

NEWTON WONDER

THE MAGAZINE & WEBSITE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF NEWTON ST CYRES

80p

December 2024/January 2025



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and
Happy New Year

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Cover

Our cover this month is of the first snow of the winter on 21st November. The picture was taken by Ann Quon Cordingley

2024

Welcome to the last Newton Wonder of 2024. I would like to thank everyone involved in the production of the magazine, all of whom are vital. Our contributors produce their reports month in and month out. They are busy people and sometimes make their contributions when they are on holiday. The distributors turn out in all weathers and your copy is in your letterbox within a day of the printer sending them. Don't forget the editorial and advertising team. Our advertisers are a very significant part of our organisation and their financial contribution is essential. Our costs are rising all the time and we will need to increase our advertising rates as well as our cover price which will go to £10 p.a. in 2025. The online price will stay at £5 p.a.

Cycling

Peter Cordingley's "Thoughts" and Ann's article on the Boniface Trail last month have generated considerable response and we publish Gail Meldrum's letter in response to Peter's "Thoughts". It seems to me that the consultation about the Boniface Trail is doomed because the so-called "Quiet Lanes" option is not an option. It is the cheap option, which makes it very attractive to the County Council, but no one is ever going to make busy lanes safe for cyclists, especially as electric cars are quieter than combustion engined ones.

Village Lunch

The village lunch in Bow, which was planned for November, was cancelled because of the snow. It is to be rearranged, probably for the third Thursday in March next year.

"Message in a bottle"

At its November meeting the Parish Council decided to promote a free scheme called 'Message in a Bottle' which is being organised by Crediton Lions. This is a service for vulnerable people who may need contact with the emergency services. The bottle in question is a plastic container. Inside is a form to complete that gives all relevant medical information and next of kin. Of course, you can use any form you wish – not just theirs. The bottle then goes in the fridge and you attach a sticker to the outside of the fridge and near the front door. When emergency services see the sticker, they know there is a bottle in the fridge for them! Lions provides the bottle free of charge. They will be available at coffee mornings and the Adonai kitchen.

Seasons Greetings

It remains for me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and the best of wishes for the New Year.

Peter Hawksley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Peter,

I am writing in response to Peter Cordingley's article concerning cyclists. I am not sure that this topic is one for a village magazine or, indeed, the Christmas copy, but I felt I could not let this pass without offering an alternative point of view.

Firstly, Peter is my neighbour, I like him and we are on friendly terms even if we don't always agree with one another. Peter has encouraged me to respond to his article.

Now the green aspect:

Cars burn petrol, and this produces around 171g tailpipe carbon dioxide (CO₂) per km plus, averaged over the car's life time, 42g of CO₂ (manufacturing process etc). That's 213g per km.

Cycling produces 21g CO₂ per km from the manufacture of the bike and the food needed for the cyclist to power it.

So petrol cars produce greenhouse gases (and particulates from braking) which contribute to the climate emergency.

Cycling produces perspiration and a healthy appetite.

Cyclist are taking responsibility for their health by keeping fit and for the health of the planet. These are good for the cyclist as well as society as a whole.

Case closed, I think?

It's not always enjoyable cycling when cars are trying to pass you, I know this after many years of commuting partly on the A 377. It can be noisy, smelly and intimidating. That said however, I found that the great majority of car drivers were very respectful and patient. I used to try to go as fast as I could up them hills to try not to hold people up and I often pulled in to allow the traffic to pass on the back roads, but if you do this when its busy on the A377, you have to wait for what seems like ages to edge back into the traffic because understandably, nobody wants to let you in!

I needed to get into work on time. Many work places don't have parking, park and ride don't operate this side of Exeter and car parking for a day is quite expensive. As for the buses, well, they are not reliable. I tried taking the bus to work and it was an anxious wait at 7.30am on cold dark January mornings to see if the bus would be late, or even turn up at all. Also, the cost of bus fares mounts up over 5 days. It looks like the fare cap might increase to £3 per trip - still a good deal, but £30 per week could be hard going if your income is low.

My colleague lived out in the depths of Cheriton Fitzpane where there is a bus service twice a week and didn't fit in with his shift work times. His car had failed its MOT and he couldn't afford to get it mended. So he had no choice.

Similarly, some people don't own a car or have not yet managed to pass their driving test.

So, there are good reasons why some folk have to take to the pedals and it's not always just a matter of choice.

Also, let's put in the mix that it is good for peoples' mental and physical health to exercise in the (hopefully) fresh air and can be really enjoyable. I found that, after a day sat in an office in front of a computer screen, it was a fantastic way to unwind and sleep well.

You could say also, that, if there is a long line of traffic trying to pass one bike, that there is too much traffic and not enough cycles!

Having said that, I also know that it is very frustrating to get caught behind a cyclist, especially when you are in a hurry. Actually, I find the slower cyclists easier to pass than the fast chaps who slow up the hills - but go like the wind downhill. And judging when it's safe to pass can be tricky. Especially annoying when the traffic slows down and the cyclist you've just managed to pass sails past you and you start trying to overtake all over again!

But, we all know this, it's what to do about it that is the problem. I just don't know if there is an easy timely solution. There are plans for the Boniface Cycle Track, but looks like that is likely to be a while off yet. Seems to me that the only thing we can control right now is our attitude from cyclist to car driver and car driver to cyclist.

So, there are good reasons for people to cycle and also good reasons for people to drive.

Maybe we can start to dismantle walls and build bridges?

Best wishes, and thanks to the Newton Wonder Team for all your hard work over the years.

Gail Meldrum.

Editor's note:- *The personal views of contributors are not necessarily the views of the magazine, which is open to all opinions.*

Newton St Cyres Parish Council

The meeting on Thursday 7th November 2024 was attended by 6 Councillors, D/ Cllr M Binks, D/Cllr S Chenore, C/Cllr M Squires, J Hole Parish Clerk, and 2 members of the public.

Newton St Cyres Parish Council Issues relevant to Mid Devon District Council

Planning Applications

24/01512/CAT - Notification of intention to reduce the height of a Lawson Cypress tree; removal of branches to the side of a Mulberry tree; removal of a Holly tree; removal of branches on a Laurel/Sycamore tree and removal of trunk of a Poplar tree within the Conservation Area at 2 Newton House, Newton St Cyres, EX5 5BL. No comment

24/01586/HOUSE - Erection of rear boundary wall at 33 The Village, Pump Street, Newton St Cyres, EX5 5BY. No comment

24/01250/LBC - Listed Building Consent for replacement of two windows/a door at 51-53 The Village Newton St Cyres. Grant permission

Report from District Councillors on issues relevant to the Parish

D/Cllr M Binks gave a brief update on the Cullompton Relief Road and the Clum Valley development.

MDDC were running an online residents' survey that residents were encouraged to complete.

D/Cllr S Chenore reported that D/Cllrs had been asked to list issues/concerns within their wards, and for Yeo Ward she had listed an unreliable bus service, increasing traffic and the poor state of the roads.

Newton St Cyres Parish Council issues relevant to Devon County Council

Update on priorities list sent to C/Cllr M Squires

Cllr G Barnell requested that C/Cllr Squires respond officially to the priority list that had been sent as requested following the meeting held in the summer with C/Cllr Squires and our Neighbourhood Highways Officer. Discussion took place about the three priority areas. The PC will review how it wishes to progress its three road-safety priorities with DCC.

Other Parish Council Matters

Update on service agreement with parish organisations.

The Recreation Ground service agreement has been agreed and would be signed by both parties. The planned meeting with the church had been cancelled at short notice and a new one was being arranged.

Playground equipment was discussed.

Quarterly Report – Environment and Resilience – Cllr L Ouldrige – to include flood action planning.

Cllr Ouldrige reported on the Devon Communities Together Resilience Meeting and suggested the promotion of the “message in bottle” scheme. Cllr Ouldrige will obtain supplies for distribution at the Adonai kitchen and coffee mornings.

Cllr Ouldrige had been working on completing the flood action plan which included instruction/information cards for areas vulnerable to flooding.

A Flood Group meeting was arranged for Thursday 21 November and invitation flyers had been delivered to houses in West Town.

Most of the issues identified on the Shuttern brook walk were being addressed by the landowners. DCC had referred the issued of the collapsing road to their legal team.

The three resilience sheds were due their annual check.

Quarterly Report – Environment and Climate – Cllr D Harris and Cllr M Herpoldt-Bright

To note Cllr Herpoldt-Bright will take on responsibility for Neighbourhood Watch, litter pickers and risk assessments

Cllr D Harris reported that the free whip trees had been delivered and would be planted by NEW along the hedgerow between the Beer Engine and Wykes Cross in the next few weeks. It was suggested to ask parishioners to donate whip trees if they had any, which could then be planted along hedgerows, possibly coordinated by NEW.

Cllr Harris was meeting up with two parishioners who had expressed an interest in entering the parish in the Britain in Bloom competition.

Allotments – two plots had been given up, one had been re-rented, but the other plot was landlocked by other plots. Cllr Harris would investigate what could be done. There was one person on the waiting list. Plot number markers were required and Cllr Harris would look into this.

To consider: Arboretum Code of Conduct

A draft Arboretum Code of Conduct was drawn up by the Friends of the Arboretum and circulated together with the licence agreement. This was agreed.

To consider: Response to DCC’s consultation on the Crediton to Exeter multi-purpose path (Boniface Trail).

The PC will accept the offer of a meeting with DCC to discuss the outcome of the consultation. Cllr G Barnell will respond to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council with support being given to the A377 route and not the quiet lanes route

It was noted that DCC had recently sent a consultation on future plans for travel in Devon with only a three-week consultation period. It was important that the Boniface Trail be included in all Devon travel plans and Cllrs Barnell and Dean will work together on a Parish Council response.

To resolve to sign the land transfer agreement to transfer the land by the arboretum to the church. Two Cllrs are required to attend the solicitors' office to sign the document.

Cllr G Barnell reported that the Revd Tim Collins was finding out who the diocese signatory would be and, once this was known, the agreement transfer could proceed. Cllr J Browne and Cllr Ouldrige will sign the transfer agreement following confirmation from the church and sight of a draft agreement

Review of agenda planner for future meetings.

It was noted that there was a government consultation on remote meetings for Parish Councils. The Clerk will complete the survey to record in favour of being able to choose between hybrid/remote and in-person meetings.

Date of next Parish Council meeting: Thursday 5 December 2024 at 7pm in the Club Room

Fantastic fireworks at the Rec

What a fantastic firework display on the 6th November! The school parents' association, F.A.N.S., put on a magnificent display. So many people turned up that the editor even allowed a passing family who were panicking that they would not be able to stop, to park in his drive. The queue stretched back up Station Road to a point about half way to the next field. This was truly the biggest ever crowd for fireworks at the Rec.

This was probably also the best ever display seen in Newton St Cyres and the organisers said on Facebook:

"Thank you everyone who came and all our wonderful sponsors! After cashing up today we can announce that together we raised £5020 through the fireworks display, this means that we can purchase a set of Chromebooks for the school and support further requests for resources!"

Peter Hawksley



*Photos by Amelia Grabowski and
Martin Taylor*

Thoughts for December from Peter Cordingley

Bullying. Shortsighted. Mean-spirited. Amateurish. Please refer to Roget's for further words to describe the new government's grotesque decision to stop winter fuel payments to an estimated 10 million pensioners. Household budgets will be pilfered of payments of between £100 and £300 that were previously available to everyone above the state pension age.

There are no numbers on how many people in Newton St Cyres will be affected by this, but as this is a village packed with the elderly, I imagine many people will now be struggling to keep their homes warm in the months ahead.

I can't fathom why Chancellor Rachel Reeves would have done something so crass – and so certain to bring scorn down on the government's head. Keir Starmer and Co booted the Tories out on a promise to put working people at the head of the queue for relief from austerity. And the first thing they do? They kick pensioners up the backside.

The ghost of my dear old dad, a lifetime Trades Union activist and for years the sole Labour Party member of Shropshire County Council, must be looking down (or up!), wondering if the Party has taken leave of its senses.

It's estimated that as many as two million pensioners who find paying their energy bills a real stretch will now be seriously hit by this cut. That includes those on low incomes who narrowly miss out on Pension Credit, the home-bound with high energy needs because of disability or illness, and the one million who, for one reason or another, don't receive the Pension Credit for which they are eligible.

The government insists it needs to make the savings to help cover a budget shortfall of about £20 billion left behind by the Tories. Don't ask me if that's the case or not, but surely there are perfectly good ways to raise funds without picking the pockets of pensioners.

Did you know, for instance, that the King and Prince William make about £1.1bn a year from the land they own across the country, particularly in this part of the world? Examples drawn from recent media investigations: The Ministry of Justice is paying £37.5 million over 25 years to use Dartmoor prison, which is currently empty because of radon gas. The King and William charge the Ministry of Defence for using parts of Dartmoor for military training, the NHS for parking ambulances, the Marie Curie and Macmillan health charities for rent, plus lifeboat moorings, leasehold fees for state schools and ... well, lots and lots more, including renting out homes riddled with damp and mould.

And, best (or worst) of all, even though their moneymaking operations are run as private enterprises, they don't pay capital gains taxes or corporation tax. Not a penny goes to the funds so badly needed to put the country back on its feet. What did Rachel Reeves have to say about that in her budget? You can guess.

I'm more or less agnostic on the subject of most of the royals. There are clearly way too many of them, but I do recognise their good deeds. But surely it's time to shed some light on what goes on behind the scenes. My dad would have gladly held the flashlight.

Editor's note:- *The personal views of contributors are not necessarily the views of the magazine, which is open to all opinions.*

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 95



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

VILLAGE LUNCH

Thursday 16th January 2025 12:30pm

BELLUNO

2 courses + Tea/Coffee... £15.00

MAIN COURSES:

BRANZINO, Sea Bass with baby new potatoes & seasonal veg

CARBONARA, Italian smoked bacon, parmesan cream,
cream egg pecorino sauce & crispy pancetta

LASAGNE, Oven baked pasta with meat ragu, bechamel sauce
tomato & parmigiano-reggiano cheese

SALMONE, Salmon & mussels, new potatoes, veg, creamy capers sauce

RISOTTO Ai FUNGHI, (V) Risotto rice, wild mushrooms, vegetable broth
mascarpone, parmesan, truffle oil & micro herbs

VEGETALE PIZZA, (V) Tomato, mozzarella, sundried tomato, peppers
mushrooms & basil

DESSERTS:

Tiramisu, Chocolate Banoffee, White Chocolate Crème Brûlée
Affogato Café (ice cream, Amaretto & Espresso), Ice Cream/Sorbet

To book, please ring **John or Chris Salter 851346**
by Sunday 12th January with Names & Menu Choices

PLEASE NOTE

**Put this in your diary as there is
no Newton Wonder in January
to remind you
(Wouldn't like you to miss out!!)**

NEWTON RAMBLERS

December and January



The walk for December will take place on Boxing Day

Boxing Day Walk - 26th December

For those of you looking for a short walk to shake off any excesses of the previous day please join us for a Boxing Day perambulation. This year the walk will be from the top of Pennsylvania, along the top of Stoke Woods, past the Iron Age fort, then down through the woods. We will cross the A396, then the river and the railway to the Exe Valley Way. We will finish at Pynes House for some suitable refreshment – so flat or downhill all the way.

We will meet at the Newton St Cyres parish hall car park at 9.30 am to share cars, or you can meet us at 10 am parking at this end of Stoke Valley Road. We will arrange a lift for the drivers from Pynes House back to where we have left the cars.

For more information please ring Rosemary or Nigel Chambers on 01392 851400.

Sunday 19th January

Our first walk of 2025 will be a gentle, 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 0930 to arrange car sharing to Budleigh.

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.

I have made a reservation for Sunday Roast lunch for 10 people at the King's Arms in Otterton. These will be allocated to those who contact me first!

After lunch there will be an opportunity to look around Otterton, with the choice of a return walk to Budleigh or we can arrange for those drivers who wish, to travel back to Budleigh to collect their cars.

Any questions, or to book your place for lunch, please contact Nicola on 01392 851985

All are welcome on either of these walks. Please join us! For more information please ring Rosemary or Nigel Chambers on 01392 851400.

Internet hopes vanish into thin air

If you are one of those long-suffering Newton St Cyres residents waiting for a better Internet connection, there's bad news. Ann Quon Cordingley reports that hopes that the Broadband provider Airband would supply the village with a high-speed feed have evaporated.

Airband is in financial trouble. As a result, it has renegotiated its contract with Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS), and will no longer be able to link up the number of South West homes it had originally agreed to provide with full-fibre Internet access by the end of 2024. Newton St Cyres, which already suffers from inadequate connectivity, is among the villages being dropped.

At the moment, Newton has a two-tier connection to the Internet. The Village Green end of the village benefits from a fibre-optic feed to the cabinet next to the Crediton-bound bus stop on the A377. From there, old-fashioned copper wires connect to premises at that end of the village. It's far from ideal, but it's considerably better than the situation in Sweetham.

There, the cabinet positioned close to the Beer Engine uses copper in and copper out, providing local residents with a far inferior service. And it seems that's the way it's now going to stay for a considerable time.

Airband, under contract to CDS, was supposed to deliver fibre broadband to Newton St Cyres and other communities across Devon and Somerset over a three-year period, by the end of December 2024.

In fact, Parish Council records show that in 2021, then chair Jim Enright attended a meeting with Airband where the company undertook to connect most, but not all houses, in Newton to Superfast Broadband by 2024.

However, what CDS describes as a range of challenges means that this will not now happen.

Airband managing director Kash Rahman has apologised for not being able to fulfil the company's contractual obligations. "We've had to make tough decisions on our build activity this year, and we are sorry if this news comes as a disappointment to residents who are left waiting for better connectivity."

Parish Council chair Graeme Barnell says he is disappointed but not surprised. "Connecting Devon and Somerset have had several organisational rebirths over recent years," he says. "All have promised decent broadband services across rural areas of Devon. None have delivered."



Photo Ann Quon Cordingley

Graeme Barnell

Media reports say that across the nation, alternative network providers such as Airband are struggling. They are facing pressure from rising costs, aggressive competition from rivals and the need to secure a viable level of take-up by consumers.

On top of that, uncertainties have led to engineers resigning, and, in some cases, expansion plans have been thwarted by NIMBY resistance to the erection of telegraph poles.

While CDS acknowledges that the news will be disappointing and frustrating for Newton residents, it says it remains committed to finding possible alternative solutions. “We are discussing alternative options with Building Digital UK agency (BDUK), the government’s

national agency responsible for the delivery of Gigabit Broadband,” says Adrian Lane, CDS’s Senior Media and Public Relations Officer.

Graeme Barnell says he is actually relieved that CDS has come clean and admitted their plan with Airband has crashed. “It means that people with poor wired broadband connectivity may now be eligible for the government’s voucher scheme. That offers broadband users significant help toward the cost of alternative provision either via a data reception mast or satellite.”

He is referring to the “Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme,” where premises in areas with poor broadband connectivity may be eligible for vouchers that would support the cost of installing new gigabit-capable connections. Until now, the voucher scheme was not available to Newton as long as it was part of the CSD/Airband programme.

More information on the voucher scheme can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gigabit-broadband-voucher-scheme-information/gigabit-broadband-voucher-scheme-information>

CDS confirms that it has asked BDUK to enable rural voucher applications to open promptly in communities where Airband will no longer be delivering. “This should offer communities a potential alternative,” says Adrian Lane.

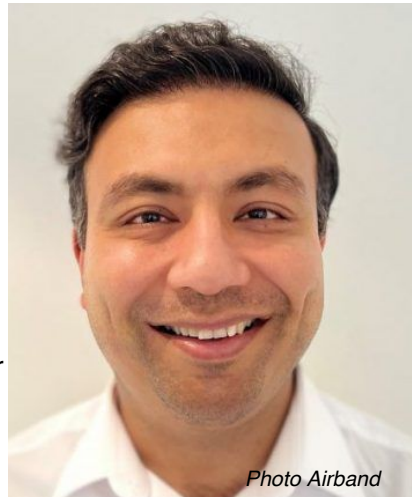


Photo Airband

*Kash Rahman
CEO Airband*

However, access to the voucher scheme may still depend on whether BT/Openreach push ahead with plans to extend their fibre optic network to Newton. BT/Openreach are scheduled to phase out their ageing copper wire telephone network nationwide and to replace it with fibre optic broadband a service by the end of 2027.

If this happens, it could prevent the village from qualifying for the voucher scheme.

Graeme Barnell says: "We are waiting for news on whether and when BT will replace some or all of their copper wire connections in the parish with fibre optics as part of their national programme of digitising their telephony service. Extending fibre optics may eventually mean decent broadband speeds for most of us, but we don't know when this might happen, if ever."

I put these and other questions to BT/Openreach but had not received a response by press time.

There's also the outstanding issue of the data signal masts that Vodafone installed on the church tower a couple of years ago, but that have yet to be connected.

Says Graeme: "In spite of repeated queries, we are none the wiser on whether these masts will go live and whether we must all subscribe to Vodafone to get an improved data service."

I also put this to Vodafone for comment, but again, they had not responded by press time.

Some residents and local businesses have long given up waiting on the CDS scheme or BT/Openreach and taken matters into their own hands. They have either subscribed to more reliable but costly satellite services or banded together to install their own data masts, which need line-of-sight to work.

Connecting Devon and Somerset were supposed to provide funding support for the delivery of broadband infrastructure to those living in more remote rural areas such as Newton. They were also supposed to encourage new entrants to the industry and to reduce the reliance on the big players such as BT. However, critics say CDS has simply carved up the region to various providers who are in it just for profit.

"The providers of broadband (including Vodafone, Airband and BT) are large, privately owned multinational companies," says Graeme. "Local councils, including our parish council, are routinely ignored. Without government regulatory intervention and subsidy, the investment plans of these companies are driven by considerations of cost versus profit and not by any desire to improve the accessibility of their services in rural areas."

Says a disgruntled Sweetham resident: "We were promised 10 years ago that the whole of the village would be connected to fibre. And then it came down to 60% of the village. But that hasn't happened either. It's disgraceful."

"In my view, public money should not be given to companies to then spend as they wish, which is what CDS has done. It's just ridiculous. Giving people money to see how much of the job they can do, that's not the way to do business."

Longtime Sweetham resident John Salter says of CDS and Airband's broken promises. "When my son comes down from Bristol, he says 'Why have you still got 1 Mbps when I get 500 Mbps.'"

Well, now we know why.

Newton St Cyres Tennis Club

No report this month. The Newton St Cyres Tennis Club wishes readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

centre

creditonarts

Theatre, Film, Music, Classes

ALL THIS DECEMBER

01363 773260

East Street, Crediton, Devon.

THURSDAY 5th
MUSIC: Jazz on the Green
19:30. Music and Food
Tickets: £25



FRIDAY 6th
FILM:
Buena Vista Social Club
19:30 - 21:30
 Wim Wenders iconic film, produced with Ry Cooder, drew attention to Cuban music
Tickets: £5
7.30pm . BAR



FRIDAY 20th
The Big Christmas Quiz . 19:30 - 22:00
 Pat Laver and his wicked elves are back with the annual dose of mayhem, madness and dingy bats. Not to be missed. Teams of up to 5
Tickets: £5 7.30pm . BAR



SATURDAY 21st
MUSIC: Solstice Live Lounge. 19:30
 Free with Donations to Crediton Food Bank



FRIDAY 13th
THEATRE: Bright Places
19:30 - 22:00
 A joyful, darkly funny and deeply honest show about living with Multiple Sclerosis.
Tickets: £10 & £12
7.30pm . BAR

ALL OF JANUARY **JANUARY 10th** FILM: "Despicable Me" at 2.30
JANUARY 22nd TO SATURDAY 25th
THEATRE: "Baggage Collection"
 Theatre performance from Brown Paper Bag Theatre

BAGGAGE COLLECTION

www.creditonartscentre.org
info@creditonartscentre.org

Bert Jewell writes Rhymes and Ways about Gardens and Gardening

December/January

Garden centres packed full of Christmas cheer,
From early October to the almost here,
A camel nodding as you step inside,
Mary and Joseph unable to hide.
From the hundreds of people who stop to admire,
The music keeps playing, will the staff ever tire,
Apparently not, they're always helpful and kind,
Showing people where to look, what they can find.
Things that were always on this shelf or that,
Now covered with baubles and the odd Christmas hat,
There's tinsel hanging, some down to the ground,
A little child shouting, "mummy", look what I've found.
It's a blowup Santa with reindeers and all,
About 6' long and nearly as tall,
And trees, there are hundreds, some lovely and soft,
Some in large boxes you can store in the loft.
When Christmas is over, the money all spent,
You now find the cards that you should have sent,
But all is not lost, it'll be nearly a year,
Before garden centres are packed full of Christmas Cheer.

Things to do in the garden

Garden Centres. A few years back a fellow gardener was meeting the manager of a garden centre. He arrived on time and made his way through to where they were to meet. The manager shook his hand and said, "you look puzzled what's up", the gardener replied "I've been walking for 10 minutes and haven't found a plant yet!"

I visited an R.H.S garden, also a few years ago, and I noticed a plant used as a border plant around some round beds in the veg area. A lot of people were looking at this plant as it was covered in bees, it was a variety of "Teucrium", *Tuecium Fruticans*. It grows to about 2' high and will spread unless checked. It's evergreen with whorls of pale blue flowers in summer, and the bees love it. Anyway, I went to that plant centre with the view of buying some for the garden at Penrose House. There weren't any, so I asked a member of staff. No, they said, we don't sell those. What a shame! I finally get some by mail order and now propagate my own by taking softwood cuttings in early summer.

Talking of cuttings, there is still time to take cuttings of Red, White and Black Currants, Gooseberries and Flowering Currant, also Dogwood and Forsythia.

Let's start with Blackcurrants, select hardwood cuttings that are reasonably straight and about 9" to 12" long. Cut the bottom just below a growth bud and the top just above a growth bud, ending with the cutting about 9" long. Don't remove any of the buds. Using a garden spade, make a v-shaped trench, not too deep, in an area where they won't be disturbed. If the soil is heavy, add some compost to the bottom, dip the cutting in rooting powder if you wish and gently push them into the bottom of the trench. Back-fill and firm the soil. By leaving the growth buds, on new fruiting stems will regularly grow from the base.

White and Red Currants are grown on a leg, so using the same method as for Blackcurrants, but removing all the growth buds except for the top 4 or 5. Keep the cutting weed-free and water during hot dry weather. They should be well rooted by next autumn and ready to be planted in their permanent position.

If you grow Onions from seed, nip out for an hour on Christmas Day and sow them following instructions on the packet.

Plant of the month

"Viscum Album" or "Mistletoe", as it is commonly known.

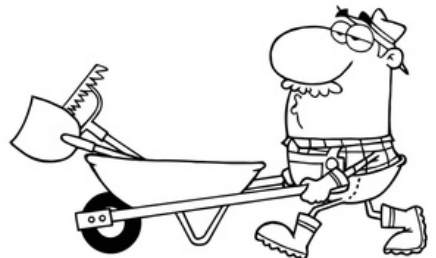
A parasitic plant that seems to favour Apple trees as its host, but will grow on other trees. Male and female plants are needed to produce the berries. The berries are sticky so the seed can be planted as birds wipe their bills on branches that have cracked rough bark.

Now before I sign off I must just say:

I read an article a few weeks back claiming that cyclists were pests. Now, I come across lots of pests – greenfly, blackfly, whitefly, slugs, snails, caterpillars, pigeons and the odd squirrel – but so far I haven't seen one riding a bicycle, thank goodness!

Margaret and I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

But most of all, enjoy your gardening.



Newton St Cyres Gardening Club

Well it really doesn't seem a year ago that I was writing the combined December and January article for the magazine. They do say that time flies the older we get, and that certainly seems very true for your correspondent!

What Christmas-themed plant to write about this year, I thought? The Holly, Ivy, Mistletoe and Hellebores had all been included in previous years, as had Christmas wreaths. So I decided that maybe I look at the **Christmas Cactus** (Botanical name *Schlumbergera*), even though many have been flowering for a considerable time already – as have the primroses in the garden!



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These are popular houseplants, admired for their vibrant flowering display over the Christmas period. They are easily grown and very long-lived. Originally they came from tropical rainforests, so they are happy in a warm spot, out of direct sun, and with humid air. The plants form clumps of stems made up of flat leaf-like segments that, although starting as upright stems, soon trail over the sides of pots. The flowers are long and elegant and their colours normally range from pink to red, or they may be white or mauve.

Over-watering should be avoided as the roots can rot, and too much warmth and water in the autumn can reduce or even prevent flowering. However, once you have a Christmas Cactus it is very easy to take cuttings, and the best time is in May. You simply remove a couple of the segments from the end of a stem and leave for around 24 hours for the basal wounds to heal. Prepare your pots with a mix of 50:50 seed and cutting compost and sharp sand, and then push the bottom of each cutting into the compost mix to a depth of about ½". By placing several cuttings around the edge of each pot, they will be held upright and should root within 3-12 weeks. Water sparingly and mist occasionally, then once rooted, a very gentle pull will tell if they have. They can then be potted up individually, ready to give away as Christmas present later that year!

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

P – Perfume: When roses fill the air with their powerful fragrance, you know that high summer has arrived. Whether it's the waft of tea, myrrh or classic fruity perfume, there's a huge choice of blooms that'll ensure your rose borders emit a delightful scent of summer. Choose from fragrant roses hand-picked by experts here: <https://www.classicroses.co.uk/roses/recommended-scented-roses.html>

Q – Quality: If you're buying containerised roses at a garden centre, it pays to know how to spot quality plants. Foliage should be lush and green, with no sign of blackspot or disease. Check that shoot tips and flower buds are free from aphids, and select plants with signs of healthy, vigorous growth. Good garden centres should keep roses in top condition, with no weeds or lichen evident on the surface of the compost.

R – Rambler: Whether you're looking for a rose that'll grow up trellis or adorn garden arches, rambling roses will give a breathtaking display. Most ramblers flower once, from early to midsummer, but blooms are borne in such profusion that the clusters of flowers are a sight to behold. Some even produce attractive hips (colourful fruits) in autumn. Browse a top selection of rambling roses here: <https://www.classicroses.co.uk/roses/rambling-roses.html>

Just a few Jobs for December/January (take time to relax and enjoy Christmas!)

BBC Weather uses the meteorological calendar, where winter always begins on 1 December and ends on the last day of February. In the astronomical calendar, winter always starts at the winter solstice - the shortest day – which is 21st December. However you specify the start of winter, the weather will turn colder and when you are working outside it is the jobs that keep you warm such as digging (unless you follow no-dig) and pruning that will help keep you warm. Hopefully lots of practical presents will also help keep the chill at bay! Below are a few other jobs that you may have on your list.

- Taking a walk around the garden, to check that you have winter protection in place, to prevent the loss of any favourite plants. This may include the use of fleece or bubble wrap, or using straw around the base of shrubs, and if you are able, move containerised plants closer to your house in more sheltered positions. Ensure that your pots are frost proof or there is a risk of them cracking
- Remove fallen leaves from the crowns of plants to prevent rotting.
- Is your greenhouse watertight and insulated, and if it is heated is the heater working?
- Insulate outdoor taps and prevent your pond from freezing
- Parsnips can be harvested once the foliage has died down, light frosts make them taste sweeter, but hard frosts may damage them, and it is best to eat them before they become 'woody'
- Collect festive Holly, Ivy and Mistletoe for indoor decorations – remembering to leave sufficient berries for wildlife, and put out additional food and water for birds and other wildlife.
- There is still time to plant any remaining spring bulbs that have not, as yet, made it into the garden

WHAT'S ON?

Selected dates Friday 15th November-Saturday 28th December, RHS Rosemoor. Glow 2024 4.30pm-8pm Last entry time slot 6.45pm-7pm Tickets must be booked in advance. NEW this year, the Rock Gully with sparkling waterfall and rainbow tunnel of lights, silhouettes lit up in the Stumpery and a 'field of flames' in Lady Anne's Arboretum. Full details & booking <https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/rosemoor/whats-on/rosemoor-glow>

Sunday 1st December: 10am-4pm, RHS Rosemoor. Magic of Christmas Craft & Food Fair

8th December, 2pm-4pm (doors open 1pm), RHS Rosemoor. Beauty and the Beast.

Enjoy a tale as old as time with Wonder Pantomimes as they bring the story of Beauty and the Beast to RHS Rosemoor this festive season. **RHS member price:** adult £12, child £6. **Non-member price:** adult £17, child £8.75. Includes garden admission before the show.

15th December, 4pm-6pm (doors open 3pm) RHS Rosemoor Victorian Christmas carol concert. A festive afternoon of carol singing, celebrating Christmas. **RHS member price:** adult £12, child £6. **Non-member price:** adult £17, child £8.75. Includes garden admission before the show.

National Trust Killerton There are lots of events taking place at Killerton over the festive period with fairy lights and garlands filling the house and stable block. Festive Food & Drink plus a wide range of gifts (very suitable for all gardeners) in the shop, There will be fun in the Garden & Parkland with their Outdoor trail through the gardens, Community Christmas trees in the Chapel, where 12 trees will have been decorated by community groups and, on most weekdays from 2nd – 20th December, there will also be a variety of local choirs filling the chapel with musical festive cheer. The acoustics are magnificent, and with the added sparkle of the Community Christmas Trees, you will be leaving the Chapel feeling a lot more festive than you were when you entered! **For full details see <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/devon/killerton/christmas-at-killerton>**

National Trust Knightshayes With sweeping garlands, showstopper trees and shimmering lights Knightshayes is geared up for Christmas. From a visit to see Father Christmas, to a shopping experience with gifts, food & drink and the ground floor of the house is decorated for a magical Victorian Christmas (15th November – 5th January – closed 24,25 & 26 December) There is also the return of 'Winter Lights' on selected dates in December through some of the most special places in the Formal Garden **For full details see <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/devon/knightshayes/christmas-at-knightshayes>**

Wishing you all a Happy & Peaceful Christmas.

Nicola Baker

Do You Remember.....December/January?

December 1974

Geoff was welcomed as Licensee of the Crown & Sceptre.

The Recreation Ground held their AGM in the Barn Owl and the following officers were elected: Chairman - J Hill, Vice Chairman - J Durrant, Treasurer - W Denny, Secretary - Mrs B Runacres. Discussion took place as to whether Tennis Courts should be provided at the Rec.

It was decided to form a Tennis Club

Mrs Durrant was elected as President of the W I

The Crediton Courier had appeared on the shelves for the first time.

Sid Gratton had resigned from the Parish Council due to work commitments.

December 1984

It was reported that the Newton Car Scheme was having difficulty finding enough drivers.

The Parish Council reported that the County Council will be planting trees at the Half Moon Lay-by.

There was to be a realignment of the Parish boundary on 1st April 1985 with Rowthorne going to Whitestone and Ashford to Newton St Cyres.

The 'Hillbillies' were top of the Skittle league.

Newton St Cyres Guides and Brownies held two successful Bingos.

December 1994

The Garden article was about how to grow and care for Madonna lilies.

Season's greetings appeared from 8 parishioners and the Parish Council with donations going to Amnesty and Save the Children and to local charities such as Cancer Research and the Heart Foundation.

The School took part in the Children in Need appeal and the School Cook, Beverly Jepp made Pudsey Bear biscuits.

There was a note from J G Quicke and Partners asking if anyone sees straying sheep in the village to please phone Mr Putt and not J G Quicke and Partners.

A welcome was extended to new owners of the Post Office, Mr & Mrs Colin and Tina Standring and their son Justin.

There was an article on the history of Twinning by Sarah Tester.

The Parish Council reported on the ceremony at the Parish Hall when Henry Gliddon received his MBE. A reception had been held afterwards and 100 people were present.

December 2004

A presentation was made in the Parish Hall by Powergen on 'Beat the Winter Blues'

Rambling walks for the month were on Dartmoor and the Boxing Day walk around the Parish.

Cancer Research organised a successful Antiques evening. January 1975

The Editor reported the Newton Wonder accounts had broken even after all running expenses had been accounted for and subscriptions were held at 30p per annum.

A gift of \$25 US had been received from a couple who had visited the Church during the summer and a pair of cruets for wine and water had been purchased.

The Crediton Country Courier newspaper was launched and the first issue was circulated free with the December Newton Wonder.

Fred Moore of Westholme was elected to fill a vacancy on the Parish Council.

The W I Whist Drive had been a success and more were planned for January and February.

The Over 60's thanked their drivers and made small gifts of appreciation. They had recently had a dinner and a trip to the Panto.

The Parish Hall charges were increased to cover running costs, i.e. sewerage charges and the Hall agreed to buy 60 new chairs at a cost of £200.

The Football Club 1st Team had won 2, drawn 1 and lost 2.

Alarm buzzers had been fitted to houses in Court Orchard and linked to the warden's house. Neighbours were asked to respond if they heard a buzzer going.

January 1985

Following a site meeting Devon County Council confirmed they would not be erecting NO ENTRY signs at the Half Moon end of the lay-by. Both the Mothers Union and WI held meetings with the W I arranging a coach trip to Dunsford pantomime.

The Twinning Group held classes in Basic French Conversation followed by a Social Evening.

Village sweatshirts were being sold on behalf of Church funds.

January 1995

The School were lucky to have a French Teacher living locally and she was helping the top class learn French.

The School children had been producing a School newspaper and these were available for sale at 30p each.

The Twinning Group had enjoyed a Skittles evening at the Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum.

Tansy Caley demonstrated pastel painting at the Art Club meeting. A very informative article appeared on the history of the Twinning Group. 1981 was the first meeting and it was chaired by Rev. John Scott. The first twin was to be Ussy but this did not happen and then Rots was approached. The Twinning Group was properly consolidated in July with the first visit in 1983.

January 2005

The Hall had held a successful Curry Lunch and raised £250. They were

also advertising a new Keep Fit class on Friday mornings.

The weekly market had produced a questionnaire on the times, possible admission fees and comments.

Cancer Research Campaign had reached a milestone of £20,000 raised.

The Young Farmers' Club held a Charity Race night in the Crown & Sceptre which raised more than £500 and the Club had been involved in the Harvest Festivals in Newton St Cyres and Exeter.

The Table Tennis Club was one year old and a new folding table had been bought for the Club by the Hall.

There walks were organised by the Ramblers for Boxing Day, January 8th and January 30th

The Cricket Club made presentations to Mike Parfitt, Mike Johnson, Will Stephenson, Chris Davies, Tom Dowle, Clinton Lewis and David Vallance.

A Beetle Drive was advertised in aid of Church funds.

December/January 2014/2015

Mel Stride MP and David Baker, Chairman of the Parish Council travelled for Crediton to Newton St Cyres Station by train to open newly installed Harrington Hump. Mel and David were then driven into the village by Cllr Steve Parker and his wife, Angie.

On the village green the new village sign had been festooned with a ribbon bow ready for the unveiling. The Rev. David Carrington dedicated and welcomed the new sign with a prayer and then Mel cut the ribbon to officially unveil it.

Penny Riches Mills from CPRE then presented the village with a framed certificate as runners up in the Past Winners – Large Villages class of the Best Kept Village competition this year.

Then in the car park of the Crown & Sceptre where Mel cut the ribbon to the new defibrillator

A meeting was held in the Parish Hall on Saturday 15th Nov. at which the Parish Council Chairman, David Baker, invited people to consider whether there would be support for a community shop/post office.

The Community Support Group heard from Jock Campbell who has written up the Community Resilience Plan. It was a booklet containing action plans regarding various events, such as flooding, medical emergencies etc.

the Gravel Pits Fighting Fund had been donated to the Parish Hall to assist in its refurbishment. The donation of £180 was very much appreciated.

Hanlons celebrated their first year of trading.

Peter Hawksley

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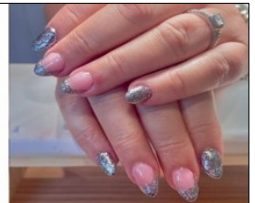
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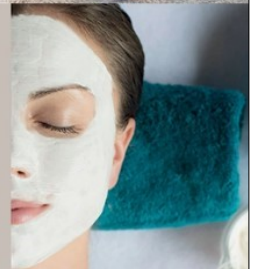


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Newton St Cyres Parish Council

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Please do not walk dogs or cycle on this path

Thank you for your co-operation

Postman Thom



Thom on his round

Say hello to Thomas Higgs, the postman who will be delivering our mail over the holiday period. After that, he is hoping to stay on and become the permanent postie for our village, but that will depend on the powers-that-be at the Post Office and how much competition there is for the position vacated by Jamie Palmer, our previous postie.

A 31-year-old resident of West Clyst, Thomas has been with the Post Office for only three months after deciding that a career in letting houses was not for him. "I've always thought working as a postman was an interesting job as you get to know the community and it keeps you fit as well," says Thom, as he calls himself.

After Post Office training in Cranbrook, he worked in Silverton before being posted here for the Christmas rush. "Everyone's been very kind and helpful," he says. "A lot of people come to the end of their road or gate to meet me and collect their post."

Will he apply to stay permanently? "I'm liking it and will probably apply for it, but the Post Office tends to go on seniority," he says. "I'm a newbie, so hopefully, fingers crossed."

Words and picture by
Ann Quon Cordingley



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NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP



Ordinary people in Elizabethan Exeter

Kate Osborne, our guest on Wednesday 13th November, worked for many years at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) and has a doctorate in Elizabethan History. She has done considerable research into people in Elizabethan Exeter. She introduced us to the word ‘prosopography’ which describes the study she has done, defined by Wikipedia as ‘an investigation of the common

characteristics of a group of people, whose individual biographies may be largely untraceable.’

Kate led the project to refurbish St Nicholas Priory 2004-2008. This was the second home of the wealthy Hurst merchant family after the priory was dissolved during the Reformation. The work led Kate to consider the social environment in which the family lived. She looked at the work of previous historians, and then embarked on her own research, to discover what information could be gained from official documents of the time, legal records, civic records, wills and inventories, and many other sources.

Her work has been a fruitful study but it does not include the inner, spiritual lives of individuals, and is limited by the inaccuracies and random survival of documents.

Nevertheless, Kate reconstructed details of the lives of about 600 people, whom she classified into three broad categories: the Twenty-Four/town council/bailiffs, the freemen/citizens, and those who were not free, which included all servants, and most aliens, or overseas immigrants. These divisions were based on the amount of power/economic clout the individuals had, the tax they paid, their occupations, how much armour or weapons they could supply, how much they could contribute to the Armada funds, etc.

Kate explained the statistics of family formation: men married at the average of 26, women at 21 or 22, marriages lasting for an average of 14 years. There was an average of four births per family with roughly two years between each birth. About a quarter of these children died. Second marriages were common because of the need to keep the household functioning. Kate cited Eleanor Wallis of St Kerrian parish, who married Nicholas Robinson in 1564, had 10 children over the next 14 years with only one death, then died in childbirth in 1578, with twins who survived. Within two months Nicholas married Florence Pitton and had three more children.

Wills and inventories can be very informative, showing not just house and wardrobe contents but also debtors and creditors, customers, goods for sale, bequests, the net worth of the family and sometimes funeral arrangements. Kate has been able to use this to build up more knowledge of the lives of 98 individuals. Again, this does not reveal the person's hopes and fears, thoughts and feelings, but it enabled Kate to tell us something of the lives of Thomas Greenwood, a successful haberdasher and bailiff; Humphrey Gilbert, a soap-boiler; William Knowles, a cutler and armourer; William Pinfold, a goldsmith and a man of 'bad behaviour'; and Hugh Skerret, a servant.

The aliens in Exeter largely came from France and the Netherlands with a few from Spain and Italy. These people could be fleeing from religious persecution on the continent, but they made a significant contribution to the city as doctors, parchment makers, leatherworkers and skilled artisans. Many integrated into the life of the city and some married locally. Although many disappear from the records, perhaps returning to the continent, those that remained stayed for an average of 24 years.

Finding out about the lives of the women in the city is more challenging, because women were supposed to be supportive and less involved in public life. Nevertheless, there were prominent women, often widows, such as Joan Tuckfield, whose husband had been mayor, whose portrait survives; and the widow of Henry Savage, who was appointed to be in charge of the Exeter Women's House of Correction, and had her own room.

The legal record shows Exeter's inhabitants when presented for misdemeanours – for example, women (and men) involved in selling bad ale or buying up goods and selling them on more expensively. You find Exeter's women working across the city – at the water conduit, laundering clothes, at church, at the market, at the bake house and at the alehouse – although some sources accused them of being mere gossips in these places! If they were accused of being scolds, they could be put on the ducking stool at the Southernhay pond or dragged down the river from a boat as happened to four women in 1562. Both men and women were punished for infidelity or sexual misbehaviour.

Kate concluded her talk by describing Joan Redwood of St Kerrian parish, who married a baker, John, and had 10 children of whom eight survived. By 1568 she was a widow. Using photos of the restored St Nicholas Priory, Kate went through her will to illustrate the items she owned, many of which were luxuries like cushions and a table carpet, as well as large amounts of pewter dishes, candlesticks and other household goods.

Kate's detailed description of some of the individuals was fascinating. She said in conclusion that she had the impression of lives intertwined and people trying to survive and live in whatever political and economic circumstances they found themselves. Our thanks go to Kate for a most informative evening.

Isobel Hepworth

NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP

A look back at Christmases past

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Meeting on Wednesday 11th December, 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

It will be a Do It Ourselves meeting with Chris Southcott, helped by Midge, showing some old aerial film of the village. After a little Christmas



Aerial photos: Richard Southcott



refreshment, some of the more elderly of us will be remembering Christmas as it used to be in our childhoods. We'll ask John Burrows to get the chat going as many of his memories are of Christmas preparations. It will be what we make it and we hope for a very happy evening.

There is no meeting in January so the next meeting will be on Wednesday February 12th, when Gill Mclean of Topsham Museum will come and speak on the Exeter Shipping Canal.

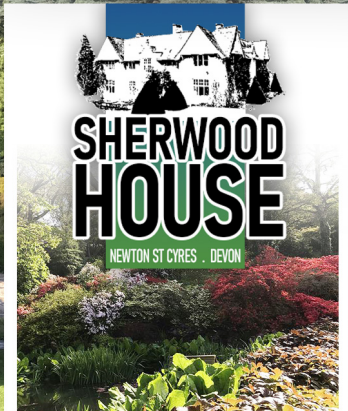
The canal was opened in 1566 and was the first to be built since Roman Times. There are stories aplenty about how a medieval disagreement, commercial rivalry and international trade in woollen cloth led to the construction of Britain's first pound lock canal.

Everyone is welcome. There is no special membership fee. Just come along. Just £3, including a drink and biscuits.

Jean Wilkins

Nikki and Mark Chambers would like to invite you to come and walk around our beautiful 25 acre gardens.
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Newton Environmental Wellbeing Group Round-Up

We have had an active time since we last gave an update and have a new Facebook page, but first a reminder of who we are...

N.E.W. was established in 2021 following a gathering concern to improve and protect our natural environment around Newton St Cyres. How we treat our environment has a profound effect on our own lives now and into the future, and N.E.W. wants to be an effective and essential part of our thriving community.

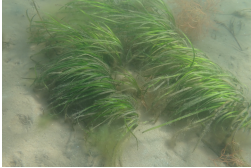


Photo by Gill Melling

(from Blue Meadows Project <https://oceanconservationtrust.org/ocean-habitats/why-seagrass/>)

Astonishment!

Did you know that the humble seagrass, which is the only flowering plant in the ocean and exists both in UK waters and around the world, is 35 times more efficient at absorbing carbon than tropical rainforest, despite covering only 0.2 % of the seabed!

So what have we been doing over the past year?

Newton St Cyres Community Allotment update

At the community conversation in 2022, the most popular request was to have access to locally grown food. In response the community allotment was taken on at the end of that year and a group of 13 dedicated volunteers have been working hard to provide food for our local community.



Working on the allotment

Photo by Tracy Wills

No artificial chemicals are used, compost is made on site or sourced locally, along with manure. Biodiversity is encouraged through providing additional habitat, serving to manage pests by encouraging beneficial predators. Additionally, the no-dig methodology is employed, which reduces weeds and pests, does not disturb the vital fungal network under the soil, keeps carbon locked within the soil, and is less work!

Community Allotment Veg Box has now been up and running since July 2024.

The Parish Hall have kindly allowed us to put the boxes beside the back door where the Post Office is situated. It is filled with fresh produce every Tuesday morning from the allotment, and normally 90% of the contents have been taken by the end of the day. It's the result of the efforts of a team of people who work hard up at the allotment to make it all happen. Others have also started to put their own excess fruit and vegetables in there too, which is a bonus.

We are very pleased with how it has worked out and hope that people have been enjoying fresh, local, chemical-free vegetables at no cost. We are hoping to be able to have a larger, more robust and weather-proof larder next year.

Please contact Gail (meldrumgail@gmail.com) or any of the other team members to give us some feedback or ask questions and, indeed, if you would like to join us working the allotment (no previous experience necessary!). Any extra help would be appreciated.

Newton St Cyres Village Green update

Since April 2022 areas at both ends have been sown with a mix of British wildflowers and grasses to simulate mini wildflower meadows. The areas alongside the central path have not been resown but maintenance there has been changed to match that of the mini meadows, all of which are left uncut for the year until the late summer. The period of time that it looks 'past its best' is very important to accept as an essential part of nature, as the seeds from this year need time to mature and drop. If we want the beauty of the flowers then we need to accept the messiness of the process.



Photo by Dave Harris

When the areas are cut, the risings (cuttings) are removed a few days later to keep the soil fertility low to encourage wildflowers and prevent them being overwhelmed by grasses, which prefer higher nutrient levels.

Here are some plant species that appeared during the spring and summer of 2024 and have enhanced the biodiversity of the village green, bringing in, even in a terrible year, multiple varieties of bees and butterflies:-Yarrow, Groundsel, Cornflower, Poppy, Knapweed, Meadow Buttercup, Creeping Buttercup, Cock's Foot, Quaking Grass, Fat Hen, Tansy, Wild Carrot, Fleabane, Pot Marigold, Reed Sweet Grass, Scabious, Lesser Trefoil, Sticky Mouse-ear, Ox Eye Daisy, Eyebright, Red Clover, Pignut, Queen Anne's Lace, Ragwort, Selfheal, Yellow Rattle.

The Coppicing team are up and running again for autumn.

The area of Quicke's woodland we began coppicing in the spring has seen a transformation. It enabled more light to enter and allowed other ground-hugging plants such as ferns and primroses to grow, thus increasing the biodiversity in just a few months. We created a fantastic wood stack for fuel, log piles in people's gardens, garden supports or woven fencing.

So what is coppicing and why is it done?

Coppicing is a traditional woodland management system dating back centuries as a means of producing firewood, fencing, bean poles and thatching spars amongst other things. Nowadays it is considered a valuable and sustainable way of improving woodland biodiversity and is carried out during the dormant months of October to March.

All kinds of native trees can be coppiced, but hazel is one of the most plentiful and easiest to coppice using hand tools. The group follows traditional methods of cutting the stems down close to the ground to make a small stump. Hazel is a multi-stemmed tree meaning a variety of sizes can be cut, either with loppers or a bow saw. Larger and longer branches are cut in stages so that they can come down safely. On thicker branches a notch is cut into the side in the direction of fall and then a cut made on the opposite side a little lower down to release the branch. Once down, the branch can be trimmed, keeping the straggly ends, known as brash, to cover the tree stump to protect it from deer, or left in piles to create habitat and rot down.

This autumn we are continuing to extend the grove. It has been great to see the trees we cut last spring bouncing back with new growth. The process normally follows a seven- or eight-year rotation, by which time the hazel is ready to 'harvest' again.

N.E.W. members work in teams of between three and seven people, so that we can work



*Emma Parkin atop the new log pile
photo by Gill Melling*



*Gill Melling by the new log pile frame.
Photo by Nick Gillon*

safely and effectively. All you need to take part is some sturdy boots and be willing to get stuck in! The double benefit is a satisfying 'work out' in a naturally green gym and plenty of fresh air in the beautiful surrounds of the Quicke's woodland. If you'd like to get involved, please contact N.E.W.

The Wildlife Garden Award

Since promoting this **Devon Wildlife Trust** award in the spring, Newton St Cyres' residents have been awarded at least six Wildlife Garden Awards.

It doesn't matter how big or small your garden is. The things you need in your garden to get the award are simple, such as a saucer of water on the ground and a bird feeder.

All you have to do is go to the Wilder Gardens website <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/wildlife-garden-award> and fill out a form telling them what you have been doing in your garden for wildlife. N.E.W. and the Devon Wildlife Trust can offer advice and help to anyone who would like to get involved.

Let us know how you get on with your application.

Coming up this winter...

- Hedge planting in the parish – along the banks of fields prone to subsidence.
- Monthly allotment working days – third Sunday of each month.
- More coppicing
- Planning meetings in the pub, bimonthly.

Look at our Facebook page for dates and information <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61566869394064>

Some ideas for bringing a little more sustainability into your life:

1. Try out shampoo and soap bars and refillable cosmetics instead of plastic bottles. Places to buy include *Lush*.
2. Look in charity shops for presents such as toys and books and for practically new clothes.
3. Try and reduce your Christmas plastic by making or buying second hand Christmas decorations.

For more ideas contact Gill at N.E.W. email:- newnewgroup@protonmail.com

We'd love new members to the N.E.W. family, so if you would like to get involved or find out more, then please email newnewgroup@protonmail.com and we'll let you know about our next meeting and how you can get involved.

Gill Melling

UPTON PYNE & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

All events are held in the Upton Pyne Village Hall

Contact Chair June Nicks 01392 841272



Monday 2nd Dec

- you may still have time to book a place with The Wreath Making event if you have received your local magazine early!!! Call June to find out!!!



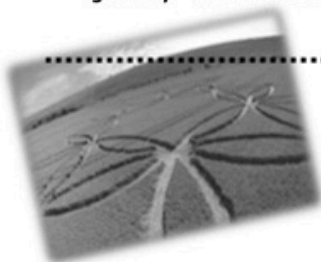
2025



Monday 20th JANUARY 2025 **Our A.G.M. is at 3pm**

Followed by refreshments, then at 4pm we have a talk

'A VIRTUAL TOUR of the ESTATE' Features and Historical Development
given by NICK COX who is an enthusiastic volunteer guide @ N.T. KILLERTON



Monday 17th February @ 7.30pm

A Talk - DAN VIDLER

CROP CIRCLES, FACT & FICTION

Monday 17th March @ 7.30pm

JEREMY WILSON of Stretgate nursery

gives us a talk and suggestions on A SCENTED GARDEN



Saturday 12th APRIL

ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

A family friendly show for everyone to enjoy, exhibit your own flowers and plants. We also have a plant sale, raffle and refreshments, plus a good afternoon out! MORE DETAILS IN THE NEW YEAR - just mark the date!



December on the Farm

The life force visibly disappears into the ground for its winter sleep. The sun is low, plant growth is slow, animals are sleepy. And it's horrible to get out of bed in the morning and return home in the evening in the dark. All around, the landscape is showing its stark bones with the softening leaves all gone.

Birds of a feather flock together in the fields to keep themselves safe from the patrolling buzzards. Finches and other little birds flit with a whoosh of air on flight feathers across our stubble fields, finding the seeds on weed plants. The more foolish young rabbits and squirrels have disappeared into the mouths of increasingly accomplished young hunters, foxes, badgers and birds of prey.

We have some cattle still out grazing. We are learning how to hold animals outside through much of the winter in a way that works for soil, our people and the animals. We grow grass long on a poorer field. We laid silage bales across the field when we harvested them in early autumn. The animals graze an area of long grass. We call it deferred grazing, and a couple of bales every few days. The pasture is trashed but well fertilised. We will grow a crop of maize or reseed the grass in that field next spring.

The autumn-sown crops are now coming through. We haven't got every field sown, because of all the autumn rains. This gives more stubble overwinter for wildlife, although we will get a smaller harvest next year.

The cheese dairy is pleasantly warm now, and the cheese stores feel warm too, even though they are around 10C/50F. We are making a lot of cheese, and working hard to pack everyone's Christmas cheese.

Cheese is such a lovely part of Christmas feasting. I love coming into our shop and choosing my favourites. I ask the team what is tasting particularly good – very often the Vintage or Extra Mature Cheddar. Then I'll add a hard Goats 2kg truckle, and a wedge of our new hop cheese. I love a big Baron Bigod for luxurious snacking. And I always have a chunk of Colston Bassett Stilton.

Then I will add a smattering of the little White Lake cuties, Little She and Eve. I finish my cheeseboard off with that lovely Cornish Alpine cheese Kern, and one each of our whey butters, cows', goat' and the mixed milk Lady Prue. I pair that with Sandford Orchards Ice Cider and maybe the Sharpham Red Onion Rosemary and Thyme Marmalade.

I know I will be still be eating it into January. It's how to do almost no cooking or shopping for a couple of weeks, and it will easily feed a party or unexpected guests. Order your cheese at our cheese shop, or other independent shops. We rely on your Christmas custom to keep us going through the lean months running up to Easter.

We are just learning about the microflora of cheese rind with Ben Woodgates and Rachel Dutton, for instance, opening this up in the US. I heard Ben speak about the rich microbial communities on the rinds of naturally matured, cloth-bound cheese. He gave some guidelines to identification, and more is available on microbialmolds.org.



The classic grey-green of Cheddar is dominated by *Scophularius* species. You can find a rich community of other species, a ‘mould garden’, determined by the area of maturation, temperature, humidity and other factors that are the terroir of the cheese. Every cloth-bound Cheddar maker will have the same species on the rind. But each farm has its separate subspecies, uniquely evolved to that place, each giving their unique flavours to the cheese from that farm.

We are playing with this concept with Affineur of the Year, a collaboration with the Academy of Cheese and a number of affineurs. Several cheesemakers are sending out cheeses all from the same vat to be matured in other places. We will taste them all in April to see what different places and methods do to the microflora of the rind, and through that the flavour of the cheese.

Rounds in previous years have showed amazing differences. Other countries, including France, are now interested in doing the same thing. It’s educational play for cheesemakers.

People ask us whether it’s OK to eat moulds. You wouldn’t eat moulds on bread, so why is it OK to eat them on cheese and other protein-rich foods like salami? Moulds produce harmful substances where the mould grows on a less complete food like bread, to make it nutritional better for the mould. Some people discard the rind, while some find the earthy, horseradishy notes typical of the rind of a Quicke’s Cheddar adds interest for instance in soups or stews.

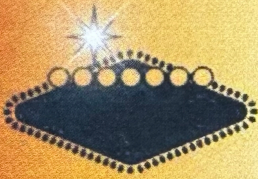
Our Cheese Tours are a fantastic way for you to see under the cloth and skin of our farm. Check our website for details.

Our Cheese Shop is open Monday-Friday 10am-4pm and on Saturday 7th, 14th, 21st December 10am-4pm. We are open on Christmas Eve 9am-1pm, then close until Thursday 2nd January.

Mary Quicke

CREDITON FOOTBALL CLUB

PRESENTS



JAMES BURRELL AS

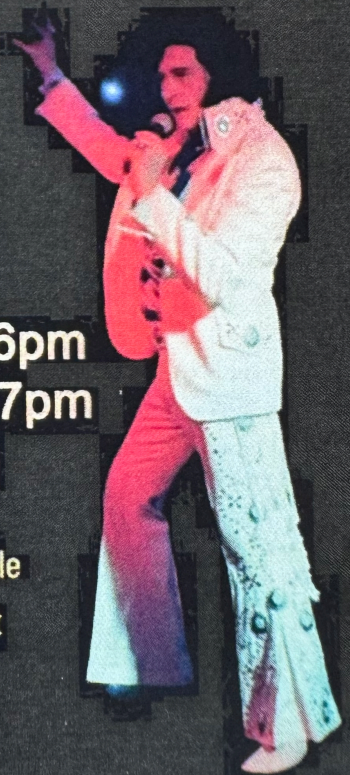
ELVIS

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8TH

TICKETS £10*



Doors open 6pm
Show Starts 7pm
WITH BAR



*ticket sales are cash only and are available
at Lee's Outfitters, Crediton High St., or at
the door on the evening of the show.

Proceeds to Newton St Cyres Church Community Association

A GOAT, A GOAT OUR VILLAGE FOR A GOAT (or 50!)

The arrival of the first Goats in Newton St Cyres didn't come a surprise to those who had read the Newton Wonder in the months prior to the invasion! Social Media and Nextdoor had also covered reports of the likelihood of Goats, when Gary Oates of Gradational Overlook Alarms Technical Services, stated that strange weather prompted fears of a Goat influx. The first Goats actually appeared on 3rd November with sightings in the West Town area. These were quickly followed the following day at the station, the Recreational Ground and the school.

Fortunately for our village, we were able to enlist the help of Running Dog Theatre CIC – experts in managing Goat Related Incidents. In the following days more and more Goats were seen around all parts of the village. At the Fireworks, organised by FANS, a life-size Goat walked through the crowds with the Running Dog team. He stopped to check out the families, and the children were amused by his antics such as attempting to eat their food and putting his nose into their bags.

On the following days, the children at the school were able to take part in various workshops, including Crafty Goats, and Orienteering. Earlier in the term the children had produced artwork relating to the various areas of the village and these were added to the village maps displayed across the village for people to record where Goats had been spotted.

The Church Lego Club had created a marvellous selection of Lego Goats which were later displayed at the Parish Hall during other Goat related events. On the Friday evening adults were invited to 'Come along for an evening of goat (and non-goat related) quizzing silliness with question, tunes and prizes' at the Parish Hall. 14 teams took part in an hilarious evening which included making a craft goat (this even included a 'live' specimen – you know who you were!) as well as some very random questions relating to goat facts. Did you know, for example, that they had four stomach chambers? Extra points were given for knowing that these were called the Reticulum, Rumen, Omasum, and Abomasum! The evening included a pasty supper, raffle and bar and much laughter throughout the evening.

The winning quiz team were the 'Dodgy Knees' made up of John and Anne Dean, Andrew and Sue Gee and Jackie and Damien Hodge. Prizes (provided by the Parish Hall) were awarded to the teams who came 1st 2nd & 3rd

On Saturday it was time for the long-awaited Goat Show. This was attended by children from the school and others with their parents and grandparents. The craft goats (apart from the 'live' one) that had been made at the quiz were on display in their very own pen, along with the Lego goats.

The afternoon was great fun, mixing puppetry, storytelling and live music. The adventure story about goats showed how two sections of a town (Top and Bottom) were divided



The Goat Quiz

A huge thank you to Running Dog Theatre CIC, and to Villages in Action for enabling us to bring this wonderful show to Newton St Cyres. Unlike previous shows that have been for one afternoon, this format enabled members of the whole community to become involved through wraparound

when the goats were brought in. A decision was made that something must be done about the Goats, but no one could agree what that was! With the tourist season fast approaching, could the town put aside its differences? Or would disaster ensue? The play covered division and overcoming conflict and also included chase sequences and competitive poo collection! Audience members were totally spellbound.

In the second half of the afternoon they were asked how the issues could be resolved. This led to some very interesting suggestions, ranging from keeping the goats in a shed, to building them a spa to keep them happy.



Lego Goats

creative activities, goat-spotting and the quiz in the days running up to the family show on the Saturday afternoon



The Goat Show

On a personal note I would like to thank all those who participated in whatever way, to the team on the Newton Wonder for amazing publicity, and to the volunteers from the Parish Hall for their time and for supporting me in such an unusual adventure!

Nicola Baker

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'Tis the Season...

"My children love Christmas and they're already picking extra treats off the shelf when we go shopping and telling what presents they want. I want to make it special for them, but times are tough and I worry about overspending and getting into debt. What can I do?"

Borrowing money or using a credit card to fund Christmas can seem like your only option but there are steps to take to keep spending under control and avoid falling into debt.

First - make a budget and stick to it. Who are you buying gifts for? What other seasonal expenses do you have? How much can you realistically afford to spend? Keep receipts or ask for gift receipts in case you have to return something if you overspend. Household bills are likely to be higher too, with colder weather and people spending more time indoors.

If you have built up debt, don't ignore bills or letters. Speak to the organisation you owe money to as they may let you pay smaller amounts. Priority bills need to be paid first such as rent, mortgage, council tax and energy bills. For other types of debt like credit cards or loans, look at what you owe, workout a budget and contact your creditors to set up an affordable repayment plan. This might seem scary but it's an important first step and a great many people are having to do exactly the same thing.

If you are struggling to afford all the essentials like bills and food, we at CA TNMWD can help in various ways. A good place to start is by visiting our website <https://www.citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk> where there is lots of useful information to help. You can also see our local office hours and availability for appointments and drop-ins. Or call our free, local AdviceLine on 0808 27 87 999. A quick benefits check may also show that you can claim additional financial help. You may also qualify for a reduction in council tax or help with energy costs.

Demand for our services is increasing all the time and we need all the help we can get to help people in our community with problems like this. If you could spare a day a week to join our teams in Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon, do please take the first step and contact recruitment@citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk for more information.

Everyone gets full training and ongoing support, you will make new friends, maybe learn new skills and play a crucial role within our community.

Rosanna Teale



**Sustainable
Crediton**

Seasonal crumble topping

This works well with many fruits, especially apple cooked with a little brown sugar and a clove.

For the crumble topping you will need:

100g (4 oz) wholemeal flour

2oz (50g) spelt flakes

2oz (50g) rolled oats

1 oz (25g) wheat germ

ground cinnamon and freshly grated nutmeg to taste

2oz (50g) dried cranberries

4oz (100g) butter

2 oz (50g) brown sugar

Place all the dry ingredients (including the sugar) in a basin and rub in the butter until the mixture looks like coarse breadcrumbs, then add the cranberries.

Cover your chosen fruit with the mixture and bake in a medium oven until brown and crispy.

Paul Cleave

Newton St Cyres toddler group

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

It is great family fun.

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

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



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

Over State Pension age, or know someone who is?

Pension Credit tops up pension income and can help with day-to-day living costs.

If you are over State Pension age, you may be eligible to claim **Pension Credit**, even if you own your home or have savings. People who claim **Pension Credit** may also be able to get:

- The **Winter Fuel Payment*** and other help with heating costs
- Help with rent and Council Tax
- A free TV Licence for those aged 75 or over
- Help with the cost of NHS services, such as NHS dental treatment, glasses and transport costs for hospital appointments.

You could be eligible for **Pension Credit** if your weekly income is below £218.15 or, if you have a partner who lives with you, £332.95. Qualifying income level may be higher in some circumstances.

Don't miss out.

Check your eligibility at gov.uk/pension-credit or by calling **0800 99 1234**

Newton St Cyres 200 Club

The draw for October took place at the Coffee Morning on 12 October and the winners were:

No. 191	J Hancock	£50.00
No. 165	R Carpenter	£10.00
No. 133	R & J Furniss	£10.00
No. 11	G Jackson	£10.00
No. 37	M Whalley	£10.00

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

John Salter 01392 851346 and Jane Hole 01392 851148

*Exeter Folk & Acoustic Music Club &
Newton St. Cyres Parish Hall present....*



**ALL ON A WINTER'S NIGHT
(with Johnny Coppin,
Dik Cadbury & Paul Burgess)**

SUNDAY 01st DECEMBER 2024 7:30pm



**NEWTON ST CYRES
PARISH HALL EX5 5BW**



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Doors 6:45pm Cash Bar & Raffle

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For further details, please contact

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peterwatts361@btinternet.com



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Kitchen: 12:00-15:00 and 17:00-21:00
Sunday Pub: 16:00-21:00 Kitchen CLOSED

**Newton St Cyres, Devon, EX5 5AX
01392 851282**

Table Tennis

at

Newton St Cyres Parish Hall

every Thursday from 7 to 9 pm.

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

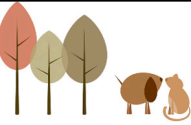
There are four tables, so we can fit in people from beginners and rusty former players to League players. Equipment is available.

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

Just come on the evening, but for any further information contact

Roger Wilkins – rogerwilkins1@btinternet.com

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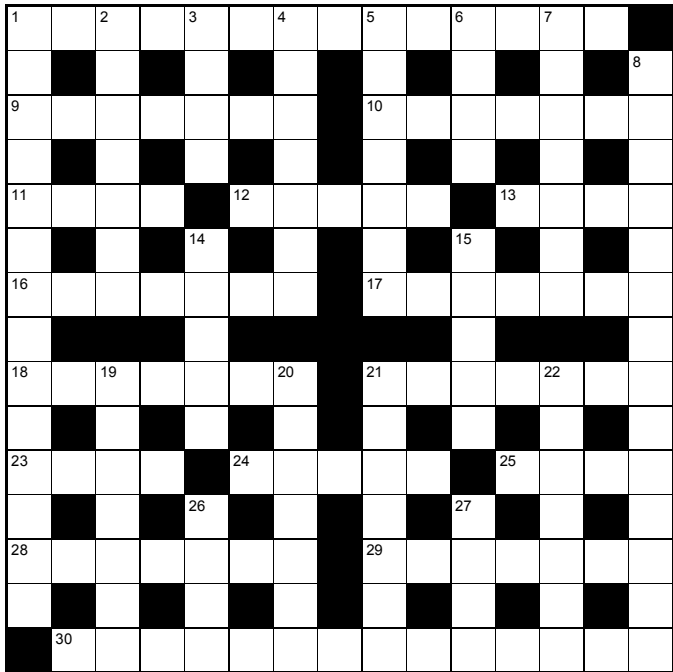
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Cryptic Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 After breaking law, Malawi cell holds one Scottish hero (7,7)
- 9 Ridicule a politician, a silly person outwardly (7)
- 10 Right English striker for return game (7)
- 11 Seize most of returning craft (4)
- 12 E.g. Ali could be quick-moving (5)
- 13 Backing some officials but not of the clergy (4)
- 16 Pompous, old and plump (7)
- 17 Caught rector misbehaving? That's right (7)
- 18 Discharge former partner on Greek island (7)
- 21 Internet pages revealing location of spider's trap? (7)
- 23 Give sharp edge to sweet stuff mostly (4)
- 24 After short time woman gives the real facts (5)
- 25 Left Dover? (4)
- 28 Pious Tina sadly is taken in by cunning (7)
- 29 Recluse from Eire met wacko (7)
- 30 Showed grief at serene abbot's ruin (4,4,6)

DOWN

- 1 Age-old ice show's slammed as a pointless exercise (4-5,5)
- 2 Back trouble initially left untreated by doctor in the past (7)
- 3 One against religious image (4)
- 4 Coped with fellow advanced in years (7)
- 5 Bill staggered Cyril, showing fibre (7)
- 6 Weak material (4)
- 7 Get a new bed first for residence (7)
- 8 Electroconvulsive therapy is what hairdresser offers! (5,9)
- 14 Quilt from Venice originally seized by performing pair (5)
- 15 Investigation puts pressure on awful bore (5)
- 19 Entrust study to Castro mostly (7)
- 20 Played any role in the initial stages (5,2)
- 21 Googie fades away (7)
- 22 Chap in Iowa fighting battle (3,4)
- 26 Restore Test ground (4)
- 27 Stout worker needs run (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.

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

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Solution to November 2024 Cryptic Crossword

1	P	R	A	C	T	I	C	A	L						6	B	A	S	H	
	O		C		U		L		A					R			O		8	G
9	M	A	C	A	B	R	E			10	S	P	I	N	N	E	R			
	P		O		E		V				V			D		Y		E		
11	O	G	R	E		12	D	E	G	E	N	E	R	A	T	E				
	U		D		13	F		R		G		G							N	
14	S	K	I	E	R	S		15	L	A	C	R	O	16	S	S	E			
			O		A		17	C		S		O			P					
18	I	N	N	A	T	E	L	Y		19	M	O	R	A	L	20	S			
	N				E		U		21	B		M		G		T				
22	D	23	I	S	O	R	D	E	R	L	Y		24	C	H	A	R			
	U		U		N		L			I		25	P		E		A			
26	C	A	R	B	I	N	E			27	G	L	I	S	T	E	N			
	E		L		S		S			H		E		T		G				
	28	T	Y	N	E			29	S	A	T	U	R	N	I	N	E			

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01392 851985

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We will also be selling calendars at the next
coffee morning in October. If you prefer
to collect let us know and we can give you
two addresses to collect them from

Newton St Cyres
Calendar
2025



All photos in the
Calendar are of
the Newton St
Cyres area taken
by the people that
live, work and visit
the village

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Shrove Tuesday	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22

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POP UP SHOP
SELLING
GIFTS AND
DECORATIONS**



COLD DAYS, WARM LIBRARIES

Warm welcoming spaces and a host of services in libraries across Devon and Torbay this winter



Free warm clothes, hygiene banks, community fridges stocked with free food, and hundreds of welcoming groups and events are amongst a wealth of offerings to be found in libraries across Devon and Torbay this winter.

Libraries Unlimited, the charity that runs 54 libraries in the county, is rolling out its Cold Days, Warm Libraries campaign for the third year running. The initiative is aimed at encouraging people into warm, friendly library spaces this Winter not only to help with their fuel bills and the cost of living but to combat isolation.

1.2 million visits were made to the libraries between 1 October 2023 and 31 March 2024 during the campaign.

Libraries Unlimited's Health and Wellbeing Manager Beth Harris said: "Everyone deserves to feel warm and connected during the colder times of the year, but sadly we know this isn't always the case. Our libraries across Devon and Torbay will always be a welcome space for people to come in for free, with no obligations and no questions asked. We have comfy chairs, cosy nooks, hot drinks, engaging activities and events, and of course, a whole host of reading materials for the public to enjoy.

Some libraries are welcoming donations of clean, warm coats, clothing, and accessories for their Coat Rails. Anyone can also take an item of clothing for free, no questions asked.

Community fridges and hygiene banks in a number of libraries are also appealing for tins and non-perishable, in-date food, as well as unopened hygiene products. Libraries will also be working with local food waste groups to stock up, supporting recycling and preventing food going to landfill.

Agnes Finlayson

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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

The Parish Church of St Cyr and St Julitta



Christmas Is Coming ...

There is a palpable sense of anticipation and excitement in the air. All around, shops are stocked and stacked high with all things Christmas: the lights and tinsel catch the eye; festive songs fill the air; gingerbread and mulled wine tickle the taste buds. Without doubt, the sights and smells and sounds of Christmas touch all our senses, fill all our moments, and impact all our thoughts.

What actually constitutes 'Christmas' can be somewhat stretched on occasions, and not a little confusing. It would seem that anything can be made into Christmas food, or Christmas tree ornament or decoration – simply add a Father Christmas hat; or colour it red and white and green and make it all sparkly; even just cover it in fake snow. You name it, and I'm pretty sure that at one time or another it will have been made 'Christmassy'!

And even the countdown to Christmas has been thoroughly commercialised. Advent calendars are no longer just a nice, stylised picture of the nativity with 25 little 'windows' to open, with a verse or two of the Christmas story behind them, and, with any luck, a bit of chocolate. Now the only suggestion that the item in front of you has anything to do with Advent will be the fact that it has 25 'windows'. No nativity, no scripture, no moment of pausing and thinking about the slow countdown to the big day. Instead, behind each window any item or experience you can think of – whisky, perfume, watches, Lego, jigsaws, wine, gin, jewellery, etc, etc, etc.

Now, I'm really, really sorry if I've come across as all curmudgeonly and a bit 'bah humbug!' I don't mean to. I do thoroughly enjoy Christmas, all the preparation, all the anticipation, the waiting, the excitement. The food! But, from where I'm sitting, and as I look around, then it just seems like something is missing, something necessary and essential. Surely, there should be something other than this juggernaut of consumerism and commercialisation and crass marketing.

And then I realise, of course there is definitely something more, because Christmas is coming!

Christmas *is* coming...

Fresh and new and different each and every year, but with the realisation that the birth of a baby 2,000 years ago changed the world forever. Nothing can ever be the same again.

Yes, of course, the same story, yes, of course, the same characters – Mary, Joseph, donkeys and stables, shepherds and kings; and yes, very likely many of the same carols.

And Jesus – the gift of love.

But, while all of that is the same, we have changed; we're not who we were this time last year – for better or worse. Because life in all its wonder and challenges and experiences will have happened between times; things will be different. Sometimes only a little, sometimes much more significantly so. It is likely that the family and friends around you will be a little different from this time last year.

And because you have changed, then Christmas will be different, too. It can never be the same thing twice. This time, perhaps, a word or phrase will suddenly make you stop and think; or maybe that carol which seemed so familiar will take on a different shape because it was sung a little differently; or maybe this Christmas will be a different place, surrounded by different people. Maybe a realisation that the best gift, the greatest gift we can give each other is ourselves, is our love; just as we were given that ultimate gift of love 2,000 years ago.

So, however, whatever, wherever you are, there is one thing you can be certain of: Christmas is coming. Please do come and join us for one of the many opportunities to sing carols, to pause a moment, to sip a little mulled wine and to celebrate a very special, wonderful, unique time. And may your Christmas be filled with all its joy, excitement, anticipation and love.

Tim

Rev'd Tim Collins, Priest in Charge, Netherexe Parishes

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.

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

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

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

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

SERVICES & INFORMATION DECEMBER 2024/ JANUARY 2025

The Netherexe Parishes - A community of Anglican churches in Devon

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

Sunday 1 December

11:15 am	Service	Cadbury
06:00 pm	Mission Community Advent with Communion	Stoke Canon

Wednesday 4 December

09:30 am	Mid-Week Holy Communion	Exe Valley Farm Shop, nr Thorverton
05:00 pm	Mid-Week Meet	Stoke Canon

Sunday 8 December

09:30 am	Communion	Thorverton
10:30 am	Communion	Upton Pyne
11:15 am	Christingle	Rewe
05:30 pm	Carol Service	Huxham

Wednesday 11 December

05:00 pm	Mid-Week Meet	Stoke Canon
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Sunday 15 December

09:30 am	Communion	Brampford Speke
09:30 am	Bubble Church	Thorverton
05:00 pm	Carol Service	Stoke Canon
06:00 pm	Carol Service	Cadbury

Tuesday 17 December

07:00 pm	Carol Service	Netherexe
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Wednesday 18 December

05:00 pm	Mid-Week Meet	Stoke Canon
06:30 pm	Carol Service	Newton St Cyres

Saturday 21 December

Sunday 22 December

09:30 am	Communion	Newton St Cyres
11:15 am	Communion	Rewe
05:00 pm	Carol Service	Thorverton

Sunday 22 December

09:30 am	Communion	Newton St Cyres
11:15 am	Communion	Rewe
05:00 pm	Carol Service	Thorverton

Tuesday 24 December

10:45 am	Bubble Church	Thorverton
03:00 pm	Nativity Pageant with puppets	Upton Pyne
04:00 pm	Crib Service	Stoke Canon
06:00 pm	Carol Service	Rewe
11:00 pm	Midnight Service	Newton St Cyres

Wednesday 25 December

09:30 am	Family Communion	Thorverton
10:00 am	Christmas Day Service	Cadbury
10:00 am	Christmas Day Service	Brampford Speke
11:00 am	Communion	Huxham [with Stoke Canon]

Sunday 29 December

10:00 am	Mission Community Service	Upton Pyne
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Sunday 5 January

10:00 am	Coffee & Chat	Newton St Cyres
11:15 am	Service	Cadbury
11:15 am	Café Church	Rewe
05:00 pm	Communion	Stoke Canon

Wednesday 8 January

09:30 am	Mid-Week Holy Communion	Exe Valley Farm Shop, nr Thorverton
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Sunday 12 January

09:30 am	Communion	Thorverton
10:30 am	Communion	Upton Pyne

Sunday 19 January

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 January

09:30 am	Communion	Newton St Cyres
10:00 am	Messy Church	Stoke Canon
11:15 am	Communion	Rewe

Every Tuesday at 6:00pm we gather for prayer in Rewe Church

The Adonai
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GOOD FOOD
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ATMOSPHERE
LOVING
ENVIRONMENT



**AT THE NEWTON ST CYRES, PARISH
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TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

From 12.00 - 2.00PM

The Adonai Community Kitchen is open to all residents
of Newton St Cyres and the wider community

Last orders at 1.30pm

DONATIONS WELCOME

**OUR FOOD IS SPONSORED BY LOCAL BUSINESSES. IT'S PREPARED
ON THE DAY. OUR MENU DEPENDS ON THE GOODS WE RECEIVE**

**JOIN US FOR LUNCH (12 TILL
2PM) EVERY TUESDAY AND
WEDNESDAY. FOR A MOMENT
AROUND THE TABLE MAKING
NEW FRIENDS**



**A DEDICATED TEAM IS
READY TO OFFER A
WARM WELCOME TO
ALL AND FACILITATE
YOUR TIME WITH US.
COME AND JOIN US**

Our Vision and Goals

To provide hot freshly cooked healthy
meals to our community.

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



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

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

Neighbourhood Watch Deputies

Sue Gee	Church Area	Glebe House	851164	asgee@btinternet.com
Tom Dowle	Court Orchard	24	851704	tomdowle@live.co.uk
Chris Lee	Langford Road	Greenlands	851280	
Mike Kersey	Half Moon	12	851603	
Penny Pearkes	Newton House	9	851517	pearkes4@gmail.com
Wayne Meeton	Norton	Glenacre Sweetham	851954	wayne@wvmstudio.com
Derrick Rhydderch-Evans	Pump Street	Old Beams	851443	derrickrevans369@btinternet.com
Anna Mace-Leska	Sand Down Lane	Compass House	851441	leska@btinternet.com
Jacqui Ward	Smallbrook	2 Broadgate Cottage	851918	Jacquiward30@yahoo.co.uk
Jill Hawksley	Sweetham	Station Cottage	851269	peterbrew@aol.com
Clive Wootton	West Town	4 Meadowlands	851428	hollywallydoda@outlook.com
Alan Hancock	Woodlands		851744	
Damien Hodge	Tytheing Close	2	851111	
Geoffrey Jackson	"The Village"	Shaplands Cottage	851551	megalops@btinternet.com

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

Newton St Cyres Parish Hall

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

UP TO HOURS 3 6 9 12

VILLAGERS

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

NON VILLAGERS

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

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

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

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

Community Police	PCSO Nicola Payne, Police Station, Crediton Nicola.payne@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk	Dial 101
District Councillors	Sandy Chenore:- schenore@middevon.gov.uk Martin Binks:- mbinks@middevon.gov.uk	
County Councillor	Margaret Squires	01363 758142
Local M P	Mel Stride mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk	01392 823306
Football Club	Mark Smaldon	7733455177
Friends of NSC Station	Chris Southcott	01392 851569
Luncheon Club	John Salter, Hill Park	01392 851346
Mah Jong Club	Geoff Jackson _megalops@btinternet.com	01392 851551
Newton Ramblers	Rosemary Chambers	01392 851400
Tennis Club Secretary	Laura Leigh	01647 24259
Young Farmers	Will Ayre (Chairman) willayre@hotmail.co.uk	7964286831
Archery	Alison Couling	01392 841282
Gardening Club	Nicola Baker	01392 851985
History Group	Jean Wilkins	01392 851337
Table Tennis	Roger Wilkins	01392 851337
Friends of the Arboretum	Roger Wilkins	01392 851337
Adonai Community Kitchen	Jocelyne Whittaker	07508 871172
Community Allotment	Gail Meldrum meldrumgail@gmail.com	07999 958799
Crediton Citizen's Advice	Adviceline (10.30 - 3.30)	03444 111444

The **NEWTON WONDER** is delivered within the Parish at a charge of only **£8.00** per year(in 2024). Subscriptions are due in January.

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

If you move away it can be posted for £21.00p.a.

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

Please add your last name as the reference

A WEEK IN THE PARISH HALL

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

Nigel Chambers, Chairman, Hall Management Committee

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

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

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

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

Local voluntary Village events are included free of charge.

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

Advertising Rates for the Newton Wonder

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

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

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

The **Newton Wonder** (Monthly except January) is delivered to local households and businesses at an annual charge of £8. Additional copies can be purchased from the Post Office.

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.
Tel:-01288 341617 or 07784 008471.

Email:- printroom@parishmagazineprinting.co.uk

Save the Date Carols in Church by Candle Light 18th December

Three lit candles in glass holders are shown against a dark background. The candles are lit, with bright flames and glowing wax. The text 'at 6.30' is overlaid on the middle candle.

at 6.30

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