

NEWTON WONDER

THE MAGAZINE & WEBSITE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF NEWTON ST CYRES

February 2026

£1.00

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it rained
it rained
and it rained!**

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Happy New Year to all our readers

People say that those of us who have a birthday in January are unlucky. As a child, perhaps, we did miss out by having combined Christmas and birthday presents. Overall, however, whether it's raining or snowing, or just blowing, by the middle of January the days are obviously getting longer and nature is beginning to reawaken with the first signs of spring; snowdrops. Have a look at Nicola's descriptions on page 20.

On a personal note, at the end of last year the NHS did a wonderful job of replacing my aortic valve so that my body is still a good runner – for its age! In particular I would like to thank everybody who sent me your good wishes throughout my illness. It was very much appreciated.

Ken Woodgates

Those of us who travel on Station Road by foot, bike or car will miss Ken Woodgates who died in November. Shortly before he died, he would be seen every day going from his home in Court Orchard to the Rec on his mobility scooter. For at least twenty years before that he, and his long time friend, Dave Phare would finish a long, morning, walk at the club and enjoy a chat.

Ann Quon Cordingley described Ken as one of those indispensable heroes with Dave, Ian Harris and Chris Souhcott in the item she wrote about the Rec Club in her series about the local heroes who kept the local community institutions working.

The Internet

I have been told that work is going on in Godophin Close by Openreach. The suggestion has reached me that fibre optic cables are being laid and that the village is set to receive the benefits of a 21st century digital service. No such good fortune. I checked with Openreach in relation to my address. The result:- "We have no plans to build full fibre to this property yet.."

Here, near the station we have a full copper service, providing a download speed of around 5mbps and an upload speed of 0.8mbps, which has driven me to invest in a 4G system at about £600. This has revolutionised our broadband: a service which should have been provided as a public service. I wonder what happened to the money set aside for our broadband?

Peter Hawksley

Parish Council ReportDecember 2025

As usual, there was no council meeting in January. However, this is our first opportunity to report on the meeting from December. It was an important meeting, as councillors set the budget for the year 2025/26. We decided to set the precept (our share of the Council Tax) for the year as £17,371. This is a rise of 5.1%. We have agreed grants for the Parish Hall, the Recreation Ground, Mid Devon Mobility and the church (to help maintain the graveyard). New this year is a grant to the arboretum to pay for public liability insurance and some new warning signs.

You may perhaps wonder what else we are spending the money on. Many items will come up from year to year, such as maintenance of the defibrillators, grass cutting, cleaning the bus shelters and so on. The list is long and can be seen on our council website. However, this year we are setting some money aside in an attempt to get warning signs put up near the school. We can only do this with agreement from Devon County Council. So, fingers crossed!

We were pleased to have a long discussion with a member of the public who raised issues that have troubled us for some time. These included access to the allotments, the difficulty of crossing the road at Tytheing Close and the safety of the path on school hill. Sadly, we have been powerless to do much about these but we do keep trying and we really welcome parishioners participating in our meetings. The road wardens have put down salt on the school hill path and this should kill the moss and make the path less slippery.

The results of the wildflower survey are now in and after much discussion, we decided to continue with the experiment, although, we hope, with some modifications, taking into account the responses we had to the survey. There's a separate article elsewhere in this magazine giving the results.

Councillor Rimbon-Whitaker, who liaises with the primary school, she reported two items of news. First, the children are getting road safety training in January. This will tie in very nicely with our campaign for school signage. Secondly, discussions are taking place for a possible school exchange with our twin village of Rots.

Finally, County Councillor Steve Keeble reported that warm home grants are now available to some. This website: <https://www.energysavingdevon.org.uk/> could have some useful information about what you can do and what help is available. He also brought us up to date with progress on the Boniface Trail. The new plan goes before Devon County Council Cabinet in January. Currently it looks as if some of the proposed route will be on 'quiet lanes' and some will be on purpose-built paths.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Parish Hall on **Thursday February 5th** at 7pm. Members of the public are welcome. Do come along and see what a friendly bunch we are, and maybe even consider joining us.

Alternatively, if members of the public wish issues to be raised in council meetings, they can contact councillors in the usual way. Remember, we have a form that can be filled in online. Copies of the form are also available at Coffee Mornings and the Adonai Kitchen. There is a Parish Surgery at the coffee mornings held on the **second Saturday of the month** in the Parish Hall.

Liz Ouldrige

Chair

Newton St Cyres, Parish Council

Newton St Cyres Tennis Club

A Happy, Healthy and Active New Year to you all

The new membership year is starting in April. Please contact our membership secretary, Laura Leigh, on 01647 24259 for details. We promise you'll have an enjoyable year of tennis and banter and friendships. More information can be found on newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk



Winter League matches are nearly finished. The ladies, men and mixed teams have been battling with various weather conditions but have now nearly finished all matches.

Junior coaching is run by James Temple. Toby our previous coach for juniors, will be on the court in January while James is away. The sessions are well attended and take place on Wednesdays after school during term time. If you would like to enrol for the spring term please email juniors@newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk for further information.

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

The Rusty Racket Members' Group is thriving and playing regularly on Saturdays. If your New Year's Resolution is to play tennis again, do contact Sue Bloomfield at rustyrackets@newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk.

We now have a super-duper ball machine, which means you can practise all by yourself. Many members are now trained in using the machine, so if you would like to have a go, please contact newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk.

Frederick Maddock

We were over-charged by South West Water – for 12 years! Are you?

Back in the summer of 2025 I was looking at our water bill, dismayed on how much it was costing us. Our July direct debit rose from £55 per month to over £70, with no improvement in the service. Horrified, I studied our bill to try and find a way of cutting costs.

Having already had a water meter fitted the previous year, I was able to analyse our water usage and was satisfied that we were not wasting anything in the house. Also, with three huge tanks in the garden to collect rain water for the garden, I was convinced we could not do much there either.

Then I read a notice on page 2 of the water bill about wastewater charges – see the screenshots on the next page. It said that my wastewater charges included surface water being discharged into the sewers. Living in Sweetham and being surrounded by fields, I know very well that all our surface water and downpipes discharge on the next page onto the road. This means that from here the water goes down the road drains, which either discharge straight into the nearby Brook, or the fields.

To cut a long three-month (!) story short, SWW sent out an engineer to assess our property. They agreed that it was clear that all surface water was indeed not being discharged into the sewers. They agreed to refund the over-charged amount – for as long as we have been in the property. This meant a 12-year refund totalling £630!!

Obviously, we were very happy with this refund, but I was dismayed by their answer to my next question. If our house is being over-charged for surface water, could they check my neighbours too? Their reply was that they said that they had NO OBLIGATION (in law) to analyse customer's bills to work out who was being over-charged. The responsibility for this lies with the household owners.

So, I am sure you now understand why I am sharing this information. How many of us in Newton St Cyres and indeed the countryside across Devon are being over-charged for the services we receive from SWW, increasing their profit margins for doing nothing? Ok, if you work it out, it is only £52 per year per household, but multiply that by the number of houses in NSC and the number of years you have been over-charged and it adds up.

I strongly suggest you check your bill on page 2, and if it says the same as mine, it is certainly worth checking your downpipes and seeing where they lead.

GOOD LUCK!

Nick Gillon

Notices on your bill.



Why is my wastewater discounted

The wastewater charge is based on your metered water usage, reduced by 5%. This reflects the water that doesn't reach the sewers, so we don't need to treat it.



Wastewater charges

Your current wastewater charges include surface water, foul and highway drainage.

If you think your property does not discharge surface water into our sewers, please call us.

VOLUNTEER URGENTLY REQUIRED

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

All Enquiries to
Peter Watts on

07534 830377

or email to

peterwatts369@btinternet.com

Newton St Cyres 200 Club

The winners for December 2025 and January 2026

December 2025

No. 58	J Bailey	£50.00
No. 166	T Mitchell	£50.00
No. 165	R Carpenter	£10.00
No. 106	D Ayre	£10.00
No. 179	V Gaughan	£10.00
No. 219	I Bouget	£10.00
No. 85	A Mace-Leska	£10.00

January 2026

No. 76	M Hazell	£100.00
No. 143	R Chambers	£10.00
No. 2	J Enright	£10.00
No. 231	A Staite	£10.00
No.132	J Hole	£10.00

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

Newton St Cyres Arboretum Coffee Morning



Saturday 7th of February 2026.

10.30am to 12 noon.

NSC Parish Hall

Stalls, raffle, coffee, cakes and great company.

All welcome

Proceeds support the Arboretum upkeep.

A CHRISTMAS FEAST TO REMEMBER

The parish hall was full to bursting point for the village's Christmas lunch, laid on by Adonai's Jocelyne Rimbon-Whittaker and her team of elves. Sixty party-goers were assembled for a banquet that would not have looked out of place in the court of Henry the Eighth!

The feast started in Jocelyne's home territory of the Caribbean, with nibbles of deep-fried fish dumplings, and went on to feature mushroom soup, turkey, roast potatoes, roast parsnips, carrots, cauliflower (with cheese sauce), broccoli, red cabbage, and pigs in blankets.

Vegetarian options were nut roast, lasagne and veggies. Dessert? Chocolate log, Christmas pudding log, Christmas pud with brandy, all with a choice of fresh cream, brandy cream or custard. And then tea or coffee with mince pies.

All this for £10! Yes, £10!



The village owes a festive debt of gratitude to Jocelyne and her helpers – Christine, Jane, Michael, Halcyon, Sheila, Christie, Emma and Jo. Apologies to any volunteers accidentally omitted.

Peter Cordingley

Photo by Ann Quon Cordingley

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Party on the Bridge



Thanks to Chelle and Jim for organising the customary Christmas Party
for Pump Street residents on Pump Street bridge on Sunday 21 December
Mulled wine and festive food was enjoyed by all !



Table Tennis

Newton St Cyres Parish Hall
every Friday from 7 to 9 pm.

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

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

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

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



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Do You Remember....February?

February 1976

The Blessing of the Plough took place at a Church Service and the Young Farmers provided a team. Their secretary, Jill May, read the lesson.

The Coffee Club speaker was Maria from the Northcott Theatre on her work as a Wardrobe Mistress.

The Playgroup reported that it was now full for the first time.

The St Cyres Players continued to be active and were putting on plays.

Residents near Rewe Cross had asked for a Post Box and residents in Castlands asked for a footpath to the School. This was not possible but they were allowed to use the School Bus as the road was so dangerous.

February 1986

The Conservation Area was defined as from the end of Pump Street to the Parish Church including the Crown and Sceptre Pub, Shuttern Close, the Vicarage and Elmhurst but not including Newton House or the Arboretum.

At the W I meeting Mrs Somme showed slides of Norway.

The Mothers Union had sent two letters to the Central President with concerns about

support for the Law Lords decision to give the contraceptive pill to under 16s without parents consent or knowledge.

The Farming Year article by Robert Ayre explained about growing crops such as lupins (for protein), sunflowers (for oil), evening primrose (for oil), borage (for oil) and linseed (again for oil).

A notice appeared about the proposed removal of kerbstones in the Churchyard to level the surrounds and mounds.

An appeal was launched for more recipes for the proposed Village Recipe book.

The Twinning Circle were planning the visit of a party from Rots in May.

The Children's Puzzle was about names of birds.

February 1996

The Gardening article gave details on how to grow and propagate Daphne.

An invitation was issued to the Young Farmers' Panto Dick Whittington' A report appeared from Mid Devon District Councillor, Jean Palk on the Area Tenants Association where she asked residents to let her know of any potential tenants for Court Orchard.

'Lets Go 'events planned included a meal at Devoncourt in Exmouth, a visit to see Beauty and the Beast in Paignton and a

visit to Torquay to see Annie Get Your Gun.

The subscriptions for the Newton Wonder were to rise from 25p to 30p per issue.

A Trivia Quiz was held at the Recreation Ground with teams of 4 competing.

The Twinning Group reported on their walk on Boxing Day to Newton Woods.

The Parish Council reported that traffic calming was planned for the village with rumble strips and a 40mph limit. Thanks were expressed to the Action Group for their support.

The Playgroup gave their good wishes to Dale Morrish and Rebecca Parker as they started school full time.

February 2006

The Poppy Appeal had raised £409.51 within the parish.

Jill and Peter Hawksley were retiring from the Beer Engine after nearly 23 years and the village welcomed Mike and Jan Tutty as the new owners.

The Football Club 1st Eleven had won all their matches during December and January.

February 2016

The Council discussed its precept for the forthcoming year and agreed on a very small increase of 2%. This increase will mean that a Band D household will pay £34.49 to the

parish. Good housekeeping had meant that the increase was kept to a minimum while still being able to maintain the parish in a good state with grass cutting, dog waste bins etc. It does appear that we will be asked to provide some of the services originally provided by other authorities so a contingency has to be included in our precept discussions. Grants to organisations were discussed and the Council agreed to support the Recreation Ground, the Church, the Hall and the new Boniface Cycle Trail.

The Council agreed to undertake a review of the allotments as so many were now unused and a meeting will be held on site in the New Year.

Peter Hawksley

Thieves in Newton St Cyres

Thieves have broken into a shed in which tools for the maintenance of the arboretum are stored. It's believed they made off with a strimmer valued at £350 that had been purchased with funds raised at a coffee morning last June. It's thought the theft took place around 11th or 12th January.

New locks have now been placed on the door.

Peter Cordingley

News from a busy Moon Ridge

Happy New Year to you all. A few things are happening on the farm. Will continues with the poultry and is busy hatching and rearing now. After spending over three months of 2025 on restrictions (not being able to sell anything) due to the avian flu cases at Exminster and Crediton, placing us in surveillance zones, here's hoping 2026 will bring a better year. Thank you for your continued support. This has meant a lot to us.

Over the past few years, we have built and planted new hedgerows and trees. The drought proved challenging, and there is a significant amount of replanting to be done. We have also been coppicing and laying hedges and fencing the various paddocks.

The tree planting and management practices we have used here at Moon Ridge over the last 20 years (since we have owned it) has massively changed the wildlife value of the land, with a wide range of species either visiting or calling us home throughout the year. The swallows and house martins bred well this year and the dawn chorus during spring and summer gets stronger every year.

Chiff chaffs, garden warblers, willow warblers, dunnocks, chaffinches, green finches, gold finches, yellow hammers, gold crests, coal tits, long tail tits, song thrushes, blackcap, siskin have been among the summer regulars.

Kingfishers visit most days throughout the year to the various ponds we have put in, and over winter we have seen water rail, sandpiper and egret, as well as the more usual birds and a whole host of the predatory species that follow them.

All this is in stark contrast to the land when we first came here, which was tightly grazed grassland. We use no sprays or artificial fertilizers and yet have had an abundance of fruit and nuts – apples, pears, plums, gages, grapes, cherries, asian pears, date plums, cornelian cherries and many more, even apricots and peaches outside on our north facing land. Cob nuts, chestnuts, walnuts, and almonds add to the variety as well as a host of berries.

Moving forward, we plan to expand production and habitat across our land. To gather ideas, we have visited several sites in the UK, France, Bulgaria, and beyond. We have now put together a plan with the forestry commission to intensify and expand the agroforestry system across the majority of the 37 acres. This will mean planting another 3,000-plus trees, around 75% of them comprising a very diverse mix of fruit and nut species, with added support species to protect and shelter them as they get a start in life.



One of the wildlife ponds

The aim is it for it all to be sparse enough to allow the grass to grow for the stock and dense enough to be productive and create a microclimate across the land. The shade and shelter will benefit the livestock and keep the grass growing for longer and, as the trees mature, the fruit and nut production will be substantial, chemical-free, nutrient dense, and give totally sustainable food security.

The agroforestry system

works well and benefits from the water management system we have developed here, using a system of swales, ponds and hedges to slow down and sink the rain, which seems to fall all at once or not at all these days. Slowing the runoff helps to prevent flooding downstream, and holding the water in the landscape significantly improves trees, establishment, growth, and production.

Our plans in more detail will be published on the website Moonridgefarm.co.uk

All the best for the year ahead to everyone from everyone at Moon Ridge Farm.



Some of our Shropshire sheep, the tree "friendly" breed, enjoying the shelter.

Merv Anstey

Bert Jewell writes Rhymes and Ways about Gardens and Gardening

February

February in the garden, the wind from the east,
The berries and the seedheads provide quite a feast,
For the blackbirds, the thrush and that pigeon, why not
If left undisturbed it could clear the lot.

The Blue tits, the Goldfinch and the Robin, so cute,
Silently watching as I pull up a root,
Then checking for food as I take a step back,
Will it be lunch or just a nice, tasty snack?

The chattering of Sparrows in a shrub nearby,
A few minutes later and out they all fly,
Some finding a spot, somewhere sheltered and warm,
Away from the rain, the wind and the occasional storm.

As the Wren makes its way through the climbing rose,
That Easterly wind now biting my nose,
Telling me it's time to call it a day,
To clean off my tools and put them away.

Then head off inside for a well-earned rest,
To think of the birds who'll be building their nest,
Somewhere sheltered from the rain, the occasional storm,
A place where the young can be happy and warm.

Things to do in the garden

When we moved to our bungalow five years ago, the garden, both front and back and along the side, was overgrown with conifer trees, Ivy, a very large Apple tree, Elder bushes and a huge number of brambles. There was also a large number of birds, including the Nuthatch, which I really like.

By taking the garden back to almost a blank canvas, we unfortunately lost most of the birds. It's now a case of waiting until the newly planted shrubs and trees become large enough for the birds to return. In the meantime we have put up a couple of feeders. They attract Goldfinches, Sparrows and Blue Tits. Robins are ground feeders and the Wren will work its way through any type of plant or place wherever insects are hiding. Talking of the Wren, a few years ago in our old garden, we found several Wren nests in the same conifer

tree. It turns out that the male builds quite a few nests and then leaves it to the female to decide which one she wants to use. Now we often hear a lot of chattering amongst Sparrows, seemingly chasing each other around in a hedge or shrub. It is mostly the males that are making the noise and somewhere in the middle of it is a female, so yes, if you can attract birds into the garden, they will act as pest controllers.

Now let's get on with what to do in the garden.

If you are thinking of putting up a nest box or a bug hotel, do it this month so that the birds and bees, like the cutter bee, can get used to them.

Continue to harvest veg, like brussels sprouts and sprouting broccoli, any parsnips left in the ground maybe getting a bit woody, but it's well worth using what you can.

When all has been harvested, pull up any old plants. If you have a compost heap, cut or break up the leaves (you can gently break down the stems with a hammer) and then put the whole lot on the compost heap.

Remove any perennial weeds such as dandelion, docks and thistles,. and add them to the garden waste bin. If, like me, you turn your garden, do it this month before planting and sowing time (next month). Towards the end of this month, garden centres will be displaying some of their summer bedding plants. Remember that these have been grown in a controlled environment to get them into flower. They sell better with a flower, but they may not be hardened off and will sulk if planted out into cold, wet soil. Prune autumn fruiting raspberries by cutting all the fruited canes down to about an inch above ground level. New canes will grow to fruit next autumn.

Plant of the month

"Gaultheria Procumbens"

Also known as "Checkerberry", this is great for containers or growing as a ground cover plant under shrubs. It is evergreen and has small white flowers early in the season. It's the large red berries that they are best known for. Peak season is November to March. Grows to about 6" high, but needs acid soil.

Enjoy your gardening



Peter Cordingley's closing thoughts

I started writing these monthly thoughts back when the earth was still in gas form – 2021 or thereabouts, I think. Or maybe earlier. Frankly, I've no idea, as I'm tragically disorganised, and no longer have any record of what I wrote about on that occasion, or, in many cases, after then. Was it Covid I discussed? Or those irritating cyclists on the A377? The delights of the changing seasons? Or those splendid locally owned shops in Crediton? McDonald's? Redlands?

What's certain is that I've had plenty to say – too much, it seems, for some people. I've occasionally been told that there's no room for a column like this in a village magazine, and certainly no room for views that don't fall perfectly in line with Conservative Party thinking.

Anyhow, my critics can relax now, as that's all in the past. With a new year upon us, I've decided that this is as good a time as any to bow out.

But I won't be going far, as I plan to continue copy-editing the magazine and generally helping editor Peter Hawksley put together what I think is an illuminating record of life in an English village. That's more or less how I thought of the Wonder when I first caught sight of it seven years ago when we settled in Newton after 40 years in Asia.

Way back before Newton, I had been, among other things, editor-in-chief of a raft of six successful magazines in Hong Kong, so I think I know when a magazine is doing the job it's designed to do. And I can tell you that the Newton Wonder does its job very well – very well indeed. For me, it's a fascinating eye-opener into what's going on in this charming little community of ours.

So, these are my last "thoughts". I'm sad to give up the monthly opportunity to irritate people who don't agree with my views, but, much more than that, of course, I have enjoyed trying to introduce a dimension to the magazine that I thought would add something to a publication that, quite rightly, is devoted to all things rural.

Before, I go, a word of thanks to the many kind folk who, over the months, have said they enjoyed reading my column. In particular, I remember the lady (you know who you are) who approached me in Boots in Crediton to say nice things, and the gent who sought me out after a service in the village church to cheer me on. To them and to others like them, and to those who are pleased to see the back of me, all I can say is that it's been fun. It really has.



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Newton St Cyres Gardening Club



I hope that you had an enjoyable & peaceful Christmas, and are looking forward to whatever 2026 brings. On 2nd January, the Met Office announced that 2025 was a double record breaker for the U.K., being both the warmest and sunniest on record. There was also a concerning lack of rain. The first five months of 2025 saw below-average rainfall, and only four months of the year featured rainfall above average. The period from

March to August (meteorological spring and summer combined), saw less than 50% of average rainfall fairly widely across southern and central England, with some areas below 40%.

I hope that you all managed to stay warm and safe.

I cannot start this year without looking at one of the stars of this time of year the **Snowdrops**.



Some time ago the RHS listed five 'terrific' snowdrops from Naomi Slade's *A Plant Lover's Guide to Snowdrops*. These were:

1 Best all-rounder, *Galanthus* 'S.Arnett' Taller than the common species, *G. nivalis*, with honey-scented flowers and easy to grow, as it multiplies quickly and can be divided.

2 Most famous yellow, *G. plicatus* 'Wendys Gold' The flowers are topped with a mango-yellow ovary while the inner petals have long gold marks

3 Best for a starter collection, *G.'Hippolyta'* AGM A Greatorex double, this has neat, compact flowers with concave petals that look semi-circular when fully open.

4 Best classic 'drop', G. x hybridus 'Merlin' AGM thought to be a *G. plicatus* and *G. elwesii* cross, this is a large strong-growing plant with flowers that have a large green ovary and bold all-over green petals.

5 Best Wow Factor, G. elwesii 'Godfrey Owen' AGM This is a daintier snowdrop that is easily identified by the six inner and six outer petals, rather than the more common three plus three.

Staff at the **The Garden House near Yelverton** said "a perfect alignment" of weather conditions and the establishment of a private bequest would lead to the "finest display" to date. The garden features more than 400 named varieties of snowdrop and in 2020 became home to part of the late plant hunter Colin Mason's Fieldgate Collection. Head gardener Nick Haworth said a hot, dry summer and mild autumn had combined with Mason's snowdrops reaching maturity in the 10-acre garden.

I have listed this and a few other gardens worthy of a visit, if you are able, under the What's On section.

JOBS FOR FEBRUARY

No doubt you have been itching to get back into the garden, and hopefully the uncut stems that were left have provided safe habitats for many insects. To continue with efforts to aid nature, I have found a couple of ideas for items you may like to make.

1. The first is a **nesting bundle** for which you will need suitable material such as straw, wool, dry grass, feathers and pet or human hair. You will also need some garden twine and some thin forked twigs. Make sure that the materials are cut into short lengths and then hold in place around the twigs while you wind the twine around them. Continue until you have a reasonable sized bundle. You can then hang this from a tree near potential nest sites.
2. If you have large natural cones left over from Christmas, you can make these into **fat feeders** for the birds. Just mix together two parts birdseed and oats with one part suet or lard (at room temperature) and push the mixture in between the gaps in the opened pine cone. Attach a length of twine and refrigerate the filled cones until the lard has set, then hang the feeder in a safe, sheltered spot. When the birds have eaten the seeds and fat you can re-use the cone to make another feeder. It is important that you clean the cone first in boiling water before reusing, as diseases can spread between birds if feeders are not regularly cleaned.
3. There are already **seed potatoes** in many of the garden centres, and if you have a favourite variety, it is good to buy early. 'Chit' these using empty

egg boxes in a cold, frost-free, well-lit place indoors, ensuring that each seed potato sits upright with the old shrivelled base in the tray and the emerging buds/eyes at the top. These should then be ready to plant out at the end of March or early April.

4. Check when walking on lawns for signs of **spring bulbs** emerging. To make sure that you don't inadvertently trample them, you can use canes as markers until the growth is easier to spot.
5. February is the last chance to cut back any **hedges**, before they start new growth and the birds start to build their nests. Hedgerows provide habitat, act as wildlife corridors, slow soil erosion and water run-off. Many of us will have hedges on, or next to land used for agriculture. The Gov.UK website provides full details and states that "you must not cut or trim a hedgerow that is covered by the rules from 1 March to 31 August".
6. **Cornus stems** can be pruned now, to encourage fresh brightly coloured stems next winter. Cut back the weakest stems to the base, select the strongest coloured stems and cut back to a pair of healthy buds and remove the lowest and thickest wood to avoid congestion at the base. If you want a taller shrub only, thin half of the stems every other year. Once pruned, cover the ground with a layer of mulch.
7. If you grow **Alpines**, now is the time to trim away any dead leaves. Remove any weak seedlings and, if the compost level is low, add gritty, peat-free loam-based compost. Otherwise, simply spread a layer of grit on the surface up to the crown of the plant to protect from moisture.
8. **Shrub roses** can be pruned now, before new leaves start to grow. Using clean, sharp secateurs, first remove any damaged or crossing stems, then cut back any stems which do not look strong enough to carry flowers. The final task is to remove any stems which seem to be 'crowding' the shrub, leaving approximately two-thirds, which will encourage early budding. Always cut to an outward facing bud to give a more open-centred shape allowing air and light through the shrub.

WHAT'S ON?

9th January until 13th March. The Garden House, Buckland

Monachorum, Yelverton. PL20 7LQ 2026 Snowdrop Festival. Open Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays from 10.30-3.30pm. The café will be open, serving their Winter Warmer menu. There will also be specialist nurseries present on selected dates. Full details <https://www.thegardenhouse.org.uk/whats-on/snowdrop-festival-9th-january-mid-march/>

5th, 11th & 17th February. Elworthy Cottage, Elworthy, Taunton Somerset TA4 3PX NGS “A one acre plantsman's garden in tranquil setting. Island beds, scented plants, unusual perennials and ornamental trees and shrubs provide year-round interest. In spring, pulmonarias, hellebores and more than 350 varieties of snowdrops.” **Refreshments:** Tea, Coffee & Cake in aid of Childrens' Hospice Southwest. **Admission** Adult £5, Children free. **Opening times** 11am-4.30pm.

6th, 13th & 21st February Higher Cherubeer Garden, Dolton, Winkleigh, EX19 8PP NGS. **Refreshments:** Homemade Teas, **Admission** Adult £6, Children free. **Opening times** 2pm-5pm

Monday February 16th 7.30pm Upton Pyne Garden Club. The Speaker will be **Peter Savage** from **Bowdens Hosta Nursery**

Starting on **Saturday 14 February, RHS Rosemoor** and continuing all year. “Explore *The Wind in the Willows*: A Garden Adventure trail following Mole, Ratty and Badger and chase after naughty Mr Toad as you go on an expedition across the garden. Journey through the garden alongside Mole and Ratty, while encountering various characters and learning about nature, loyalty and friendship. You could even enjoy a picnic like Ratty and Mole”. Normal admission applies. Members & Children under 5 Free, Children aged 5 – 16 £5

Tuesday 24th February 7pm Crediton Garden Club: The Growing Well Garden, Bow The Growing Well Garden at Bow: a presentation by Dr Susan Taheri of Bow Medical Practice. Refreshments on arrival, 7pm start. Members free, visitors £3. Annual membership £12. All welcome!

Saturday 28th February 11am-2pm Sustainable Crediton Annual Seed Share. The Boniface Centre. Stalls, displays, music, information, refreshments, lunch. Free Entry, donations welcome

Wednesday 4th March 7.30pm Newton St Cyres Garden Club meeting with Saul Walker talking about orchids. We are pleased to welcome Saul back to speak at our evening meeting. Always entertaining, and possessing so much knowledge, this promises to be another great evening. Saul plans to bring plants for sale on the night from Burnham Nurseries. Admission to include tea/coffee and biscuits £3.50. No membership required – all welcome.

Happy Gardening

Nicola Baker

NEWTON ST CYRES GARDENING CLUB

ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME BACK

SAUL WALKER

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happily answer any questions that you may have.

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POST
OFFICE

Dr Mike Anderson – a true pillar of the community

At a time when securing a doctor's appointment can seem like a test of stamina and patience, Dr Michael Anderson was a throwback to a lost age. For him, house visits and personal care were a natural part of a doctor's role in society. Ann Quon Cordingley has been talking to people who remember him.

A kind and caring doctor with a genuinely personal touch. That is how many people will remember Dr Michael Anderson, who passed away peacefully at his Newton House home at the age of 86 last November.

“Many people in Crediton and the surrounding area will remember him fondly,” says local resident Sue Browne. “He was always kind, caring and considerate with his patients.”

Among his many qualities as a physician, Dr Anderson was known for making house calls to check on ailing patients. Shirley Vallance recalls him turning up at her home one evening, knowing her son was poorly. “He spent time checking in with us both. A complete surprise but a very welcome visit and a very special family doctor,” she posted on Facebook.

Known to many simply as Dr Mike, he always seemed destined for a career in medicine. Born on the Wirral to Dr Harry and Audrey Anderson, he studied medicine at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. While training at St Thomas's Hospital in London, he met Anna Wingate, whom he married in 1966 and had three children with. After a spell in general practice in Ellesmere Port, the family moved in the mid-1970s to Crediton, where Mike worked as a GP.

And then came a pivotal moment. Dr Mike, along with Dr Paul Westwood and Dr Sheila Townsend, started a small medical practice at 3 Union Terrace in Crediton (now a dental



Mike Anderson: An old-school family doctor

practice). However, they quickly outgrew the space and established Newcombes Medical Centre, a larger purpose-built facility that opened in 1990.

The partners worked tirelessly, providing patients in Crediton and surrounding areas, including Newton, with the best possible medical care, routinely making home visits. It was during a home visit that he met his second wife, Vivianne Phaure. “I got to know him because my mother was his patient,” recalls Vivianne. “She had cancer, so he used to come out to see her.”

They married in 1989, creating a blended family of five children from Vivianne’s previous marriage and three from Mike’s. When Dr Mike retired from Newcombes in 2000, he vowed to spend his retirement playing golf and indulging his love of skiing, travelling and photography. But it didn’t work out that way.

One weekend the phone rang, and the caller asked if Mike could help out as a locum. “The next thing you know, he was at work on Monday,” says Vivianne. “He ended up being a locum for years.” He was also an GP appraiser, sharing his knowledge and expertise to bring on the next generation of medical practitioners.

With their blended family grown up with children of their own, Dr Anderson and Vivianne decided to downsize, and in 2022 moved from Newbuildings, Crediton, to Newton House, in Newton St Cyres. It was during this time that Dr Mike’s health began to decline, requiring home care during his final months. He passed away peacefully at home on 25th November.

Caregiver Gemma Harris of Bluebird Care helped look after the doctor in his final months. She wrote on Facebook: “Myself and Nikolett Gonda were regular carers for Mike. He was such a lovely gentleman and will be missed by all of us at Bluebird Care. It was a pleasure to have known him.”

Maureen Speller, a neighbour of Dr Mike’s in Newton House, says: “He was a quiet, thoughtful neighbour. I would visit him on occasion after he became less mobile. We would sit and enjoy each other’s company.”

A requiem mass was held at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Exeter on 23rd December, where tributes spoke warmly of a man who was much more than just a doctor. “His quiet presence, thoughtful words and strong values shaped not only his own life, but the lives of all who knew him,” grandson Harry Anderson said in his eulogy. “He believed that character mattered. How you behaved, how you treated others and how you carried yourself in the world. He lived with integrity, curiosity and care. He practiced medicine as a vocation, not just a profession. He built long-lasting relationships with patients over many years and became a true pillar of the community.”

Dr Anderson leaves three children: Catherine, Justin and Thom; and five grandchildren: Harry, Emmi, Ben, Lara and Isabella. He was also stepfather to Anna Maria, Suzie, William, Jane and David and step grandfather to their 12 children.



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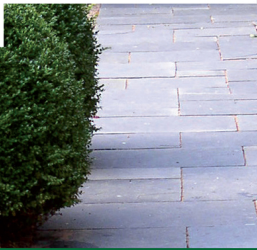
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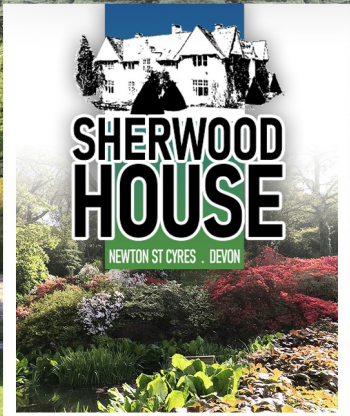
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The Frame We Choose

I recently came across a psychology experiment known as learned helplessness. Researchers found that if people are repeatedly given impossible tasks, they eventually stop trying. Even when the next challenge is straightforward, they stumble, their confidence drained and their performance worse than before.

By contrast, people who experience small, regular successes approach the next challenge with energy and optimism, and they tend to do better.

What others say and do to us matters. But what we often miss is that what we say to ourselves matters just as much.

Imagine if a neighbour constantly told you, “You’ll never manage this. You’re useless. Why even bother?” You would rightly call it bullying. Yet many of us whisper versions of those lines inside our own heads. Self-criticism is a form of self-incivility. And just like being snapped at by a colleague or honked at in traffic, it drags down performance. When I frame every problem as proof of my inadequacy, “I can’t cope”, “I’ll never get this right”, I am effectively being the rude driver to myself.

Most of the time this does not sound dramatic in our heads. It is quieter than that. “I should be better at this by now.” “Other people seem to manage.” “Why does this feel so hard?” These small, half-formed thoughts rarely stop us outright, but they change how we move through the next hour or the next task. We tighten up, rush, avoid, or give up sooner than we otherwise would.

Where we put ourselves matters too. Malcolm Gladwell tells a story about high-performing students choosing American universities. A pupil who excelled at school might find themselves only average at a top-tier college and begin to feel inferior, sometimes performing worse as a result. The same student at a less prestigious college might find themselves near the top of the class. In that environment, they are far more likely to thrive. It is the old big fish in a small pond idea. Sometimes we flourish not by working harder, but by placing ourselves where small wins are possible and confidence can grow.

And that brings it full circle. Framing is not just something we do for ourselves. Just as rudeness can knock someone down, kindness can lift them up. A small compliment, a patient word, an acknowledgement of effort, these are often enough to help someone reframe their own challenges.

Life has a habit of giving us problems. But as with learned helplessness, what matters most is not whether those problems appear, but the frame we bring to them, for ourselves and for each other.

Adam Smith

NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP

Norman and Angevin England 1086 to 1189



A Game of Thrones Newton St Cyres - a pawn in the game

The story covers the hundred year period between the production of Domesday in 1086 and the death of the first Plantagenet King, Henry II in 1189. It includes the reigns of William the Conqueror's two sons William II (Rufus) and Henry I and then the twenty five years of calamitous civil war between the Empress Matilda and King Stephen I, known now as the Anarchy.

The story is partly about the continual and brutal dynastic warfare within the Norman and Angevin royal families as competing claims to the Crown of England and the Duchy of Normandy were fought out on the battlefields of England and France. It is also characterised by the ruthless exercise of force, wealth and of patronage by the Kings on their subjects. The use of landholdings, like the Manor of Newton St Cyres, by the Norman Kings was one of their principal levers of power, used to reward, coerce and control the nobles and their houses.

The story of Newton St Cyres was also bound up in the constant struggle of the Norman nobility to secure power, status and wealth. It involves the crucial part played by high ranking women in brokering power and ensuring alliances and succession.

Finally the story is about the growing power and authority of the medieval church through the foundation and endowment of monastic houses like the Augustinian Priory of Plympton. Gifts of land,, like that of Newton St Cyres by the baronial elite to newly emerging monastic orders, were of particular importance both in securing royal favour and in demonstrating status and power.

Part One-- Domesday 1086 to the death of Henry I 1135

Domesday

The first documented mention of Newton arrives in the Domesday Book of 1086. At that time it was recorded as a large well established Manor. It is fascinating that Newton merits two quite separate entries in the book which set out, what appear to be, conflicting claims to the land. One claim by a sitting tenant called Dun, seemingly a turncoat Saxon nobleman who has been permitted to retain his land after the Conquest. The other claim came from the first Norman Bishop of Exeter, Osbern FitzOsbern. No other manor within the Crediton Hundred merited

a separate entry in Domesday . Newton got two. The relevance of that is for another story on a different day.

We do not know how these competing claims were resolved but, perhaps ominously for Dun, the Domesday surveyor notes that “he has not paid the Geld”. Non payment of the King’s taxes was a regular pretext for land forfeiture particularly as both King William and his son William II (Rufus) had expensive wars to fight in France and badly needed money. It could well be that William II decided to decide the dispute by forfeiting the Manor to himself.

At this point Newton disappears briefly from the historical record only to re-emerge some sixty years later circa 1150 in the possession of one Emma De Pont De L ’Arche , a young Norman noblewoman, who then offered the Manor as a gift to the Augustinian Priory of Plympton. We attempt to trace the most likely route that the Manor of Newton took in the land holdings of the Norman elite during those sixty years and what happened to Emma’s gift.

William II (Rufus) seizes the Throne

William I (the Conqueror) was to live only a year after the publication of his Domesday Book. He died ingloriously after a riding accident on a French battlefield in 1087. His son William (Rufus) II rushed from the scene of his fathers death , seized the royal treasury in England and had himself crowned King, leaving his father’s body to be attended by servants.

Unsurprisingly William immediately faced a bloody rebellion by his older brother Robert Duke of Normandy who felt that it was his right to have the kingship . William Rufus turned out to be an able if ruthless King; a good soldier and general . He was not only successful in his war against his brother, he was also successful in his wars against the Scots, the Welsh and the French Crown.

William Rufus meets an “accident” out hunting

Unfortunately William was not so successful in his choice of hunting companions. Out hunting with his younger brother Henry in the New Forest in August 1100 he died after being hit by an arrow in suspicious circumstances. Tirel, reputedly one of the best archers in England, happened to be in the hunting party that day and, after his arrow apparently killed the King, he rapidly fled the country for France. There followed numerous and voluble witness statements insisting it was all a complete accident.

Henry seizes the Throne

Henry also left the scene immediately and, seized the royal treasury in Winchester. Three days later he had himself crowned King . William’s body had to be carried to Winchester for burial from the forest, without ceremony, by local peasants.

Like his brother William before him, Henry soon faced bloody battles with his older brother Robert over competing claims to lands and titles. Like his dead brother Henry outfought the hapless Robert on the battlefield, having first betrayed a supposed peace treaty by invading Normandy. In a keen demonstration of brotherly kindness Henry imprisoned Robert in a French castle for the rest of his life.



Henry I of England

Henry I favourites - his “new men”

Henry came to the throne promising better and fairer government and, of course, lower taxes . In making these promises it must be remembered that Henry was not talking about being fairer to the 99% of the population who were not of Norman origin. These were the ordinary folk of England who did not come from France, could not speak French, most

of whom were illiterate and survived by manual labour in the fields. No ..Henry was addressing the ten thousand or so individuals and their families who comprised the Norman elite, who, forty four years after the Conquest, either owned or held most of the land and who held all the main positions of power. Many still do.

To his credit Henry I showed himself to be a skillful, intelligent monarch who achieved peace in England, relative stability in Normandy, and notable administrative advances on both sides of the Channel. He delivered on the promise of better and fairer Government even if this fairness meant ruthlessness meted out more equitably. As has often since been the case, his promise of lower taxes became a promise of higher taxes but administered more equitably and efficiently.

In achieving this success Henry promoted loyal, talented if usually lesser-known, individuals. They were promoted to high government and administrative roles like judges, sheriffs, officials, to build a strong, efficient administration and counteract the power of the established Norman aristocracy. These were his “new men”.

Two such men are important in the story of Newton. One was William De Pont De L 'Arche, the other William Warelwast. However before we meet them we must first learn about an older established noble house of Normandy – the Mauduit family- and a child heiress Constance Mauduit.

Graeme Barnell

NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP 2026

Wednesday February 11th The Prayer Book Rebellion 1549 Tony Gale

Crediton was a flash point after local men were joined by Cornish Rebels who were rejecting the new Protestant book of Common Prayer printed in English and introduced by Edward VI and his Uncle, Lord Somerset. They went on to besiege Exeter for several weeks. Mercenaries were among the troops sent to relieve Exeter. They followed the rebels to Crediton.

Wednesday March 11th Holidaying in Devon in the 1920s Paul Cleave

NB The dates are both for the 11th not the 12th as was mistakenly announced at the last meeting

Everyone is welcome, no special membership just a fee of £3 to include a hot drink and biscuits.

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

NEWTON RAMBLERS

Sunday 8th February

For our February walk we will walk the **Two Chapels** route, starting at Posbury Chapel EX17 3QB. Services at St Luke's Chapel are 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month so we should be able to park in the Chapel Car park.

Our figure of eight walk will take in some lovely scenery, walking via Venny Tedburn and include St Thomas Oldridge Chapel.

The walk is just over 4 miles and includes some ascents, and corresponding descents.

We will meet at Newton St Cyres Parish Hall Car Park at 0930 to arrange car sharing. Those wishing to meet at Posbury Chapel, we aim to set off from there around 10am.

Lunch has been booked at the Three Little Pigs in Crediton. Please contact Nicola (01392 851985) by Thursday 5th February, if you wish to join us for lunch.

Please note that anyone joining this walk, does so at their own risk.



NEWTON ST CYRES IN BLOOM!

Wednesday 25 February at 7pm

Planning our 2026 Entry starts this month with a meeting, open to all, at The Beer Engine on Wednesday 25 February, 7pm (courtesy of Will and Vicky).



Now that we are a **GOLDEN VILLAGE!** we will have a lot to live up to, so your ideas, plans, projects and expertise are needed to ensure we can be the best once again! Thank you.

Christine, Cathy & Paul



**Torrridge, North,
Mid & West Devon**

Lasting Power of Attorney

Making a lasting power of attorney (LPA) is not just for older people! Anyone can appoint an LPA; it means nominating a trusted friend or relative to act on your behalf and manage your finances, care or medical treatment if you should ever lose mental capacity either because of illness or due to an accident.

The kinds of illness that may prevent you from making decisions for yourself include dementia, mental health problems, a brain injury, alcohol or drug misuse or the side effects of medical treatment. Setting up an LPA doesn't mean that you are expecting anything to happen but it's something you may want to do in case something happens in the future.

There are two types of LPA; property and financial affairs whereby you give authority to someone to manage and make decisions about things like buying and selling property, bank, building society and other financial accounts, welfare benefits and debt. The health and welfare LPA gives someone the authority to deal with and make decisions about things like where you live, your day-to-day care and your healthcare treatment. With both types of LPA you can choose to give authority to handle all or just specified areas of authority.

You can make an LPA either online at [Welcome to GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) or by downloading the forms. There is a different form for each type of LPA and if you want to appoint someone to cover both you will need both forms. You then register them with the Office of the Public Guardian and you will need to send a registration fee with the forms. The Public Guardian then registers the LPA which can take up to 20 weeks. They then notify you and your attorneys at which point the LPA can be used.

You don't have to be a legal expert to be a volunteer adviser at CA TNMWD as full training and ongoing guidance is given. It is very interesting and varied work and demand for our services is increasing. If you can give one day a week to help us support people in our local communities who need our help and advice, please do get in touch.

Email recruitment@citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk we'd love to hear from you!

Rosanna Teale

REDLANDS – A POSITIVE PROGNOSIS

For some, the Redlands medical practice is a bit like Marmite – either you love it or you don't. But, as Ann Quon Cordingley reports, there are good reasons for the public to be encouraged by the way things are shaping up.



The Partners - Jo Harris (Right) and Kirsty Konder

Members of a group of patients set up more than a year ago to help the Redlands medical practice improve its service say there are clear signs of progress ... but more still needs to be done. "I have

found the service exceptionally good," says Barabara Clift, acting chair of the Patient Participation Group. "However, the big issue is with non-urgent doctor appointments."

That's when patients with problems that are not critical for share their problems with us, it's nearly always about the wait times," she says.



League of Friends volunteers

Winter is a time of reflection and repose

You may think yourself lazy, or flawed. Yet your body is made of almost exactly the same elements as the stars. Your bone composition matches the coral in the seas and you, my friend, are ruled by the moon and the sun. Whether you like it or not. So no, you are not lazy, Nature is simply pulling you to slow, like the life, floral and fauna around you. It is not your moment to rise. It is winter, you are wintering. And you are right on time. - Donna Ashworth

Contrary to the popular idea that the beginning of the year is a good time for resolutions and plans, it goes against the energy of the seasons. In winter, things don't grow, the seeds are deep in the soil waiting for the earth to warm and the sap to rise. Starting 2026 with a push to make changes is likely going to make you feel like you've failed before the month is out.

So, don't start this year with resolutions!

Instead, use winter to prepare your heart and mind for the active energy that will naturally return, as the days grow longer.

Use winter to clarify your vision, to reflect and rest. It's not an easy time. It's still getting colder, the nights are still long and any sense of plenty and abundance can feel far away. Now is the time to gently prepare for changes or new intentions by trusting you're doing the groundwork, and by resisting the push for outward action. The heavy lifting can happen when you are ready, and you'll know when this comes if you've taken time to rest, replenish and reflect.

Hibernation is a natural state, and although complete retreat during winter is not feasible, we could all do with a bit more focus inward. Whether to prepare for changes and resolutions you're thinking about, or to take time to let your heart guide you to what you really want in this coming year.

Hypnotherapy can support you to get ready for the changes and resolutions you might be thinking about or provide you with support to encourage your dreams and hopes to emerge.

Hypnotherapy is a body/mind experience that helps you to accept the natural energies of the season, and harness this continuing wintertime in preparation for early spring when growing things is so much easier.

Sessions will invite your subconscious mind to do the work, while you relax and let go of pressure, stress and worry.

You will be amazed at how effective it is. And all bookings made in February, both online and in person, receive a **20% discount**. I now have a practice room in Howe Chiropractic in Crediton, I'd love to see you there! You can make a booking for a free online consultation or a session on this link. <https://fionamacbethhypnotherapy.setmore.com> Or email me <https://fionamacbethhypnotherapy.co.uk>

Fiona Macbeth

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

It's a dilemma facing not just Redlands but medical practices across the country, as they shift away from the old system of "first come-first served" to the newer but little-understood triage system, where patients are prioritised based on medical need.

Dr Joanna (Jo) Harris, one of the two partners at Redlands, agrees that wait times can be frustrating, but believes things are getting better. Currently the wait time for a routine appointment is between six and eight weeks – compared with the national average of 13.3 weeks, according to the King's Fund, an independent health and social-care think tank.

"We'd rather it was shorter, but with the level of staffing and budgets, that's where we sit and it will probably be another year before we can get wait times down to four weeks," Jo says.

The system is based on clinical need. Says Jo: "If someone needs to be seen more quickly, we do arrange that. We also have same-day appointments, two-to-four-week appointments and then waiting-list appointments. It's just that it is done based on clinical need rather than because patients are fed up waiting."

In the new era of primary health care, identifying issues such as wait times and bringing them to the attention of the practice is one of the reasons the patient participation group (PPG) was set up. Comprising volunteer patients and carers, the group aims to give patients a voice in the design and delivery of health services. All GP practices are required to have a PPG.

The PPG meets every three months to discuss issues that will help the practice improve the services it provides to its 16,000 registered patients.

Barbara Clift, its acting chair, is a retired executive with IBM who moved to Devon two years ago from Bath. She volunteered for the group because of her extensive voluntary work in the health and mental health sectors, including as a former non-executive Director for Somerset NHS Foundation Trust.

She stresses that the group has no intention of sitting around complaining. "We are here to work constructively with the surgery to improve the patient experience and to offer feedback," she says. "Of course, we do get people who come along and want to share their problems with us. And it's nearly always about wait times."

She says one of the biggest issues is the lack of understanding of how primary care works. That's why Redlands threw open its doors on 10th January to allow patients and users the opportunity to look behind the scenes at the back office, telephone answering rooms, consultation rooms and more – and, of course, to meet members of the practice team, from its two partners, Dr Jo and Kirsty Conder, to its specialists, nurses, back-room operators,

as well as members of the PPG and League of Friends volunteers, a charity supporting local health services by raising funds and providing amenities.

So how much influence does the PPG have and what has It achieved? “In our early days, we were involved in the new website design,” says Barbara. “We were given the prototype and we were listened to on how to make it more accessible and user friendly.”

Barbara commends Dr Jo for actively engaging with the group and being prepared to listen to their feedback. “Jo comes to our face-to-face meetings and she listens to us. She is also good at explaining when things can’t be done.”

One topic they both agree on is the need to encourage more patients to use the online services Airmid or the NHS app [<https://www.redlandsprimarycare.nhs.uk/online-services/>] to make appointments or find out test results. This would allow patients to access their information faster and relieve congestion on the phone lines.

After listening to comments from visitors at the Open Day, Barbara had a light-bulb moment “It might be useful if we could run little sessions here showing people how to set it up on their phones to register for online services. Once you set up your access, you just press a button and you can get things like test results.”

Improving communication, providing information and feedback are also important. “We’re ambassadors,” says Barbara. “We are in the community to explain the system – for example, why you don’t always need to see a doctor and that your needs may be better met by seeing a physiotherapist or some other specialist.”

Despite the ongoing issues, Dr Jo feels things are moving in the right direction. “I believe our patients’ understanding of the triage system is getting better. We always are looking at ways at to improve patient flow and make things more efficient, more automated. We’re looking at all our pathways to try to streamline things, because the more we can deal with things efficiently, the less the pressure on the rest of the system. So trying to get patients to use our online services will reduce pressure on the phones for people ringing up for things like test results.”

So, it’s baby steps so far. But conversations with the PPG and Dr Harris suggest Redlands is definitely stepping out in the right direction.

If you would like to have your say on Redlands, why not consider joining the Patient Participation Group?

<https://www.redlandsprimarycare.nhs.uk/practice-information/patient-participation-group/ppg-sign-up-form/>

Photos by Ann Quon Cordingley

Mining in Newton St Cyres

Jane Quicke, nee Coster via Godolphin, introduced mining to the farm in Newton St Cyres and Upton Pyne in the 1770s. She brought in Cornish tin miners she knew from her marriage to Francis Godolphin, a wealthy Cornishman who died young. The Godolphin wealth came not just from land but also from mining for the early Industrial Revolution. Shades of Poldark, Cornwall led the way, based on its ancient mining knowledge and deposits of copper, tin, arsenic and so on from its ancient geology.



Newton St Cyres is now and was then a peaceful, beautiful and rural village surrounded by farmland. It must have been a dramatic change to start mining. Back in those days, though, people did not see the countryside as something to be preserved untouched. Rather, people considered it as their duty to husband the whole breadth of resources bestowed on humans by a beneficent God.

The privileged also saw their obligation to provide a living for those less fortunate than themselves. ‘It is the duty of the wealthy man/ To provide employment for the artisan’, the old rhyme goes. The natural world was also something to be tamed, brought under human stewardship. People were up against a natural world that doesn’t of its own accord provide human beings with the means of life. Food, fuel, clothing, building materials had to be wrested from nature by the labour of almost the whole of society.

The great resource, the divine gift that Jane spotted, was that Newton St Cyres sits straddled on the Crediton Trough, a fault line that brings minerals up from the depths of the planet closer to the surface. They found the manganese lode in neighbouring Upton Pyne. The family realized they were sitting on the seam. Manganese was used to colour glass purple. Jane’s Cornish connections brought Cornish tin miners to garner the gift.

Mining wasn’t completely new in Newton St Cyres. In the woods you can even now see signs if you know where to look, an elevated soil and stone platform that may be an Iron

Age smelting site. It is sited at the top of a ridge to catch the breeze, in order to burn the hottest to combine iron ore with charcoal to take out the oxides and other impurities to make iron.

The miners lived in houses, built from stone, thatch and cob. They have mostly disappeared into the earth they were made from. You can see some foundations still, above Marsh Lane. The remains of their vegetable gardens are set in terraces among the poplars in Tally Field, below Tinpits Hill.

The miners dug pits that you can still see in the woods at the top of Tinpits Hill. They sorted the rich pieces of ore, leaving spoil heaps; they also found lead and silver. For a brief time, it was the most productive manganese mine in the world. The miners ran through the richest seams and the mine closed in 1810.

The mine briefly reopened in the 1870's when prices for ore were high. It had deeper shafts with adits draining them. Prices dropped, and the seam was priced out by richer mines overseas. The mine closed for the last time in 1879.

You can see, if you know where to look, the remains of old adits and shafts. A man a little older than me, when he was an adventurous teenager, crawled up the adit below Ford Farm deep into the earth until he could go no further.

Mary Quicke



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Film - System Update
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WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

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WHAT'S ON THIS FEBRUARY

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o.625m³
BULK BAG
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<i>loose tipped</i>	<i>loose tipped</i>	<i>loose tipped</i>	<i>loose tipped</i>	

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



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NEW YEAR'S EVE CEILIDH

What better way to see out the Old Year and see in the New than at a ceilidh within walking distance of your home! The Parish Hall was transformed into an event space, complete with decorations and lights and a welcome drink of Prosecco or Elderflower Presse.

Once again, the brilliant Barnstormers Ceilidh Band, were terrific. Great music, great calling and great patience! The 'ceilidh virgins' soon got into the spirit of the event, and the hall was alive with dancing and laughter.

With all the energy expended in the dancing, sustenance was provided in the form of jacket potatoes with assorted fillings. The bar ran throughout the evening and 'Auld Lang Syne' was sung at midnight.

Thank you to all the many helpers on the night, and to all those who attended and supported the parish hall.



Mike and Chris preparing the food

Look out for details of future events in the Hall. We look forward to seeing you.

Nicola Baker

Newton St Cyres Parish Council

NOTICE OF VACANCY for PARISH COUNCILLORS

**Would you like to join the Parish Council?
We meet monthly on the first Thursday**

**You would be very welcome – we are a friendly
bunch and training would be provided**

***For an informal discussion about the role of a Parish
Councillor, please contact Liz Ouldrige, Chair (01392
851621) or the Parish Clerk***

parishclerk@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk

***To be eligible you must be a British subject, or a citizen of the
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of the twelve months preceding the date of this notice have resided
in or within three miles of the parish; or your only place of work
during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date
is in the parish.***

**For more information about council activities please visit the
council website at [https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/
newtonstcyres](https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/newtonstcyres)**

UPTON PYNE & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB 2026

Monday 16th February at 7.30pm

We welcome **PETER SAVAGE** from

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an illustrated talk on HOSTAS

Monday 16th March at 7.30pm



STEPHEN POWLES returns with an illustrated talk on

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

NEWTON WEATHER

In this month's article we review October, November and December weather.

During this period the highest MONTHLY temperatures were 17.6 on 6th October, 16.8 on 6th November, 13.7 on 7th December.

The lowest MONTHLY temperatures were 4.9 on 30th October, minus 3.7 on 26th November, minus 4.7 on 31st December.

The wettest MONTHLY days were 20th October at 11.8mm, 14th November at 14.2mm, 18th December at 15.6 mm.

The sunniest MONTHLY days were 1st October at 12.5 kWh, 24 November at 10.705kWh, and 25th December at 7.4 kWh.

The windiest MONTHLY days were 32.9 mph on 8th October, 31.7mph on 12th November & 30.4mph on 18th December.

In December I experienced issues with the outdoor temperature sensor not connecting to the base unit. Sadly, this is the reason for missing readings in the December temperature graph. At the time of writing this article, the manufacturer investigated & concluded that the outdoor sensor has an unrepairable fault. However, everything has been working perfectly since 1st January!!! Watch this space.....

Rob Crane.

.A Note from the editor

"Unfortunately, although the equipment is connecting again we have a further problem recording the wind and rainfall from our equipment.

Since we bought this equipment both Ravi and Rob have had problems printing out the data.

We plan to go back to the suppliers to instigate changes to the equipment which will enable us to provide our readers with useful and accurate data."

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 106



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



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"Attends-Moi" - A Mystery of the Church unravels



In September last year I, and many others, enjoyed the Ravilious and local photographic exhibition, being particularly amazed by the way that quite uninspiring and even ugly agricultural images could be so beautiful.

Looking at the new servery and kitchen, which had been designed to incorporate a memorial which had become a familiar part of the church, somebody asked; "who was Win Birch?". I didn't know and no-one around seemed to know. Neither the vicar, nor the churchwarden knew anything about the family except that Jean Wilkins remembered them and that they lived at Enniskerry on Sand Down Lane. Win had died of cancer and, bereft, Harry had commissioned the memorial at the back of the church.

Later in the year, Sue Browne, our church warden, had a chance meeting in the church with Mark Stewart-Birch, Win and Harry's grandson. He told Sue that his brother, Tim and cousin, Matt had, taken him to stay at 'Enniskerry' for his 60th, to re-visit the place they had spent many a holiday.

John (eldest son of John and Win Birch) later sent the following email briefly outlining the history of Win and Harry Birch.

"Winifred Baxter (the youngest daughter of the Baxter Bible publishers in Ireland) was born in 1914 in Clontarf, a suburb of Dublin. Harry Birch, the 3rd son of John Birch (and Sons – the 1st Electrical Engineers in Ireland) was born in 1910 in Enniskerry, a village south of Dublin, inland from the coastal town of Bray. They met at Easons Department Store in Dublin – Win was a shop assistant and Harry an electrician, working for his father's company. They got married in Dublin in 1935.

In 1940, Harry's work took him to Manchester in war time England. Win and her then three children (John, Clive and Barbara) followed their father to Manchester the following summer of 1941. Their 4th child, Stanley was born in 1943 in Sale, Manchester. Harry's job (a Engineer/Surveyor for the Commercial Union) then took him and his family to Liverpool in 1945 and finally to Devon in 1947.

In 1948 Harry, Win and the family moved to Newton-St-Cyres, Devon. They eventually found a plot of land and were granted permission to build a home on Sand Down Lane, where 'Enniskerry' was built in 1950! The children spent their childhood in Newton St Cyres, until they grew up and their lives took them to other places. Win and Harry lived at 'Enniskerry' for the rest of their lives...

Win died in 1996 (at the age of 82) and Harry subsequently commissioned the Vestry Memorial for Newton St Cyres church, which is inscribed in her memory. Harry lived at 'Enniskerry' until his passing in October 2002 (at the age of 92). Their memorial plaque in the graveyard is inscribed 'Attends-moi' (Wait for Me)."

Peter Hawksley



NEWTON ST CYRES CHURCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

an update

We had a successful 2025, thanks to everyone who participated and came to events.

We completed the fundraising and installation of the servery and toilet, which was blessed by Bishop Moira!

In May we had Tim's Jesus Loving and Laughing exhibition, which gave some of us a new take on our Lord, so often presented in another way.

In July we had the Monteverdi string band from Music in Country Churches with their early renaissance Italian music.

In September we had the Ravilious and local photographic exhibition thanks to the expert work of Gordon Hepworth.

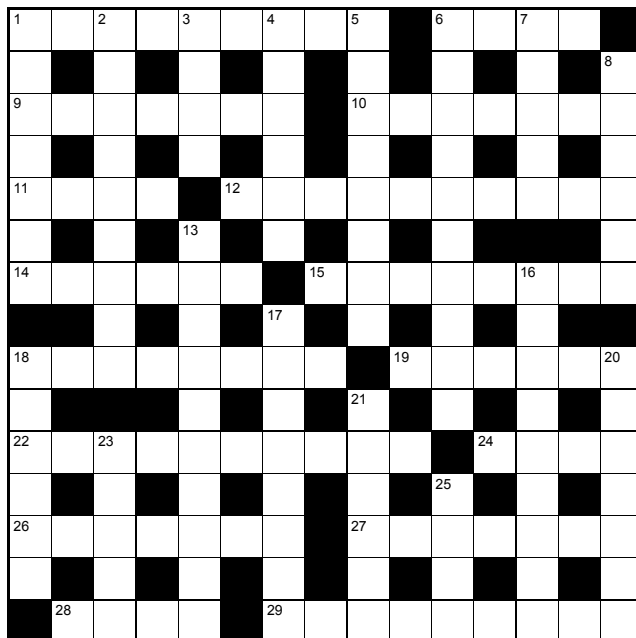
All the activity of the Association is in the spirit of the original community consultation which many of you in the village participated in.

We will soon be fundraising for work on the plaster and paint of the church interior and would appreciate any help in publicising this in the village and on social media.

If you can help, please let us know! We would also welcome anyone who would like to join our small steering group to make 2026 even better!

Tom Langdon-Davies

Cryptic Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 New lad Ron works for one with property (9)
- 6 One employs stud (4)
- 9 Accountant needs to demonstrate acquiring source of capital – an easy one (4,3)
- 10 Interim changes for Euston, Waterloo etc (7)
- 11 State handout a help to some extent (4)
- 12 Courage to canoodle in traffic jam (10)
- 14 Area of Christianity perhaps left one out (6)
- 15 Criminal has battle to get soup (8)
- 18 Workforce on ring road in Midlands town (8)
- 19 English composer caught with conspirator (6)
- 22 Again made a great effort to be moderate? (10)
- 24 Could be North European (4)
- 26 Organised a trip to one who lives his country (7)
- 27 Nominate a quiet location (7)
- 28 Hitch perhaps, making speed in the main (4)
- 29 Tell niece about the customers (9)

DOWN

- 1 Person without, say, varnish? (7)
- 2 Lost again, recollecting pleasant memories (9)
- 3 Cry of pain when taking top off settee (4)
- 4 Said to give mild rebuke for two presents (3,3)
- 5 Turning list into muddle (8)
- 6 American composer's dance quartet (6-4)
- 7 Beat small, small child (5)
- 8 Choose the French relish (6)
- 13 Traditional sort shakes up Microsoft around start of November (10)
- 16 Remote moving object associated with space ultimately (9)
- 17 Creative traits wrongly associated with one Conservative (8)
- 18 Gets undressed for journey aboard ship (6)
- 20 Item of confectionery that is for loved one (7)
- 21 Gurkha seen in alpine resort (6)
- 23 Chap embraces a fallen angel (5)
- 25 Second joke is drawn out and twisted (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.

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

© Web Sudoku 2026 - www.websudoku.com

Solution to December 2025/January 2026 Cryptic Crossword

¹ D	E	² C	K		³ D	⁴ I	⁵ S	⁶ T	⁷ R	⁸ I	⁹ C	¹⁰ T	S	
O		O				G		E		N		A		¹¹ D
¹² L	U	C	Y		¹³ U	N	B	E	A	T	A	B	L	E
L		K		¹⁴ N		O		S		E		L		C
¹⁵ A	M	A	T	E	U	R	S		¹⁶ O	R	D	E	A	L
R		H		O		A				M				A
	¹⁷ B	O	A	C	O	N	S	¹⁸ T	R	I	C	¹⁹ T	O	R
²⁰ F		O		L		C		U		N		A		E
²¹ A	L	P	H	A	B	E	T	I	C	A	L	L	Y	
G				S				L		B		L		²² R
²³ E	X	²⁴ C	I	S	E		²⁵ W	E	L	L	T	O	D	O
N		O		I		²⁶ M		R		E		R		M
²⁷ D	E	M	O	C	R	A	T	I	C	²⁸ E	D	D	A	
S		M		A		I		E			E		N	
	²⁹ F	A	U	L	T	L	E	S	S	³⁰ D	R	A	Y	

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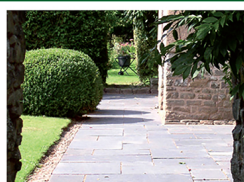
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February: The Month of Small Signs

February is a funny month. It has all the confidence of a season that thinks it's still winter, but none of the charm.

December has twinkly lights. January has a kind of grim determination ("New year, new me!"). March has daffodils and the start of spring. But February? February mostly has soggy gloves, suspicious coughs, and the sort of weather where the sky seems permanently damp. It's the month that makes you consider taking up new indoor hobbies - like baking, reading, or staring out of the window to check the forecast.

And yet, despite all this, February is also the month of small signs.

You see them if you look carefully. One day the churchyard looks like it did last week – brown, cold, and miserable. And then suddenly there they are: snowdrops. Tiny, bright, and determined, like little white flags sticking up from the earth saying, "Winter, we're done with your nonsense!"

The light begins to change too. Not in a dramatic way – more in a sneaky, incremental way. You look at the clock and realise it's still light at five o'clock, and for a moment you feel wildly optimistic, as though you've personally achieved something. Then you step outside, get hit by freezing sideways drizzle, and remember you still live in Britain. Still, the mornings are lighter, and even the birds seem to be rehearsing for spring, clearing their throats in the hedgerows.

Although February may not feel wildly encouraging, it is full of quiet turning points.

And it makes me think of how God often works like this too.

Not always in the big showy ways. Not always with lightning bolts and angelic choirs and life-changing moments. Sometimes God's work is more like February: slow, subtle, and easy to miss unless you're paying attention.

Hope for us doesn't always arrive with trumpets either. Sometimes it arrives with ... snowdrops. Or a small kindness. Or the right message at the right moment. Or the cup of tea that someone offers you just when you need it.

Jesus often points people towards the small things too, like the mustard seed, or the yeast in the dough. Most of the time in the Bible, God doesn't bulldoze people into transformation; he nudges, he plants, and he grows things quietly.

So perhaps February has something to teach us - apart from the fact that a waterproof coat is not optional in Devon. It invites us to become people who notice small signs.

Notice the way the days are lengthening, even if it's only by minutes. Notice how people keep going, even when life is cold and grey. Notice that your spirit can feel a bit wintry, and still spring can be on its way.

And if you happen to pass the churchyard this month, take a look. Snowdrops can teach us something, I think. They're not flashy. They don't make a fuss. They just quietly appear, insisting that winter won't have the final word. And that's the message February offers us too: yes, it's muddy. Yes, it's cold. Yes, it's February. But God is still at work – quietly, persistently – and hope is already pushing through.

Revd Deborah Leighton Plom
Curate
Netherexe Mission Community

Celebrating Women's Lives

An Update

Well, we had the theme – *Celebrating Women's Lives* – and, following a lively and collaborative meeting on 16th January, we now have a focus, a significant number of events planned and a launch date of **Sunday 8th March 2026**.

The focus? Never mind the Bayeux Tapestry, we are looking to create the **Netherexe Communities Collage**, a massive piece of art that will reflect and celebrate the women and events that have helped shape our local communities.

continued on page 66

Working alongside the South West Women's Art Group, we will run workshops to encourage and enable all local groups, organisations, schools and communities to contribute to this amazing piece of art. Created in panels, the art will celebrate our wonderful communities. And to kickstart this we need your help to identify the significant women from your communities who have helped make your village what it is today. We're looking for those who pushed the boundaries, who didn't settle for the status quo, who were or are 'wicked adventuresses'. We already have some names – but we need many more.

And we also need to know about those village and community events that have helped shape where you live – from the deeply important and significant to the more mundane. You know the type of event: When and where was the first school? Who ran the shop, the post office, the nursery? Railways and roads. Jubilees and memorials. This is a great opportunity for all our local history groups and history buffs to really dig into the archives and come up with some wonderful, women and events from our very own communities. Please do let me know.

But there's more! We would also like to put on a play written about the work of just one of those local Devon women: Margaret Partridge. Margaret introduced the first electric light to the village of Thorverton a hundred years ago. The play, "*Wire in the Garden*", was extensively researched and written by a Harvard undergraduate a few years ago and, amazingly enough, is set in Thorverton. It features the roles of the Parish Council, the Baptist minister and a resident. The play raises some challenging issues about attitudes of people to women leading such projects, and also of the wider suspicion of new technology – themes that resonate a century later.

It would be great to be able to perform this play some time over the next year as part of the programme of events celebrating women's lives. To do this, we do need someone prepared to take the lead in directing it, including leading rehearsals. If you would be interested in producing this play or would like to know more about it, please make contact with Neville Lane either by phone on 07496 392106 or by email to nevilleslane@gmail.com.

This is just the start of a yearlong celebration, which will include a mix of events, exhibitions, music, festivals, poetry evenings, discussions, displays, films, books and more. There will definitely be something for everyone! All of this will be showcased at our launch party on **Sunday 8th March** (which also happens to be International Women's Day) **from 4pm at the Memorial Hall, Thorverton**. All are warmly welcome to come and see – and to take part!

All blessings

Revd Tim Collins

Rector, Netherexe Mission Community

07449 111663/ tim.collins@netherexe.org

SERVICES & INFORMATION FEBRUARY 2026

The Netherexe Parishes - A community of Anglican churches in Devon

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

Sunday 1 February

10:00 am Communion
11:15am Service

Stoke Canon
Cadbury

Wednesday 4 February

09:30 am Mid-week Holy Communion

Thorverton
[Exe Valley Farm Shop]

Sunday 8 February

09:30 am Communion
10:30 am Communion

Thorverton
Upton Pyne

Sunday 15 February

09:30 am Communion
09:30 am Bubble Church
10:00 am Coffee & Chat
11:15 am Communion

Brampford Speke
Thorverton
Stoke Canon
Cadbury

Wednesday 18 February [Ash Wednesday]

11:00 am Communion
06:00 pm Communion

Stoke Canon
Upton Pyne

Sunday 22 February

09:30 am Communion
09:30 am Choral Morning Prayer
10:00 am Messy Church
11:15 am Communion

Newton St Cyres
Thorverton
Stoke Canon
Rewe

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

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

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

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

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

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

Revd Tim Collins [Rector] Tel: 01392 860767 tim.collins@netherexe.org

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

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

Peter Shepherd [Administrator]
Monday [09:00 – 11:00] & Wednesday [09:00 – 13:00]
Tel: 07551 844321
Email: administration@netherexe.org

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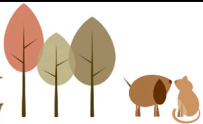
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A WEEK IN NEWTON St CYRES PARISH HALL

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

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

PARISH HALL HIRE CHARGES

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

MAIN HALL

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

CLUB ROOM

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

Neighbourhood Watch Deputies

Sue Gee	Church Area	Glebe House	851164	asgee@btinternet.com
Tom Dowle	Court Orchard	24	851704	tomdowle@live.co.uk
Allan Pearce	Godolphin Close	8		
Chris Lee	Langford Road	Greenlands	851280	
Mike Kersey	Half Moon	12	851603	
Penny Pearkes	Newton House	9	851517	pearkes4@gmail.com
Wayne Meeton	Norton	Glenacre Sweetham	851954	wayne@wvmstudio.com
Derrick Rhydderch-Evans	Pump Street	Old Beams	851443	derrickrevans369@btinternet.com
Anna Mace-Leska	Sand Down Lane	Compass House	851441	leska@btinternet.com
Jacqui Ward	Smallbrook	2 Broadgate Cottage	851918	Jacquiward30@yahoo.co.uk
Jill Hawksley	Sweetham	Station Cottage	851269	peterbrew@aol.com
Clive Wootton	West Town	4 Meadowlands	851428	hollywallydoda@outlook.com
Vacancy	Woodlands			
Vacancy	Tytheing Close			
Geoffrey Jackson	"The Village"	Shaplands Cottage	851551	megalops@btinternet.com

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

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

Priest-in-Charge	Rector: Rev. Tim Collins	
Church Wardens	Sue Browne, 1 Glebelands, Sand Down Lane	01392 851460
PCC Hon Secretary	Pita Burt pitaburt@gmail.com	01392 851410
PCC Hon Treasurer	Jackie Enright	01392 851859
Electoral Roll Officer	Jen Holt, 21 Woodlands	01392 851521
Tower Captain	Mary Quicke - mary@quickes.co.uk	07729 844945
Doctors (Crediton)	Redlands Primary Care Joseph Locke Way, Crediton, EX17 3FD https://www.redlandsprimarycare.nhs.uk/	01363 727111
Newton Wonder Magazine and Website	Editors:-Peter Hawksley - editor@newtonwonder.net Peter Cordingley - cogscord@outlook.com	01392 851269 01392 851778
Parish Council	Chairman - Liz Ouldrige lizouldridge@newtonstycyres-pc.gov.uk Clerk - Jane Hole	07752 959845 01392 851148
Parish Hall	Chairman – Nigel Chambers nchambers@ctc.uk.com Booking Sect - Peter Watts, peterwatts369@btinternet.com	01392 851400 01392 851369
Primary School	Head of Teaching - James Akhurst School Office	01392 851267 01392 851267
Newton Nippers Pre-School	Contact the school	01392 851267
Newton Nappies Toddler Group	Contact the school	01392 851267
Recreation Club	Chair- Carrie-Ann Finning - email: finning-newtonstycyresrecreationalclub@outlook.com Bookings - Claire Digby - email: newtonrecbookings@outlook.com	07834764471
Art Group	Jenny Hallam:- jennyhallam6@gmail.com	7787383658
Neighbourhood Watch	Monika Herpoldt- Bright. monikaherpoldt-bright@newtonstycyres-pc.gov.uk	
Footpath Warden	Graeme Barnell	01392 851308
Newton Environmental Wellbeing Group	Gill Melling newnewgroup@protonmail.com	07527 071663

Community Police	PCSO Nicola Payne, Police Station, Crediton Nicola.payne@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk	Dial 101
District Councillors	Sandy Chenore:- schenore@middevon.gov.uk Martin Binks:- mbinks@middevon.gov.uk	
County Councillor	Steve Keable steve.keable@devon.gov.uk	07967 655045
Local M P	Mel Stride mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk	01392 823306
Friends of NSC Station	Chris Southcott	01392 851569
Luncheon Club	John Salter, Hill Park	01392 851346
Mah Jong Club	Geoff Jackson _megalops@btinternet.com	01392 851551
Newton Ramblers	Rosemary Chambers	01392 851400
Tennis Club Secretary	Laura Leigh	01647 24259
Young Farmers	Harry Grigg harrygrigg456@gmail.com	7453034637
Archery	Alison Couling	01392 841282
Gardening Club	Nicola Baker	01392 851985
History Group	Jean Wilkins	01392 851337
Table Tennis	Roger Wilkins	01392 851337
Friends of the Arboretum	Secretary: Helen Iles friendsnewtonarboretum@gmail.com	07717 062810
Adonai Community Kitchen	Jocelyne Whittaker	07508 871172
Community Allotment	Gail Meldrum meldrumgail@gmail.com	07999 958799
Crediton Citizen's Advice	Adviceline (10.30 - 3.30)	03444 111444

The **NEWTON WONDER** is delivered within the Parish at a charge of only **£10.00** per year(in 2026. Subscriptions are due in January.

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

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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.

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Small	£40	£50
Quarter Page	£70	£80
Half Page	£110	£120
Full Page	£200	£240

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

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

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

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

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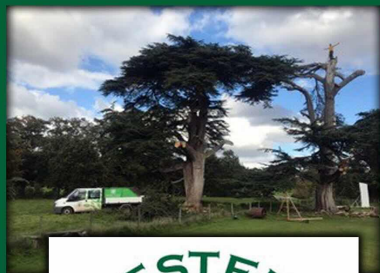
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