

NEWTON ST CYRES-IN-BLOOM

July 2026



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LOCATION: THE VILLAGE LIES BETWEEN EXETER CITY & CREDITON TOWN

Newton St Cyres Village & Businesses

Location: The village lies between Exeter City & Crediton Town

Parish Population: circa 950

Village Population: circa 700

Local Authority: Mid Devon District Council

Recycling Rates: The Council has made significant progress in reducing residual (non-recyclable) waste. Mid Devon now ranks 6th out of 197 councils for the lowest tonnage collected per household, an improvement from 9th last year, placing the district in the top 3% nationwide.

History & Mining: It can be claimed that the nearby village of Upton Pyne, together with Newton St Cyres, had the first commercially successful manganese mines in the world! Current worldwide produce of manganese exceeds 30 million tons a year. This compares with the 1-10 tons a day produced locally in the late 1700s and early 1800s in open-pit mines and limited underground mining through shafts and adits.

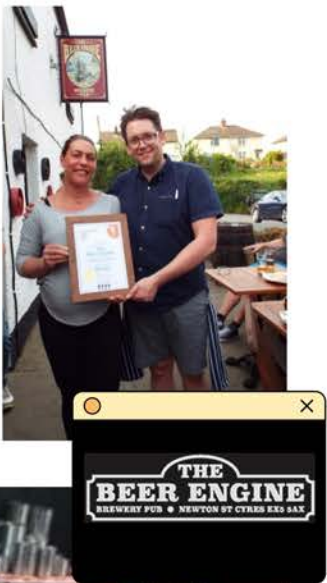
Land Ownership & Farming: The Quicke surname is thought to derive from a local Saxon tribe of the area who managed to retain land through the Norman Conquest. The first member of the family of whom much is known is Andrew Quicke, who died in 1557. He was 14 generations away from the present family. The family held together through the Reformation, the Prayer Book Rebellion, and the Civil War. Working through the vicissitudes of land management and farming, the family has in the last 50 years used milk for cheese production: and now there is a virtuous circle of grass pasture, cows grazing out for 10 months of the year to produce good milk for cheese, and the waste water being returned to the land to grow the grass.

For over 450 years, the Quicke family have been farming at Newton St Cyres in Devon. They continue to produce internationally award-winning artisan cheeses. Made using milk from the family's own pasture-grazed cows, Quicke's cheeses are carefully crafted by hand using traditional recipes passed down through generations.

<https://www.quickes.co.uk/>



This traditional Devon pub is Devon's oldest-running microbrewery pub. It has been making its own beer since 1983 when an enterprising former college professor bought some second-hand gear and started brewing. The Beer Engine was born and hasn't stopped mashing, fermenting, pumping (and whatever else the magic machines do) ever since. It's only had three owners since beer-making visionary Peter Hawksley changed its name from the Barn Owl in 1983. 'Ian the Brewer' joined in 1983 and is still brewing. Four decades later and several CAMRA awards richer, husband-and-wife team William Maltby and Victoria De Polo are the current owners. <https://thebeerengine.co.uk/>



Hanlon's Brewery
Hanlons Brewery, located in the rolling hills of Newton St. Cyres, Devon, was founded in 1996 in London as O'Hanlon's Brewing Company. Known for its flagship Yellow Hammer and Port Stout. In 2013 Hanlons relocated to Half Moon Village where it operates from a sustainable rural estate supplying hundreds of pubs across Southern England.



Bernaville Nurseries is a family-run, independent garden centre near Newton St Cyres established over 65 years ago by the Terry and Audrey Jackson. The original site was a petrol station. Now the traditional plant nursery has evolved into a comprehensive lifestyle and retail destination spanning three generations of family management

BLOOMING BIKES!

Our Sustainable Travel Theme 2026

Our Village entry this year is on the theme of 'Sustainable Travel'. This encompasses a number of key projects celebrated in this portfolio. The judging route starts with rail travel and our Railway Station vegetable and herb garden which, like our community allotment and larder, also reduce 'food miles'. Then we have our bus travel with our floral troughs along 3 of our bus stops.



The addition of bicycles not only completed the sustainable transportation aspect but provide an opportunity to enhance the 'horticultural' element of our presentation which was the area our judges last year suggested could be improved.

We also thought that we could use this opportunity to link 'Art in the Landscape' with 'Sustainability'. From this, we came up with the project to re-purpose old and unusable pedal bikes and turn them into floral displays across the village for all to enjoy.

The bikes came from a multitude of sources: local recycling centres, donations of much loved and used old friends and from a charity, based in Exeter, called 'Ride On' - with hearty thanks.

The bikes, prior to cleaning and painting, were stripped down to make it very clear that they were unusable. Note that tyres, pedals and chains are removed.



Quick fact: scrap bikes are shipped to China to be ground down - and the charity receives a massive 25p for each one!

NEWTON ST CYRES RAILWAY STATION

Food Without Fuss (IYN)

We have always grown vegetables at Newton St Cyres Station but in 2026, the Friends started a new project. 'Food without Fuss' is an attempt to show that you can grow food in a small plot with less time and effort than you might think.



Before



After

Of course, at the start, there is fuss! Our vegetable plot had become rather full of weeds. These had to be cleared, and the plot was covered with cardboard (sourced from our own homes) to reduce the number of weeds.

Next, we were able to buy some raised beds with a grant from GWR. These had to be assembled and installed on the plot.

The beds were filled with compost from a local farmer and then surrounded with wood chippings donated by a local tree surgeon. The plants were a mixture of donations from our gardens and a few bought plants that we hope will do well in years to come. We filled in the gaps this year with some donated early potatoes. We don't expect much on the way of crops in 2026, although we should have Potatoes, Strawberries and Swiss Chard.

We have had a herb garden for some time. Many of the plants are big enough for you to help yourself to whatever you need.



L-R: Helen Campbell,
Marcus Iles, Liz
Ouldrige, Harriet
McFadcan & Midge
Kelly

THE RECREATION GROUND CLUB

Newton St Cyres

The Recreation Ground Club is situated along Station Road and is an area of 6 acres comprising the Club House, two sports areas where football and cricket are played. It also incorporates two tennis courts with floodlighting, and a small area of children's play equipment which was renewed with generous grant funding last year. The two areas through the winter are well used with senior, youth and ladies football.



In the summer and we have cricket and Archery. We welcome the Young Farmers and the School to use the facilities when required. We host an annual picnic and competition for F.W.A.G. a natural history competition for several local schools. We have a very popular firework evening every November and a youth football Tournament every July with teams coming from all over Devon and some from Somerset and Cornwall.



The land is leased from the Church Commissioners and the grounds and flower beds are all maintained and tended by a group of dedicated volunteers.

New playground equipment October 2025 funded by Mid Devon District Council



NEWTON ST CYRES SCHOOL (IYS)

A Greener School



A dedicated group of parents, supported by the school, has transformed areas of the school grounds into wildlife-friendly, sustainable spaces that inspire outdoor learning, encourage biodiversity and support children's wellbeing. Our vision is to create colourful, peaceful and playful environments where children can connect with nature and learn about caring for the environment.

Fund-raising: We have raised over £1,500 to develop these green spaces with:

- **Two circular orchards with apple, quince, pear and plum trees**
- **Three raised vegetable beds and a large wildlife pond area**
- **Seating areas, including wooden benches and log seats, for children to relax, learn and enjoy the natural environment.**

Sustainability:

This is at the heart of our project. for children to learn and help to grow fruit, vegetables and herbs, learning where food comes from and how to care for plants and wildlife. Two butterfly-shaped sensory beds filled with aromatic herbs and lavender attract pollinators while providing sensory experiences for pupils. In 2024 and 2025, with support from a parent volunteer, we planted a stunning wildflower meadow to be repeated in 2027.



Year 2 learning
about forests in
the Arboretum

NEWTON ST CYRES SCHOOL (IYS) CONTINUED

Woodland:

More than 100 tree saplings planted by children and parents, create the foundations of a future woodland glade and support the school's long-term environmental legacy.

Outdoor Learning:

In addition to forestry trips to the Arboretum, a parent who is a Forest School Teacher, has led sessions where children have planted potatoes and microgreens, tasted herbs and explored growing food sustainably.

She also worked with pupils to create beautiful flower displays on the school's bicycles, celebrating the 2026 Britain in Bloom theme.

The Burrow:

This is a thriving green space for sensory play, exploration and early connections with nature. And the wildlife garden is being rewilded and redesigned following damage to the pond lining over the Winter. The new plans will improve access for small groups of children, enabling activities such as pond dipping and wildlife studies.

Partnership Working:

We are planning a project with volunteer support from a team of Grounds staff currently doing contract work with the University of Exeter, which will help us further enhance our wildlife areas during 2026–27 including building a viewing platform around a smaller pond, adding guttering and water butts in absence of a water supply, building a living willow tunnel and laying a woodchip path through the garden thanks to a donation from a local farm.

These projects align closely with our School Federation's Climate Action Plan, which brings together parents and teachers to share ideas and practical ways to become greener schools.

By increasing outdoor learning opportunities, promoting biodiversity, reducing environmental impact and using nature to support wellbeing, we are creating sustainable spaces that will benefit our children, wildlife and wider community for years to come.



Year 2 learning about forests in the Arboretum



KINGFISHER CLOSE (IYN)

Kingfisher Close

A relatively new small housing development now approaching 10 years since the developers commenced building some 25 homes. The land previously was an orchard on part of the Quickes estate. The homes have now been occupied for around 8 years & the residents have formed a collective to improve the communal grounds.

Main elements are: a field north of the school together with the Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUD) pond; the corner entrance; a stone retaining wall and the central green.



- The field to the north of the school has been planted out with wild flowers. In 2020 there was a significant planting scheme to form a native hedge around the perimeter of the wild flower meadow, planted out in conjunction with Newton Environment Wellbeing group (N.E.W.) & the residents of Kingfisher Close
- The Sustainable Urban Drainage is planted out primarily with willow which is cut one half at a time annually, thus ensuring wildlife using the pond still retain an area for diversity of habitats. The willow is chipped & the mulch is used on the communal beds & around the trees.



Sustainable Urban Drainage Pond

- Within the central green forming the focal point amidst the homes in Kingfisher Close, two local variety apple trees were planted in 2021. More recently a newly formed bed was created in 2025 that provides a colourful welcome & attracts pollinators. This year, 2026, two benches, constructed from re-purposed timber, have been added to the green.
- Along the top of the boundary retaining wall alongside Station Road planting in 2025 has begun with some springtime flowering plants.
- Some residents over the past 2 years have been successful in achieving awards for Wildlife Friendly gardens from the Devon Wildlife Trust.
- The left-hand side of the entrance to Kingfisher Close was initially planted out by the developers & had become overgrown. The decision was made to replant this corner bed, thus exposing the stone wall, which created a backdrop for some more suitable shrubs & perennial flowering, these were planted out by the residents in 2026



COURT ORCHARD (IYN)

Before the mid-20th century, the site was exactly what its name implies: an agricultural fruit orchard. The social housing development in 1971 was designed to provide bungalows and communal spaces to support the village's aging population. To this day it remains managed as council-supported housing

NEW volunteers have continued to maintain the community orchard planted in 2023. With funding from Mid-Devon District Council, 15 apple trees bring history and tradition back to Court Orchard, a 1970s development, as well as a source of fruit for the community. Each tree has a name plate and reflects Devon's rich heritage of traditional orchards.



The grass surrounding them is maintained in a similar way to the meadows on the Village Green, contributing further to biodiversity in the parish. The trees had their winter prune in February with the goal of creating a healthy, open goblet shape. They have been mulched to help add nutrients and support water retention in the soil; especially important with our new unpredictable weather patterns and more frequent droughts. As part of the safest route between the main village and the school, pub and railway, many neighbours walk past here making it an important asset for the village, just like the Green.



NEWTON ST CYRES ARBORETUM (IYN)

Happy birthday, Newton arboretum! This much-loved natural asset celebrates fifteen years of public access in 2026. After being left to return to the wild for many years, in 2008 the arboretum's owners, the Quicke family, granted a licence for use to Newton parish council. Since 2010, voluntary group the Friends of Newton Arboretum have restored the site, opening it to the public in 2011.



The Friends continue to manage its development with the support of volunteers, professional tree surgeons and 135 paying subscribers. We are extremely proud of our wonderful woodland haven. In 2024, a survey of our fabulous local citizens found the arboretum to be the most valued asset in our parish.

However, we are conscious of the need to plan for the future of the site, especially regarding public safety, biodiversity and the predicted effects of climate change. Tree maintenance is ongoing, including removal of a few dangerous trees and a project to thin some excess tree cover. Our maintenance volunteers have successfully completed training in handling chain saws and now help the professional team complete their work. Last winter, our bat and bird nesting boxes were refurbished and new ones added. On the recommendation of Devon Wildlife Trust, red clover plants have been added to an open grass area. When planting new trees, we are using more native species.



Fundraising to support our work is ongoing. This year, we are hosting a local theatre company who will perform *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare. Two magical afternoons of entertainment are promised. In addition, two very sociable coffee mornings bring in further funds. We have plans to create an orchard of rare apple varieties which originated in Devon, to create new storage for our equipment from an old shipping container and to redesign our information leaflets as a digital resource accessible via a smart phone.

THE CHURCH OF ST CYR & JULITTA

Churchyard - a welcome pause

We lead busy lives: noisy, stressed, exciting until you enter the Churchyard, where timepauses.

Surrounding the church on the hill, the churchyard overlooks the village. It is the village's past and present, a natural space to reflect. With a strong sense of community, it extends a welcome, strives to relax, cosset, and give privacy, to reflect the seasons' charms, to give peace to humans and space to the natural world.



It has been walled for centuries, making it an obvious candidate to protect and encourage species. It is also the resting place for loved ones. To show care and respect we keep the new graves well managed. To let wildlife have its fling we allow older areas to grow, in late spring, early summer.

This year and during 2025 the church has been engrossed in widening its community appeal and comfort with the installation of a servery, an exhibition space and an assisted toilet. Now we are waiting for our application to redecorate the church to be accepted.

When this last hurdle is accomplished we are looking forward to discussing an area for sensory plants with seating; gathering to log and map the flowers, grasses and insects that are seen; and, working out a trail that is informative and fun for children. Meanwhile, we continue to enjoy the drifts of flowers and their visitors through the seasons.



THE COMMUNITY LARDER

Newton St Cyres Village Hall

Once a week during the growing season, fresh produce from the community allotment is at the Parish Hall outdoor 'Larder' for anyone to take. This has inspired other gardeners to contribute their own excess fruit and vegetables – a commendable community effort.

This has been much appreciated and a dedicated shelter was constructed last year to display the produce so that people can help themselves. And it also contributes to our 'sustainable travel' theme by reducing food miles...

The project complements the small food bank set up in the south porch of the church nearby. Allotment bounty is also passed to the Adonai Community Kitchen, which provides two-course lunches every Tuesday and Wednesday in the Parish Hall.

<http://adonaicommunitykitchen.co.uk>

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ADONAI COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Newton St Cyres Village Hall

Jocelyne Rimbon-Whittaker, a local villager who is a Paris-trained chef and also a language teacher, provides excellent lunches every week in the Parish Hall using from foodbanks and the Community Larder. The superb two-course lunches, always with 3 main-course options, is "not for profit" and any donations go straight back into the project. Donations are entirely at the discretion of diners which enables the project to support people right across the social spectrum. On average 12 lunches per week are delivered from the kitchen to residents across the village.

Jocelyne is supported by a large team of volunteers to help prepare the food, serve it at table, and do all the washing up by hand! Here is a typical menu:



Ladies always smiling! Jocelyne with helper, Frederique



COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT & COPPICING

The Community Allotment, established in 2022, continues to be maintained and nurtured by NEW volunteers. This year, a new 'Adopt a Bed' scheme has seen different volunteers taking new opportunities to experiment with their own choice of crops. The Allotment remains a no-dig, chemical-free plot and continues to provide food for the Community Larder, frequently used by the Adonai Community Kitchen charity lunches.



Over the winter, NEW volunteers have been busy in nearby woodland with the Coppicing project. Volunteers learn traditional skills and carry out this rewarding work for the benefit of local habitats. Coppiced hazel is stacked and results in the creation of a clearing that will let in more light allowing a greater diversity of plants to grow. Every hazel stool (stump) is covered with brash to prevent deer nibbling new shoots.

This year, volunteers have seen plenty of new growth coming through from the last two previous year's coppiced trees surrounded by an abundance of ferns, wild garlic and primroses.

More traditional skills have been shared amongst NEW volunteers in order to lay a section of hedge bounding the village Allotments. Traditional hedgelaying methods will enhance habitat for wildlife, make the hedges more stock proof and resilient, enabling them to last for hundreds of years, as well as needing less maintenance.



PUMP STREET & SHUTTERN BROOK

Pump Street is a historic road in the heart of the village and the conservation area. The main feature of the road is a ford through the Shuttern Brook, which runs from farmland beyond West Town Road and under the A377 road bridge to join up with the River Creedy.

On the upstream side of the road bridge there used to be hanging chains with slats of wood to prevent debris flowing downstream. There used to be a permissive way along much of the brook with its rich wildlife (pearl-bordered fritillary, scarlet tiger moth and four-spotted footman moth larva which feeds on lichen.) And there is a regular pair of grey wagtail round the ford.

‘Old Beams’ is the oldest house in the village. Research by the University of Exeter into the seed from the original roofing thatch suggests it is probably older than the 15th century.



Sadly, one of the old thatched houses along Pump Street collapsed in March of this year. Fortunately, no one was in the building and no one was injured. It shows all the original building materials from a new perspective!



The planting along the boundary of the houses is all chosen and managed by residents. It is appreciated by walkers visiting the village, using the ‘Village Walks’ leaflet and QR code.



However, the road is open and the ford always looks a picture.

Plants for the Ford Bridge are donated by Bernaville Nurseries, a family-run business set up over 65 years ago.

NEWTON ENVIRONMENTAL WELLBEING GROUP

Established in 2021, NEW is resolved to improve and protect the natural environment around Newton St Cyres. The group's aims include taking action to reduce the parish's carbon footprint, improve biodiversity, help prepare residents to respond to climate change and collaboration with other village organisations.

In collaboration with the Parish Council, NEW volunteers have been managing wildflower meadows on the village green since 2022. Following a survey of the village in 2025, NEW received overwhelming positive feedback and some high praise on their work on the village green.

This confirmed the positive impact of the project on the environment and biodiversity of the parish. Given the green light by the Parish Council, NEW has continued the project with some modifications suggested by neighbours via the survey. Over the 2026 Easter weekend, around 10 volunteers (including new recruits!) strimmed down the longer grass areas and raked to allow light into the soil.

This encouraged germination of seeds saved from previous seasons and sown this year. Many of the wild plants now thriving were already coming through at Easter including yellow rattle, clover, wild geranium and Queen Anne's Lace. Last year, NEW had a mowing day where one volunteer revived the traditional - and low-carbon - method of using a scythe!

The risings were left to dry and drop their seeds in the old way until a few weeks later the volunteers returned to tidy up involving an ingenious DIY baler machine! The hay is now being used to mulch potatoes at the community allotment, and so the cycle continues.



NEWTON ST CYRES GARDENING CLUB

We are an informal and friendly Club, who meet during the year to hear interesting speakers, and to exchange ideas. Everyone is welcome at the Meetings or on the Outings. You do not have to be a member or have a knowledge of gardening. The admission charge of £3.50 for each indoor speaker events includes tea, coffee & biscuits.

We also support, promote & attend meetings of other local garden clubs in Upton Pyne & Crediton and the Hardy Plant Society. We are able to offer Club discounts on orders from Sutton's Seeds.



Our recent meetings have included talks on:

Orchids (Saul Walker);

Cacti & Succulents (Rob Vincent); and our October 2026 meeting will be a talk by local author & historian Dr Todd Gray on the topic of 'The Art of the Devon Garden'.

Newton St Cyres Gardening Club. Continued

Our past speakers have included well-known local gardeners, television & radio presenters including Saul Walker (Hardy Plant Society) & Toby Buckland (BBC Radio Devon & Gardeners World).

Previous Topics & Speakers have included:-

**Otters (Stephen Powles);
Beekeeping (Karen & Chris Halliday);
Bonsai (Geoff Jackson);
Propagation (Saul Walker);
Snowdrops & Cyclamen (Jo Hynes);
Houseplants (Rob Vincent);
Woodland Gardening (Saul Walker);
Devon Hedges (Tom Hynes).**



We have also held a modern flower arranging workshop run by local floral artist Katrina, of 'Bloom Bloom'.

Outings included in our 2025-2026 programme have included a car share to Stonelands, in Dawlish, Higher Cherubeer (Snowdrops) and Amelia's Flower Farm in Combeinteignhead, where we were given a talk about how the farm was set up, a full tour, then we were each able to pick a bucket of flowers to take home. We have also organised visits to local NGS & Hospiscare Open Gardens, and to Upton Pyne Open Gardens.



The Garden Club produces a monthly article by Nicola Baker for the Newton Wonder magazine. This article includes information on specific plants, details of jobs for the month, a summary of 'What's on in the local area, and reviews of speakers and visits.



CHURCH OF ST CYR & ST JULITTA

Est. 13th century.
Grade 1 Listed.
Graveyard wilding
managed by
volunteers.

SHERWOOD HOUSE

Private residential Arts & Craft House
with 25 acres of specialist trees & formal
garden. Open weekly to village, charity
events and NGs.

WEST TOWN RD

HONEY

Specialist planting in residential
garden for honey bees.

VILLAGE GREEN

Created in 1965. Now one of the
largest open green spaces within
the conservation area with
wilding & tree planting by the
NEW group.

THE GARDEN CLUB

Promotes monthly talks on
Gardening/Wilding + garden
visits. Links with Upton Pyne and
Credition Garden Clubs.

NSC ENVIRONMENTAL

WELLBEING ASSOC (NEW)

Reducing the parish carbon
footprint, improving biodiversity
by planting trees, hedges, and
wilding.

ARBORETUM

9 acres. Est. 1760s by the
Quicke family. Licensed
to the Parish Council in
2010, opened in May
2011. Now managed by
volunteers and 135
'Friends'. SW CPRE award
2025.

NSC RAILWAY STATION

Request stop on the
'Tarka Line' & newly re-
opened 'Dartmoor
Line'.
Volunteers plant
flowers and vegetables.
GWR Gold winner

THE BEER ENGINE

established in 1983. The oldest
working microbrewery in
Devon – and host venue for
NSC in Bloom.

RECREATION GROUND CLUB

6 acres comprising the Club House two
sports areas for football, cricket, tennis,
children's play area etc + spectacular
community Fireworks Night!

NSC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Built in 2018, it is set in the heart of the
village and offers first-class facilities and a
'growing' Garden & Wilding Club through the
RHS. School scheme.

ADONAI KITCHEN

Community prepared lunches every Tuesday
& Wednesday in the Village Hall – with
donations from supermarkets & food
business + our community allotment,
conserving food and reducing waste.

COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

Established in 2023 with NEW
volunteers sharing produce in
the village and to the Adonai
free kitchen.

OUR 'BUSINESS'

PARTNERS

The Beer Engine
'Newton Wonder'
Bernaville Garden Centre
Quicke's Cheeses
Sandown Cider

PARISH COUNCIL

Maintenance of village
assets, provision of grant
support to village groups,
development of the Local
Plan and the Boniface
Cycle Trail.

PARISH HALL

Community events
and meeting place;
children's events,
table tennis, dancing,
and coffee mornings
for fund-raising.

NEWTON ST CYRES

IN

BLOOM 2025

Village Partnership
And sponsors

NEWTON ST CYRES IN BLOOM 2026

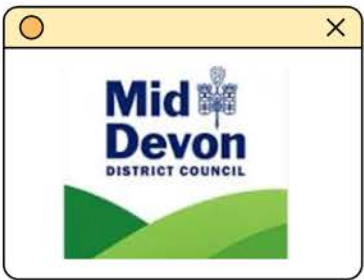
COSTS & FUNDING:

Cash donations	£ 80
Plant donations (Bernaville Nurseries)	£100
N.E.W Group Tools	£400
Mid Devon ‘Creative Communities’ grant	£ 80
Eakers of Crediton	£ 100 (in-kind)
Hosting Group Meeting (The Beer Engine)	£ 40 (in-kind)
Hosting Event Meeting (Parish Hall)	£ 50 (est. in-kind and home grown)
Donation of plants in the community	£200 (in-kind)
Design, Print + Social Media - EXETER-ART	£100 (in-kind)
Newton Wonder Magazine – features and ads	£ 30 (donation)
Quicke’s Cheese	

TOTAL: £ 1,930

‘Newton St Cyres-in-Bloom’ is unincorporated and therefore not eligible for main-stream grant funding. Grants are therefore applied for and managed for ‘Bloom’ by the Parish Council.

Volunteer Hours are not monetised or included in costs.



NEWTON ST CYRES IN BLOOM 2026



Village Green



Sherwood House & Gardens (NGS)