

More updates to come but remember you are all the stars of the show and we look forward to seeing you produce your best!

April on the Farm

Meet the Team: From Cheese Dairy to Cheese Shop

Every morning, our cheesemakers, Ian, Mantas, Lee and Andy, pump the milk over from the bulk tank into the cheese dairy. That's after they have emptied milk for today's make and washed and sterilised their tanks. Starting at sparrow's fart, they've pasteurised the milk, added starter and rennet to make junket, cut and scalded the junket, pitched, cheddared, milled and salted the curd and put it into moulds.

The team have also bumped out the previous day's cheeses from their moulds, brined and re clothed the previous day's cheeses, and applied muslin cloth, as well as greased and remoulded the cheeses from two days previously. A full-size cheese and mould weigh about 40kg (88lb). All that before breakfast. Jane and Ian are installing a hook and rail system in the summer to take some of the heavy work out of the system.

Next door, in the butter room, Tracy takes the cream that remains in the whey and makes it into our delicious butter.

As well as being experienced, Ian, our Cheese Operations Manager, went to a cheesemaking course in Ambierle, France, for two weeks in October to hone his skills and knowledge.

He came back buzzing with ideas. Watch this space.

Our cheesemakers and cheese dairy assistants are strong and resilient, and many are super experienced. Andy joined us in 1985, making cheese in the morning and driving tractors in the afternoon. He started at the same time as Mark, who is now cheese cleaning and turning supremo in the cheese store. Mark assists Tony, our Cheese



Andy

Storeman, who came to the farm as a small boy when his father, Barry,

Some people may remember Tony's mother Val, who made the butter, the ice cream, packed cheese and served in the farm shop when it was next to the cheese dairy. Tom, son of Stuart Dowle, backs up Tony and Mark when he is not helping in the cheese dairy.



Jaime

Jaime keeps cheese moving through the three packing rooms, supplied by the store team assisted by Ben and Cole, and by Matt when he is not cooking the team lunch (yum), and Ludmilla. They cut it up, grate it, smoke it over oak chips brought by brother John from the woods, pack the cheese, put the prepacks in cardboard boxes and then send it on its worldwide travels.

All the farm's processes are supported by the office team. Jack runs the written food-quality system we all had to set up in the wake of the change in the law. Giannina has taken charge of admin, that crucial, time-consuming relief for the rest of the team. My daughter Jane now runs the business, ably assisted by Tom, the Finance Manager.

I love all the upgrades the team is making to the business: building two lagoons to take better care of our waste water and slurry; fitting out a barn with cow beds so the cows can stay on the farm for the whole of their pregnancy; changing the main electricity board from the mishmash originating from the 1950s; introducing a flatter, more accountable structure so people are more in control of their work; trialling diverse swards to improve soil structure; and digitising the business and creating a more supportive and generous business culture.

Jane has led this, along with getting married, moving house and selling more cheese than we've sold for years. I'm now her awed sidekick.

Last and not least are the Marketing and Cheese Shop team. Emma, Sarah and Ella are busy making up and sending out cheese letterboxes, hampers and celebration wedding cheese cakes. We sell more cheese online than we do through the shop, so the team double-date, making up

parcels of cheese to send out, computer wizardry, managing couriers and serving customers.

In their quiet hours (!) the team attend shows, mainly in Devon but also all over the country and abroad, getting cheese into people's mouths while telling the story. Rachael has an amazing address book of people,

customers, cheese lovers and farming folk all over the world, and she encourages us all to share what we get up to with her and others' trusty phones.

Enjoy!

Mary Quicke

Nick Baker Local History Prizes

The organisers are delighted to announce that two prizes of £100 have been awarded in this year's Nick Baker Local History Essay Competition: to Isobel Hepworth and to Sue Attenburrow.

Both essays record the history of important local buildings — Isobel traces the history of Hayne Farm from the fifteenth century, and Sue considers the history of Langford Farm, believed to be the oldest extant house in the parish of Newton St Cyres.

The essays are available to download on the Newton Wonder Website: <https://www.newtonwonder.net/history-group.html>

Many thanks to the judges: Jilly Baker, Peter Hawksley, Stuart Luxton, Andrew Saunders and Jean Wilkins.

The competition was set up in memory of Nick Baker of Cowley, an avid local historian. Prizes are funded by Nick's family and friends. Entries for this year are warmly invited from anyone in the parishes covered by Focus on Thorverton, Newton Wonder and Speke Up.

Consideration is being given as to whether similar studies might be added to provide greater coverage of properties of interest in our area.

Newton St Cyres Gardening Club

Happy Easter, hopefully our gardens are looking very springlike now, although March did still bring more rain & winds that made the petals from the beautiful Camellias fall quickly, like wedding confetti.

We were so pleased to welcome Saul Walker back to Newton St Cyres, this time to talk to us about Orchids, a

(Phalaenopsis) and these are probably the easiest to grow. A few tips for growing this type of orchid included using rainwater at room temperature (we should all have plenty of that at the moment). Saul said his preference was to drench the plant by watering over a sink, and allowing them to drain. If you do water from the bottom, he advised that they should

not be allowed to sit in water for any length of time. If your plant has grey shrivelled roots, it means that the plant is too dry. Clear pots enable you to view the root system to see if it is dry, healthy roots should be



Saul with Nicola & Orchids

passion of his since the age of 11.

A gift that so many people are given but often have trouble looking after. Saul explained how we could ensure that our orchids are looking good, and that they can live for 50 years! Orchids, with around 28,000 species, and Daisies are the world's largest families of flowering plants. In addition to the 28,000 there a further 192,00 different hybrids listed in the International Orchid Register. The orchids most seen in garden centres and supermarkets is the Moth Orchid

green. Misting will increase humidity but it is not good to over-mist, & misting the flowers, will lead to spots which detract from the beauty of the plant. When the plant has finished flowering the flower spike should be cut back to the highest node and this will lead to future flowering. Saul also recommended using specific bark when re-potting. This comes in a variety of grades, fine, medium, coarse and can be bought at many garden centres. Specific Orchid feed is also available and Saul

recommended adding the liquid concentrate every 2nd water when the plant is in growth.



East Worlington Churchyard



Hyacinths & Tulips at Cothele

If you have brown stems these can be cut back, but the aerial roots should be left. Saul also brought with him a large selection of orchids from Burnham Nurseries, near Newton Abbot. These were absolutely stunning! A family run nursery, they have been orchid specialists for over 75 years and have the largest range of orchids in the U.K. Burnham Nurseries are open Monday to Friday 10am – 3pm & on one weekend per month the next being the weekend of 18th & 19th April. In July they hold an Orchid Festival weekend which this year is on 18th & 19th July. Their website provides a huge amount of information <https://www.orchids.uk.com>

Last year we were fortunate to visit Stonelands, near Dawlish for a guided tour where Saul was Head Gardener. He has left this post & is now Partnerships and Events Manager for Plant Heritage. Formerly known as the National Council for the

Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG), it became Plant Heritage in 2009. The charity is probably best known for the National Plant Collections, but also runs Plant

Guardians. More information can be found at <https://www.plantheritage.org.uk>

We managed to visit several places in March, including East Worlington, Saltram House, Cothele & the Spring Plant Fair at Sidmouth, where I was tempted by the many local nurseries' selections and added the following :-

Narcissus Snipe, a clump-forming bulbous perennial growing to around 15cm high, with green, strap-shaped leaves. The flowers are very delicate, upward facing & lightly fragrant. They have slightly swept-back creamy-white petals and a long, creamy yellow cup which turns paler over time. Flowering late winter to early spring it is ideal for short, grassy areas or under shrubs and trees.

Narcissus cordubensis with up to five, deep but bright gold flowers, again with an amazing heavy scent, flowering from mid-March to April, it is listed as a dependable and reliable species flowering freely.

Narcissus Spiorot a hoop petticoat cultivar growing to 20cm in height. It has greenish-white flowers which

have cups to 4cm across. Flowers over a long period in February and March.

Sidmouth was looking lovely with all of the daffodils on display, which were originally planted using the £2 million legacy from Keith Owen. However, you may have heard that these blooms on Peak Hill are under threat of becoming blind (not flowering), due to the invasive Alexanders plant which competes for water, nutrients and light. Alexanders was originally brought over by the Romans as a food crop seed, and although not banned from sale, it is listed on Schedule 9 of the UK Wildlife and Countryside Act as an invasive non-native species. This means that it is an offence to plant or cause them to grow in the wild in England and Wales, and gardeners should undertake measures to control them. Sidmouth has therefore been recruiting volunteers to reduce this threat and produced <https://sidvalleybiodiversitygroup.org/saving-our-daffodils-on-peak-hill/>

Pictures by Nicola Baker

Jobs for April

- * Prune Hardy Fuchsia back to healthy buds, to promote new growth & a good show of flowers later in the summer
- * Prune Hydrangeas by cutting back to the uppermost pair of healthy buds. The seedheads will have done their job of providing winter homes to insects now. If you have a more mature plant, you may also need to reduce the number of stems by taking out the oldest but don't be tempted to prune too hard.

- * Hard prune winter stems such as Cornus & Salix, to give colour next winter
- * If you find self-seeded hellebores under your existing plants, these can be lifted with a trowel and grown on in individual pots, in a gritty compost mix.
- * Plant climbers for colour and to help wildlife such as hoverflies and bees Clematis, Honeysuckles and Passion flowers
- * Mulch around fruit trees to suppress weeds and retain moisture
- * Sow courgette, squash and sweetcorn on a bright window sill or in the greenhouse ready for planting out late May when the risk of frost has passed
- * Repair bare patches on lawns
- * Be watchful for nesting birds before pruning shrubs, in case they have a already 'set up home'



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WHAT'S ON?

Saturday April 11th. Upton Pyne SPRING FLOWER SHOW and PLANT SALE.

The schedule is available from Anne Roberts, 01392 851457

Friday 17th & Sunday 19th April. OPEN GARDEN Sidbury Manor, Sidmouth

EX10 0QE. "Built in the 1870s by the owner's family, the Victorian manor set within the E Devon AONB. It comes complete with 20 acres of garden in substantial walled gardens and areas devoted to magnolias, rhododendrons and camellias, plus an abundance of daffodils". Admission £7 Adult, child free. Open 2pm-5pm

Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th April. Musselbrook Cottage Garden

Sheepwash, Beaworthy. EX21 5PE **NGS Open Garden** "One acre naturalistic/wildlife/plantsman's/sensory garden (autism friendly) on sloping site. Year-round interest with rare and unusual plants. 13 ponds (koi and lilies), stream, Small aquatic/general nursery. Admission £6 adult, child free. Open 11am-4.30pm.

Sunday April 19th. Kia-Ora Farm & Gardens Knowle Lane, Cullompton, Devon, EX15 1PZ **NGS Open Garden** "Charming, peaceful 10-acre garden with lawns, lakes and ponds. Water features with swans, ducks and other wildlife. Mature trees, shrubs, rhododendrons, azaleas, heathers, roses, herbaceous borders and rockeries. Interesting garden for all ages and surprises around every corner! To finish off, sit back and enjoy a traditional home-made tea and cakes". Admission £5 adult, children free. Open 2pm-5.30pm. Homemade teas & plant sales.

Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th April. Windwhistle Barton, Kerswell,

Cullompton EX15 2ET Open Garden for Hospiscare "A magical, secluded one-acre garden with wide-reaching views and a peaceful setting. Discover a variety of unusual plants, a sunken garden, two wildlife ponds, a stream, and a small woodland area planted with spring bulbs". Admission £5 Open 2pm-5pm. Tea & Cake available. Open as part of Open Gardens for Hospiscare

Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th April. RHS Rosemoor: RHS National

Rhododendron Show Saturday 11.30am (after judging) – 4pm & Sunday 10am-4pm. This show has more than 60 classes covering all types of rhododendrons, trade and advice stands, plus magnificent displays of magnolias and camellias.

Future Bookable Events. Limited numbers don't miss out, ring now!

Friday 1st & Saturday 2nd May. Toby's Festival at Powderham. Reduced priced tickets £16 instead of £23.50 available from Nicola 01392 851985

Wednesday 3rd June. Afternoon Car share to Amelia's Flower Farm

Combeinteignhead. Guided tour & pick your own £35. Café open for refreshments. Further details & to book your place, contact Nicola on 01392 851985

UPTON PYNE & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB 2026



Saturday 11th April

Free Admission

ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SHOW

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 any spare, unwanted plants,
we would love to have them for our sale*



The schedule - contact Anne on 01392 851457

*All events are held in Upton Pyne Village Hall unless stated. Any queries please
contact our Chair June Nicks 01392 841272 or Jilly 0776 674 9310*

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The Shuttern Brook

Jenny Garne continues her journey down the Shuttern Brook

We now enter the meadow and the permissive path to follow the stream through the edge of Lower Western Copse and Coombland Wood. The meadow is full of flowers in spring and summer and therefore attracts many butterflies. Just inside the gate by the trees and stream Angie and I found a wing of a Purple Hairstreak butterfly that must have been predated.

Many years ago probably the 80's or 90's my father and I walked the



One of the remains of the charcoal burners

footpath through Coombland Wood and where a little streamlet crosses the path we heard flapping and splashing noises, a pair of trout were mating. Back then the stream flowed across the path but now is channelled through a big pipe and on into the Shuttern. So the trout must have

made their way up the Shuttern to spawn in this little streamlet. There is a thought here that spawning so far away from the main brook may be advantageous as predators such as Otter may not travel upstream so far. Otter have definitely been seen in the Creedy near the river bridge in Station Road.

I now take you out into the fields from where the stream flows onwards. This was one of our childhood playgrounds. Quietly spoken Mr John Berry was then the tenant farmer at East Holme and in these fields he grazed sheep that nibbled right to the banks of the stream. There was no fencing and fewer trees than there are now. These were the days when the sun always shone. Primroses, Early Purple orchids, Wood Anemone and Bluebells grew here and hopefully still do. We'd walk as far as we could within the stream looking for bird nests and were quite successful and then leaving them well alone. We would catch Stone loach, Bullheads and Lamperns and put them back where we found them.

There is one particular spot where we found what I call concretions, a sort of elliptical smooth shaped rock but not quite that shape. From what I recall they were mostly found in the stream but one or two protruded from the

bank. We cracked open a few to find a smattering of Fool's Gold in the centre which just about can still be seen among the rust having been



Exposed to the elements for years.

One day, walking alone with the family dog I came across a female Mallard with her ducklings, this was the spring of 1982. My photographs of the ducklings are not good enough to reproduce here but in one shot I can clearly count 11 of them. It is lovely to think mummy Mallard had nested somewhere close to the sighting of the ducklings and the fact there were 11 ducklings (normally 10-12 in a brood) means hardly or no predation at the time I saw the family.

Moving further along now we reach a point where a streamlet beneath Marsh Lane trickles into the Shuttern and where in that streamlet we children spotted two toads in amplexus. Hereabouts the Crooklake Brook joins the Shuttern just before West Holme. You can see the Crooklake Brook between Woodley Farm and Venny Cleave/Sherwood. It's in the dip as you go up Crooklake hill. I have a tale to tell here for years ago the Crooklake Brook was above ground, a small ford. My grandfather

and his brother James were tasked to take their two baby brothers Samuel and George for a walk in the pram . They were aiming to get the pram across the ford but hit a stone and tipped the babies in it. I calculate this was probably in 1892 or 1893. It is a lovely spot too hereabouts for primroses and white violets growing on the hedgebanks.

Between the joining place of Crooklake Brook to the Shuttern and the bridge in Marsh Lane is the old village dump. The dump is totally out of bounds. Manganese metal ore was brought down Landing Path Fields to the Shuttern by Marsh Bridge by a railway track. It is here at the bridge where the mined manganese was washed before transportation to the railway station. Unfortunately here grows a Skunk Cabbage where a few years ago I tried to dig it out having scrambled through the bushes to reach it. All I got for my trouble was a tick. Skunk Cabbage is deep rooted. If you are fortunate you may see a Kingfisher here and along the stream as it flows along West Town.

I lived in Bridge Cottage (now known as Forge Cottage) until I was 4 years and eight months old and I have a few memories of that time. Forge Cottage is beside the cobbled bridge at the beginning of Pump Street and is nearest to the brook of the two attached cottages. Bridge Cottage was flooded at least twice and our mum was pregnant the last time it

happened but I don't know which of us she was pregnant with but the timeline is between 1957 and 1960. She said the water came in the back door and out the front door and as you can imagine a hell of a mess to clean up including picking up the trout who then disgorged their eggs and it was very smelly. The upstream side of the road bridge here used to have chains hanging off the bridge with slats of wood attached to prevent debris flowing downstream. Unfortunately the storm must have been intensely localised and slow moving because trees, branches, roots and rubbish collected against this barrier causing the water to rise so much it flowed across the road as far as the old Post Office.

If you stand on the cobbled bridge and look upstream you can see the concrete bridge my father built. I remember when the brook flooded (not as bad as the one mentioned above) and I was taken out to the brook to see where a trout had spawned leaving its eggs on the concrete beside the brook. I remember often hearing the unmistakable plop of a Water Vole as it entered the brook from the bankside of the garden.

My brother Roger remembers grandad taking him over a narrow wooden bridge to an allotment that is now the garden of Belluno the other side of the brook. The bridge was partly attached to the downstream

side of the road bridge. It is no longer there and Rog cannot remember who tended the allotment.

I was told the road bridge was widened not long after the fire of 4th July 1962 when the Crown & Sceptre and adjoining cottages were burnt down. Rog is sure the road bridge was strengthened in the 1970s, the road dug up and big steels and concrete plinths inserted into the road and bridge structure. He thinks that at the same time a square shaped resting pool was put in the brook under the road bridge for migrating fish to get upstream. Rog has seen Lamperns trying to get upstream, their heads bobbing up and down with the effort.

I was recently told you can see the remains of the medieval bridge. Angie and I walked beneath the road bridge (something we did many a time in our younger days) to have a look. We can see the fish resting pool. We could also see looking downstream a bit of old wall on the left hand side that perhaps is medieval. It is not advisable to get closer to it and indeed be careful when walking in the brook here as it is slippery.

The Shuttern flows on through the garden of Belluno, the edge of Godolphin Close and fields to meet the River Creedy at the back of Court Barton. At the joining point we would swim all summer. Rog assures me that it was here I taught him to swim.

Stephen Young who lived in Godolphin Close had a blow up canoe and we could paddle upstream but not too far because it would slowly deflate. I found a solitary Star-of-Bethlehem plant *Ornithogalum umbellatum* growing here, probably washed down from an upstream garden and is a non-native. Another unusual sighting here all those years ago was a bird called a Red-whiskered bulbul and must have escaped from someone's private collection. It hung about in a small willow and was only there a day or two.

I would like to give thanks to Norman Weedon for showing Angie and me where the Crooklake brook meets the Shuttern. It's been so long ago we had been to that part of the brook. Also thank you so much

to the Quicke family for sharing their fields and woods. I don't think I would be where I am today for the love and knowledge of British flora and fauna if I hadn't had the opportunity to roam this wonderful place.

Below is a photo of the road bridge taken from the brook looking downstream showing strengthening metal work and the area where the chains would have hung.



JUST A THOUGHT

Good luck trying to get the Mounjaro weight-loss drug on prescription from the Redlands medical practice. It seems that, except for special circumstances, the NHS in Devon is not prescribing the drug. When I enquired, my GP consulted his computer and then gave me some twaddle that my medical record showed that my weight was constant.

That's true. I'm constantly overweight, but no luck getting a prescription. PC

SEASONED LOGS

5m³ DOUBLE LOAD £460 <i>loose tipped</i>	3.75m³ 1 ½ LOAD £350 <i>loose tipped</i>
--	--

2.5m³ FULL LOAD £240 <i>loose tipped</i>	1.25m³ ½ LOAD £130 <i>loose tipped</i>
--	--

o.625m³
BULK BAG
£75

PART SEASONED LOGS

5m³ DOUBLE LOAD £420 <i>loose tipped</i>	3.75m³ 1 ½ LOAD £320 <i>loose tipped</i>	2.5m³ FULL LOAD £220 <i>loose tipped</i>	1.25m³ ½ LOAD £120 <i>loose tipped</i>	o.625m³ BULK BAG £70
--	--	--	--	---

Part seasoned logs will be ready to burn from autumn onwards if bought in spring/early summer and stored off the ground in airy conditions, e.g. log store.



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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)

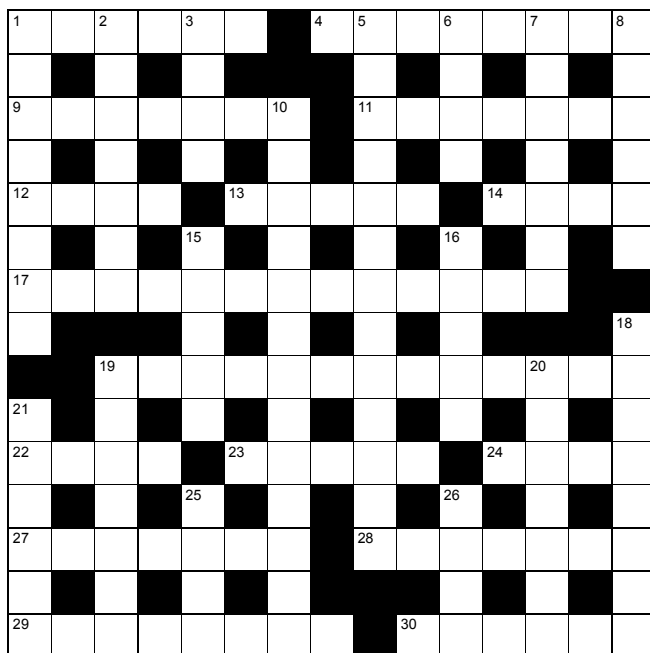
UK Censuses on Newton St Cyres (1841-1911)

Newton St Cyres Tithe Map of 1843

Copies can be purchased by contacting

Jean Wilkins 01392 851337 jeanwilkins1@btinternet.com

Cryptic Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Declare commitment to a fellow with company (6)
- 4 They help gamblers after onset of addiction (8)
- 9 Sort of plaster, it's used for attaching sheets of paper (7)
- 11 Quiet one extremely inclined to tremble (7)
- 12 Downfall of sovereignty, say (4)
- 13 Perfume is put in the post around start of Christmas (5)
- 14 Murderer raised by very noisy people? (4)
- 17 Guides president in London area (9,4)
- 19 Old Harry stuck out in attempt to gain sympathy (4-4,5)
- 22 Gas, one confused with nitrogen (4)
- 23 Kate's off to get meat (5)
- 24 Some jazz in concert, or metal (4)
- 27 New Orleans is a port (7)
- 28 Rank of Victoria for example (7)
- 29 Pretty girl holds skirt lower (8)
- 30 Quail or another bird engrosses student (6)

DOWN

- 1 Sailor stumped by ploy that's hard to understand (8)
- 2 Father's lithe but delicate (7)
- 3 Bank is really heartless (4)
- 5 Expensive seats on plane for those studying commerce? (8,5)
- 6 Sibling has success after short time (4)
- 7 Rubbish and burnt remains under English tree (3-4)
- 8 Maxim is speaking (6)
- 10 Run to family to find how different ethnic groups get on (4,9)
- 15 Vegetable from Devon town (5)
- 16 Wish evil on scoundrels beginning to exasperate (5)
- 18 Bucket for plant? (8)
- 19 Headgear left with hesitation for gangster (7)
- 20 View from old wing (7)
- 21 Not accustomed to being unemployed (6)
- 25 Female supporter wants new health food (4)
- 26 Ring everyone after end of epic (4)

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.

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

© Web Sudoku 2026 - www.websudoku.com

Solution to March 2026 Cryptic Crossword

1	C	H	A	R	M	O	F	F	E	N	S	I	V	E	
	I		L		A		E		L		U		E		8
9	D	E	C	I	D	E	R		10	A	S	P	I	R	I
	E		O		E		T		S		S		T		T
11	R	O	P	Y		12	K	I	T	T	Y		13	M	I
	W		O		14	A		L		I		15	K		G
16	I	M	P	U	L	S	E		17	C	O	N	F	O	R
	T				L					A					I
18	H	E	A	D	O	F	F		21	R	E	V	I	S	I
	R		B		Y		I		A		E		P		T
23	O	B	O	L		24	R	A	D	I	O		25	H	E
	S		L		26	S		N		M		27	B		C
28	I	D	I	O	T	I	C		29	E	L	E	G	I	S
	E		S		A		E		N		T		E		L
	30	T	H	E	G	R	E	A	T	G	A	T	S	B	Y



Energy Advice

Officially, meteorologically, 1st. March saw the first day of spring. Summer and hot, sunny days still seems a long way off and as the cost of living crisis continues to bite mercilessly, it may pay you to get in touch with our dedicated Energy Advice Team.

If you are worried about how you are going to pay your gas or electricity bill or need advice on how you can best save energy at home, it is well worth contacting them. You can leave a message on **01237 879233**, you can visit a drop-in session, fill in a referral form or get advice by email. Full details are on our website at <https://citizensadviceetnmwd.org.uk/energyadvice/> You can also ring our free, local AdviceLine number on **0808 27 87 999**.

Our energy saving tips can save households over £300 a year and if you call into one of our offices, either by pre-arranged appointment or at one of our drop-ins, if you meet the energy criteria, we can give you fuel vouchers. A benefits check may show that you are entitled to claim certain benefits to boost your income. Maybe you are having problems with your energy provider? Our advisers can help with that too.

So there is a wealth of free advice available to you; you might be surprised at the difference it can make!

All our advisers and volunteers get full, comprehensive, ongoing training and support. Some specialise in areas such as debt or energy advice, others are more generalised. Increasingly, people are reaching out to us for help and sadly, we can't help them all. However, as we are a volunteer led charity, recruiting more volunteers enables us to help more people and reduce levels of unmet demand.

Could you give us one day a week to help us meet this challenge? Our volunteers don't need to have specialist skills, just an interest in people and a desire to help. Volunteers develop existing skills, learn new ones and make new friends in the process.

Why not take the first step and email recruitment@citizensadviceetnmwd.org.uk We would love to hear from you!

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The Parish Church of St Cyr and St Julitta



The miracle of Easter – witnessed by a woman!

‘Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed...’

John 20:1

The crescendo of the incredible and intensely dramatic concerto that is Holy Week – with all its theatre and intrigue, with all its emotion and passion – is first witnessed by a woman. I need to say that again. The wonderful, incredible, amazing miracle of Easter was first attested to by a woman. She may not have immediately ‘got it’ – assuming that Jesus’s body had been stolen; she may not have been jumping up and down with unbridled joy – because we soon read that she was left weeping at the tomb by some of the other disciples.

But, Mary Magdalene, even with tears

streaming down her face, was definitely and definitely the very first person to see the risen Jesus. She was the first to believe in the seeming impossible – that Jesus, who had been taken down dead from the cross, who had been wrapped in burial cloths and then sealed in a tomb – was alive! He was standing there before her; he was enfolding her in his love, and he was telling her to go and witness to the others.

Now, remarkably, importantly, Mary Magdalene being the first witness to the resurrection of Jesus is something on which all four gospels – Matthew

Mark, Luke and John – all agree (though, to be a bit pedantic, for a couple of them Mary Magdalene is with other women). They were all happy to acknowledge her as the ‘apostle to the apostles.’

But, so what? What is so remarkable about Mary Magdalene being the first to witness the risen Christ? What is so remarkable about Jesus telling her to be a witness to others? Well, to put it rather bluntly, at that time, in that place, amongst the Judaic culture, women were not seen as reliable witnesses to anything important. They were not seen as credible, believable or sufficiently emotionless to be witnesses at court.

As one rabbi so dismissively expressed it: *But let not the testimony of women be admitted, on account of the levity and boldness of their sex...* (Josephus, in *Antiquities*). Women, beyond the home, were generally ignored, disregarded, dismissed. Women were just not seen as important and were definitely not a part of the religious or political leadership at that time.

And yet, here we have four writers – all men, who were steeped in the culture of the time, men who understood what they were saying, but saying it anyway, all agreeing on the

essential elements of the Easter miracle; all reinforcing the truth of this life-changing, world-changing event by emphasising that it was first seen by a woman. And by recording this for everyone to read, they fully affirm this truth.

This emphasis on Mary Magdalene as witness seamlessly continues the teachings and ministry of Jesus, who throughout his time among them challenged cultural expectations, who turned the religious world upside down and inside out, as he reached out to the marginalised, the forgotten, the disregarded; as he touched the untouchables and washed the guilty clean. Teachings that were to change the world as Jesus’s disciples told everyone of the incredible, wonderful, amazing story of the resurrection.

The Gospel writers, in affirming and celebrating Mary’s witness, are giving a very clear message – that the Kingdom of God is for all, not just the privileged few. And that is ‘eggceptional’!

Easter blessings

Tim
 Revd Tim Collins
*Rector, Netherexe Mission
 Community*

SERVICES & INFORMATION APRIL 2026

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 1 April

09:30 am	Mid-week Holy Communion	Thorverton [Exe Valley Farm Shop]
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Wednesday 1 April

06:00 pm	Evening Prayer	Thorverton
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Thursday 2 April [Maundy Thursday]

06:30 pm	Maundy Thursday evening meal	Rewe [Parish Hall]
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Friday 3 April [Good Friday]

10:00 am	Drama	Stoke Canon
10:00 am	Contemplative Service	Cadbury
11:00 am	Contemplative Service	Newton St Cyres

Saturday 4 April

07:30 pm	Sunset Service	Netherexe
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Sunday 5 April [Easter Day]

06:00 am	Sunrise Service [service starts at 6:30am] [Please wear appropriate footwear]	Cadbury [Cadbury Castle]
09:30 am	Family Service with Communion	Thorverton
10:00 am	Communion	Newton St Cyres
10:00 am	Communion	Stoke Canon [with Huxham]
10:00 am	Family Service	Cadbury
10:00 am	Easter Service	Brampford Speke
10:30 am	Family Service with Communion	Upton Pyne
11:15 am	Easter Service with Communion	Rewe

Sunday 12 April

09:30 am	BCP Service with Communion	Thorverton
10:30 am	Communion	Upton Pyne

Sunday 19 April

09:30 am	Communion	Brampford Speke
09:30 am	Bubble Church	Thorverton
10:00 am	Coffee & Chat	Stoke Canon
11:15 am	Communion	Cadbury

Sunday 26 April

09:30 am	Morning Service [Celebrating Wondrous Women: Julian of Norwich "All Shall Be Well"]	Thorverton
09:30 am	Communion	Newton St Cyres
10:00 am	Messy Church	Stoke Canon
11:15 am	Communion	Rewe

Tuesday 31 March

06:00 pm Evening Prayer

Thorverton

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 [Rector] 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 [09:00 – 11:00] & Wednesday

[09:00 – 13:00] Tel: 07551 844321

Email: administration@netherexe.org

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WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

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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

A WEEK IN NEWTON St CYRES PARISH HALL

Tuesday (Weekly)	Line Dancing	7.30pm	Paula Benford	01392 210830	pbenford45@gmail.com
Tuesday (Weekly)	Adonai Community Kitchen	1200 – 2.00pm	Jocelyne Whittaker	07508 871172	TheAdonai- CKitchen@outlook.com
Tuesday (fortnightly)	Young Farmers Club	8.00pm	Amy Taverner	07966 982815	amytaverner@gmail.com
Wednesday (Weekly)	Adonai Community Kitchen	1200 – 2.00pm	Jocelyne Whittaker	07508 871172	TheAdonai- CKitchen@outlook.com
Wednesday (monthly)	History Group	7.30pm	Jean Wilkins	01392 851337	jeanwilkins@btinternet.com
Wednesday (x 4 months)	Gardening Club	7.30pm	Nicola Baker	01392 851985	n.e.budden@exeter.ac.uk
Wednesday (Term time)	Greenshoots Montessori	Daytime	Melanie Grabowski		mmgrabowski@hotmail.com
Thursday (Term time)	Greenshoots Montessori	Daytime	Melanie Grabowski		mmgrabowski@hotmail.com
Thursday (2X per month)	Mah Jong	2.00pm	Geoff Jackson	01392 851551	megalops@btinternet.com
Thursday (monthly)	Parish Council	7.00pm	Jane Hole	01392 851148	parishclerk@newtonstcyres- pc.gov.uk
Friday (weekly)	Table Tennis	7.00pm	Roger Wilkins	01392 851337	rogerwilkins@btinternet.com
Fridays (some weeks)	Art Class	10.30am	Sue Rose	01363 772284	suerose9@hotmail.com
Saturday (second of each month)	Village Coffee Morning sponsored by various groups	1030 – 12 noon	Church (Sue Browne) Alternate months	01392 851460	suecbrowne@gmail.com
Saturday (some months)	Model Train Group	2.00pm	Ann Feetham	01392 215837	annfeetham@virginmedia.com

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

PARISH HALL HIRE CHARGES

Available to hire for children's parties, dances, classes, wedding receptions and meetings. It has kitchen facilities and accessible parking adjacent to the hall.

MAIN HALL

HOURS	LOCAL RATE	NON LOCAL RATE
Up to 3 hours	£26.00	£40.00
Up to 6 hours	£40.00	£60.00
Up to 9 hours	£52.00	£80.00
Up to 12 hours	£66.00	£100.00

CLUB ROOM

HOURS	LOCAL RATE	NON LOCAL RATE
Up to 3 hours	£15.00	£22.00
Up to 6 hours	£21.00	£31.00
Up to 9 hours	£28.00	£42.00
Up to 12 hours	£36.00	£55.00

Neighbourhood Watch Deputies

Sue Gee	Church Area	Glebe House	851164	asgee@btinternet.com
Tom Dowle	Court Orchard	24	851704	tomdowle@live.co.uk
Allan Pearce	Godolphin Close	8		
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
Vacancy	Woodlands			
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

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

Priest-in-Charge	Rector: 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 https://www.redlandsprimarycare.nhs.uk/	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 - Liz Ouldrige lizouldridge@newtonstycyres-pc.gov.uk Clerk - Jane Hole	07752 959845 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	Contact the school	01392 851267
Recreation Club	Chair- Carrie-Ann Finning - email: finning-newtonstycyresrecreationalclub@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@newtonstycyres-pc.gov.uk	
Footpath Warden	Graeme Barnell	01392 851308
Newton Environmental Wellbeing Group	Gill Melling newnewgroup@protonmail.com	07527 071663

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	Steve Keable steve.keable@devon.gov.uk	07967 655045
Local M P	Mel Stride mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk	01392 823306
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	Secretary: Helen Iles friendsnewtonarboretum@gmail.com	07717 062810
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 2026. 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
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Please add your address(abbreviated if necessary) as the reference
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The Newton Wonder is also available online at an annual charge of £5

Please contact editor@newtonwonder.net

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.

Printed by Parish Magazine Printing, Northmoor, Whitstone, Holsworthy, EX22 6TD.

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Email:- printroom@parishmagazineprinting.co.uk

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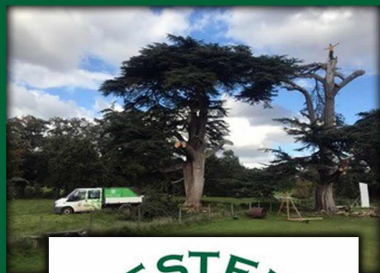
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YOUR MEAL TO YOU (1.00 - 2.00) Or you can collect it from the Parish Hall from 12.30 -2.00pm**

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.



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