

80p

February
2023

NEWTON WONDER

The Magazine and Website for the Community of Newton St Cyres



NEWTON ST CYRES **COMMUNITY** PLANNING FORUM

25TH FEBRUARY 2023

in the Parish Hall From 10am to 12.30pm

Your views on the future of the village are important
Come along to share your ideas on:

- Housing
- Local Economy
- Transport and Infrastructure
- Health and Wellbeing
- Climate Change
- Leisure and Open Spaces



www.newtonwonder.net

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Special Edition

This month's **Newton Wonder** is special in that it is being delivered to every household in the Parish. The remit of the Newton St Cyres Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group (NSCNPSG) is to undertake a number of consultations with the whole community. For the plan to be accepted by the planning authorities it is essential that the group can show that everyone in the Parish has had the opportunity to make their views known. To start this process it is holding a Neighbourhood Forum on Saturday 25th February in the Parish Hall at 10 am. To ensure that everyone in the Parish is aware of the proposed forum and has some information to consider it was decided that the preliminary information should be available in the Newton Wonder and that it should be delivered to everyone in the Parish. The additional funding required has been provided from the money available to the NSCNPSG.

Pages 6 to 9 of this issue outline the topics for discussion at the Forum as suggested by the group. Other lines of discussion are always open to parishioners and facilities are available for anyone to contribute to the discussion at the Forum or on the page on the Newton Wonder website: www.newtonwonder.net.

The opportunity to create for ourselves a neighbourhood plan which will have to be taken into account when any planning applications are made in the future has been taken up by a number of other local parishes and towns and is part of the process of attempting to make government less remote.

If you wish to subscribe to the Newton Wonder (£8 a year) please contact our distribution manager Gerry Radford on 01392 851504, email paul.radford3@btinternet.com or use the contact form on the Newton Wonder website:- www.newtonwonder.net.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP THE PARISH HALL?

After many years of fantastic service, our Booking Secretary, Mary Long, will be retiring. This honorary position is essential to the running of the Hall as it is the first point of contact for potential and repeat hirers. The Booking Secretary also sits on the Hall Management Committee that runs the Hall.

If you might be interested in contributing to the Hall and village community, please contact me at 01392 851601 or by email at furniss740@btinternet.com for an initial discussion.

Many thanks
Roger Furniss
Chairman

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT December 2022

The meeting, held on Thursday 1st December, was attended by seven Councillors, the Parish Clerk, Mid Devon District Councillor Graeme Barnell, and one member of the public.

The Environment

- The Climate Officer asked if the Parish Council would support bike racks being installed at the Parish Hall. The Clerk reported that the Hall had indicated that they were not required. It was suggested that individuals contact the Parish Hall and suggest that racks be installed.
- MDDC were supportive of a proposal by a parishioner to plant trees and wildflowers at Court Orchard, and a resident's consultation carried out by MDDC was also supportive. Cllr G Barnell advised that MDDC would provide a grant of £1,000.00 to the Parish Council and the Clerk would follow this up.
- Cllr G Barnell had met with the Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and other interested parties to discuss possibilities for natural flood management following the Environment Agency's designation of Newton St Cyres as a rapid catchment area. An approach would be made to DCC to discuss options and possible funding.
- Cllr Barnell noted his resignation as the Chair of the Flood Group, and a replacement chair was required.

Planning

- An application (22/02068/FULL) has been made for a change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian, including the construction of a riding arena on Langford Road (Grid reference: 290248 97597). The Parish Council decided to pass no comment on the application.
- Pedlars' Pool development. This was a concern due to the likely increased traffic on the A377. Cllr G Barnell noted that there was a meeting before Christmas with local Parish Council Chairs and MDDC and the developer, Bellway Homes, with a view to requesting Bellway Homes to reconsider the design of the houses and to incorporate environmentally friendly initiatives. A meeting was scheduled for January with MDDC to try and establish protocols for joined up infrastructure planning, to include schools, transport and medical facilities.
- Potential crossing at Tytheing Close. The DCC representatives at the A377 Action Group meeting had agreed that a scheme should be drawn up so that it was ready to go when money was available.
- **The Neighbourhood Plan Group would be running a community engagement event in the Parish Hall on Saturday 25th February. All parishioners are welcome.**

Road and Traffic Issues

- Boniface Trail. Cllr Barnell gave an update on the Boniface Trail as discussed at the recent A377 Action Group. The consultant's report promised at the end of the summer required amendment, but at present there was no funding available. A funding bid had been submitted, the results of which would be known in January. Devon County Council favours a route along 'quiet lanes' as this would be considerably cheaper. It might be necessary to include some road restrictions limiting vehicles to make this viable. At the same time, it was suggested that the route identified by the Boniface Trail Association might be deliverable in phases over a period of time.
- HATOC were actively considering the speed limits on the A377 between the Quickes straight and Crediton, following a suggestion that this whole stretch should be 40mph. Consideration was also being given as to how to improve the safety for people using the bus stop at Smallbrooke.
- Update on the Road Warden Scheme. The Clerk had applied to DCC for 52 tubs of tarmac and this would be delivered on 7 December at no cost to the Parish.
- After discussion it was agreed to look into Vehicle Activated signs to address speeding issues in the parish. The issue will be raised with DCC via Cllr M Squires and possibly the Raddon Hills Group.

Other Council Business

- A draft budget had been circulated. It was resolved unanimously to keep the precept the same as last year at £13,431.00.
- A suggested plan of work to improve the entrance to the allotments had been circulated and Cllr R Cashmore agreed to progress this with the Road Wardens.
- Cllr Cashmore had drawn up a suggested poster and a flyer raising the profile of the elections for Parish Councillors next year. It was agreed to have publicity material available for the parish council surgeries early next year.
- Community Resilience Group. The update of the Community Resilience plan was agreed. Jock Campbell was thanked for his continuing work. It was agreed that discussion with Firewatch should continue.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Parish Hall on **Thursday 2nd February 2023** at 7pm. Members of the public are welcome. Alternatively, if members of the public wish issues to be raised in council meetings, they can contact councillors in the usual way. There is also a Parish Surgery at the Coffee Mornings held on the **second Saturday of the month** in the Parish Hall.

Newton St Cyres Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group

It is hoped that you will come along on 25th February with your ideas about the future of the Parish. The topics for discussion are:-

Transport & Infrastructure

This area covers Road, Rail, and Bus transport, Cycling, Footpaths and Parking. This includes the immediate challenges of traffic on the A377, the potential of the cycle path between Crediton and Exeter, the reliability of the bus and trains and to the risk of walking down Station Road in the dark.

For the feedback on this section we want you to use 4 of your senses to think how you want the future of Transport and Infrastructure to;

Sound - Smell - Feel - Look

Marcus Iles

Health and Wellbeing

Health Matters! Not just the absence of illness but being in a 'state of physical, mental, spiritual and social wellbeing'.

We know that the place where we live can affect our health and for for better or worse.

Any proposals we make for planning will carry more weight if we can back them up with evidence.

Such as:

Clean air and reduced pollution of our waterways, less light and noise pollution.

Opportunities for exercise, especially in green spaces with other people.

Access to good quality food especially fruit and vegetables.

Opportunities to meet with others.

Opportunities for learning.

Feeling safe and secure in our homes.

Friendly neighbourhoods.

Opportunities for spirituality.

Easy access to care should you need it.

Homes which suit our needs and don't cost too much to maintain and run.

Being in nature with natural, diverse habitats.

How do you think our Parish measures up in these respects?

What do we already have that we want to protect?

Is there anything that could be improved?

What is missing that is important for you and your families and neighbours to help us all towards the best health possible?

Gail Meldrum

Economy, Business and Employment:

Our economy is predominantly based on **agriculture and food security**, **forestry**, **food processing** (cheese and beer), **hospitality** (restaurants, pubs, recreation) **education** and **social care**, and as an important **leisure destination** for many in Exeter and beyond. Most of the 981 people living in the Parish either **commute** to work outside of the Parish, **work from home**, are **retired** or in **education**.

Do we want to retain the current rural profile of the Parish or would we like to see an expansion of businesses? What sort of new businesses, if any, would we like to see? Do we need more business units? Would we like agriculture to change and in what ways? Should we encourage local generation of energy? Do we need more shops – where and what sort? Should we expand tourism and recreation? Should we expand the housing rental sector? Should we expand education, health and social care sectors? Is there adequate parking for businesses? Do we need better internet? Do we need better transport for commuters? How can we better support local businesses? How do we balance sustainable agricultural and other business growth with local tranquillity and residential amenity?

Jock Campbell

Housing

The Government wants very large numbers of houses to address the national housing shortage.

What do you like about the current housing in Newton St Cyres?

-is it in the right places?

Completely new housing is usually only approved within the existing built-up areas and some areas adjacent to them. Conversion of old agricultural buildings on farms is often also permitted.

-is there the right amount of it?

Is it of the right sort? **What type** of housing (affordable, council, starter, luxury etc.)

What would you like to see more of (or less of) in the **future**?

What needs to **change**?

Tom Langdon-Davies

Climate and Ecology

What are the things we may need to prepare ourselves for?

Heat waves (increased fire risks)

Extreme and less predictable weather – long periods of hot dry weather, extreme rainfall patterns

Higher risk of flooding (Shuttern Brook and the Creedy Catchment)

Crop failures & Food poverty – potential for conflict

Pressure on energy supply

Mass migrations (globally but will impact all areas)

Continued loss of bio-diversity

We invite you to ask yourself the question: **What would we (as a community) like to do in order to mitigate the impacts of the climate emergency and build a stronger, more resilient and self-sufficient community?**

Here are a few ideas informed by our recent Community Conversations:

River Creedy Catchment Development for flood alleviation, bio-diversity, and recreation

Land set aside for 'Community' Uses – community allotments, Forest Garden.

Building connections between local landowners and the community

Vastly improved Cycling & Footpath connectivity, improving accessibility to encourage and support active lifestyles (Boniface Trail)

Land set aside for a Community Energy Scheme (Solar and Wind)

Local Shop(s)

Community Centre/expanded Parish Hall with EV charging points

Sustainable travel infrastructure planned and delivered for any new development

Andrew Broadhead

Leisure and open spaces

Do we look to the Parish for entertainment, support, fun, sport and other leisure activities?

What do we like about what is here?

How can the Parish be improved? What more facilities would we like?.

Group discussion of:-

1. An assessment of the facilities available in the parish. What, where and with whom?
2. What is considered to be particularly important, and why?
3. What improvements could be made to the existing facilities and what should be changed?
- 4.. What additional facilities would the group like to see?

Peter Hawksley

Members of the Newton St Cyres Neighbourhood Plan Steering group

Cllr Graeme Barnell	gbarnell@middevon.gov.uk	07564541572 01392 851308
Gina Quicke	gina.quicke@yahoo.co.uk	01392 851627
Gail Meldrum	melldrumgail@gmail.com	0799958799
Tom Langdon-Davies	tomgldl@aol.com	07918667238 01392 851367
Dave Rowell	dave_rowell@hotmail.com	07711228557
Tom Dowle	baileytom10@outlook.com	07734361383
Mark Phillips	markseven@btinternet.com	07928666741
Peter Hawksley	peterbrew@icloud.com	07841517391 01392 851269
Cllr. Jim Enright	jimenright@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk	0139285 1859
Jane Hole	parishclerk@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk	
Jock Campbell	j.campbel.imm@btinternet.com	07770940122
Andrew Broadhead	andrew.broadhead4u@gmail.com	

NEWTON RAMBLERS

Sunday 19th February

This month we will do a linear walk (straight down the estuary) from Topsham to Exmouth. It is 5 miles, but flat! Then folk can do their own thing in Exmouth - lunch or whatever - and then return to Topsham by train or bus. Trains are roughly half hourly and take 12 mins. Roger has the times. There is also a Number 57 bus.

We will meet at 10 am in the large car park in Holman Way in Topsham, close to the rail station. This will give us greater flexibility when we finish the walk, but If you would like a lift please contact Jean or Roger and they will arrange it for you.

All are welcome. For more information, or if you need a lift from the village, please ring Roger or Jean Wilkins on 01392 851337

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



RECREATION GROUND CLUB

We were waiting over the holidays for the 7th January and the football teams starting the second half of their seasons. And what happened? The rain came and delivered the fourth weekend with no football. So we now have fingers crossed that the rain stays away and we can get on with the planned programme for February.

It has been very quiet as the darts and skittles took a break over the holiday too, so to get our finances going again, we do need the sports up and running. That said, we do have both League and Cup games booked in during the spring for the darts and skittles.

We are to be the venue for the archery AGM, and a social evening is lined up for them and a social evening for the tennis club. A children's party and a christening party are also booked, so it will be steady if not busy time for the bar.

Even though no football was played, work was done to fix the netting to prevent balls finishing up on the railway line.

Today I have received confirmation from one of our friendly cricket teams with their fixtures for the summer. Just three more teams to confirm and the diary will be looking normal. I'm sure I will be spending lots of time filling in the spaces for the next few weeks.

Wendy Lewis

Warm Wednesdays

Come and meet your friends in the club room at the **Parish Hall on Wednesday afternoons**. Following on from Jocelyn's lunches.

There will be tea/ coffee, cake, games, magazines and newspapers, and a lot of chat!

We look forward to seeing you there.

Sue Browne

Newton St Cyres 200 Club

The draw for December and January took place at the Coffee Morning on the 14 January. The winners were:

December 2022

No. 179	V Gallavan	£50.00
No. 137	H Barlow	£50.00
No. 138	G Nicol	£10.00
No. 178	J Quicke	£10.00
No. 50	M Honebon	£10.00
No. 108	J Holt	£10.00
No. 210	R Dowle	£10.00

January 2023

No. 193	L Smith	£100.00
No. 149	G Barnell	£10.00
No.113	D Marshall	£10.00
No. 119	Anonymous	£10.00
No. 11	G Jackson	£10.00

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

Jane

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Thoughts for February from Peter Cordingley

The text below is a short piece I posted last week on Facebook. It's self-explanatory, but at the bottom of the page I'll add a little more about some of the details of Joe's astonishing humanitarian trip. Some of the details about Newton St Cyres that I mention will be familiar to many people, but it bears telling again.

Our little village in Devon and those around share an Internet site where we natter about this and that, locate lost cats and, to tell the truth, waste a lot of time achieving not much at all.

But a post on the site from a 74-year-old retired businessman named Joe Bussell was different. He's fundraising for yet another road trip across Europe to Ukraine, where he delivers provisions and uses his van to do runaround jobs for families.

Not to be too soppy about this, but Joe Bussell and people like him are what make the UK such a terrific and warming place. I've been here for three years now after a life with my wife and family in Asia, and am constantly astonished to see the levels of compassion on display.

In our village, there are free lunches in the parish hall twice a week, the hall is opened up as a warm space (with tea and biscuits) for those locals who having trouble heating their homes, gardeners donate fruit and veggies to a common larder for the poor, and produce

grown on a community allotment is offered free to households. Meanwhile, local homes have taken in Ukrainian families.

You know, there's plenty wrong with this country at the moment (oh, yes!), but there's also lots to be proud of. I'm proud.

By the time you read this, Efford resident Joe will have left the UK and will be well on his way to the Poland-Ukraine border. He may even be there already. In his final few days in this part of the world, he was busy trying to raise the last of the £1,600 he will need for the journey, helped by free passage across the English Channel on Brittany Ferries for the van and two occupants. The 4,000 miles round trip over nine days will be Joe's third to Ukraine. Destination Lviv, in Western Ukraine. Good luck, Joe! And good luck, Ukraine!

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Bert Jewell writes Rhymes and Ways about Gardens and Gardening

February

As January slowly gets left behind,
February approaches, there's treasures to find.
Like snowdrops lighting up a shady nook
making you stop to have a closer look.

There's catkins shimmering on a large evergreen,
could they be the longest that you will have seen,
Or the catkins on stems that are twisted and bare,
The wonders of nature, things we all love to share.

As flower buds open between elephant ears
A plant that has been around for many a year
in large formal gardens like a well-made rug
or a patch in our garden, all cosy and snug.

With primroses preparing to put on a show
there is never a rush, they take it quite slow,
till every thing's set, the conditions just right
in the hedgerows and woodlands, it's just a delight.

There's cyclamen flowering this early in the year,
shown off by the houseleeks that are growing quite near,
and the dwarf growing iris, 6" no more,
The blues and the purples look great by the door.

Things in the February garden

Galanthus, commonly known as snowdrops, are one of the earliest spring flowering bulbs to appear. There is nothing better than to see large drifts of snowdrops, maybe by a stream as in Snowdrop Valley.

They are not bothered by the cold, their makeup acts as an antifreeze. There are quite a lot of different varieties to choose from, but they all need moist fertile soil in light shade for best results. If you can buy them in the green, with leaves still attached and plant them about 4" deep, the bulb will continue to develop and flower next spring. One final word, a bulb of a new variety has recently been sold for £1,800, after more than 10 years in the making.

Garrya Elliptica, is a large evergreen shrub that for the most of the year is just that, then in late winter the catkins start to form, and by February they could be a foot in length. It can grow to about 10' x 6' in any reasonable soil in sun or light shade. For best results grow the variety "James Roof".

Corylus Contorta, Twisted Hazel. For me this shrub looks its best in the depth of winter, just bare twisted stems that look amazing. Towards the end of February or early March, the fluffy yellow catkins appear. This shrub grows slowly at first but can get out of hand as time goes on. Prune in winter to maintain size and it will grow in any soil or position.

Bergenia. This plant is sometimes referred to as Elephants Ears because of the shape of the large leathery leaves. Best planted in large groups to make a statement. Flowers February to May in sun or light shade.

Primula Valgaris. This is the wild primrose found growing on roadside verges, grassy banks or in and around woodlands. The flowers on these are much smaller than on the cultivated kind you buy in a garden centre or supermarket. Have a go at growing some from seed. fill a seed tray with good quality seed compost, sow the seed on the surface and lightly water with a fine rose, taking the seeds just into the surface. Place a piece of glass over the tray and leave outside, if the weather is mild the tray can be placed in the fridge for maybe a week (don't blame me!), then moved into the greenhouse or window sill. This is know as stratification, something that happens naturally in the wild.

While enjoying that mid-morning coffee, think about what you want to grow this summer. Wash pots and trays, order plug plants, buy seeds early before they run out and chit seed potatoes.

You can prune autumn fruiting raspberries now, by cutting all canes down to ground level.

Plant of the month

"*Sempervivums*", commonly know as houseleeks.

There are lots of different varieties but they all have the same sculptural rosettes. They look great in containers on the patio or in a rockery. Each rosette will flower in time. That rosette will then die but new ones are always growing. The only drawback is the plant rotting off due to water staying in the rosette. Fully hardy, well worth growing.

Enjoy your gardening



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Newton St Cyres Tennis Club

The Tennis Club recently held a very successful social event in the Rec Club. Skittles, darts, pool and various board games were played, the bar was open and a delicious 'bring and share' supper was enjoyed. It felt like old, pre covid times and hopefully will be repeated. Many thanks to Sarah for organising and to the Rec Club for the use of their facilities.



Nimble fingers needed!

Joining a tennis club for the first time in the coldest, darkest months of the year probably isn't what naturally springs to mind, but membership renewals start in March so now is a good time to be thinking about giving us a go.

You are most welcome to turn up to a couple of club sessions to give us a try before making a decision. We are very friendly and offer various club times at daytime, evening and weekend. We also have a coach, Jon Wills, offering adult and junior coaching, and take part in county League tennis and organise Club tournaments.

All details are on our website: www.newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk or contact membership secretary Laura Leigh on 01647 24259.

Sally Baldwin

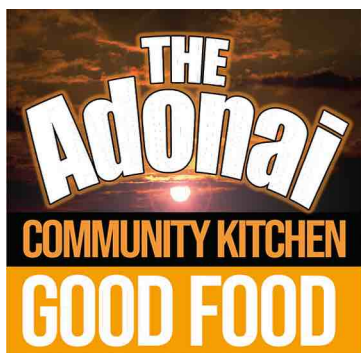
Although lots of tennis has been rained off in an extremely wet January, tennis players are a hardy lot and continue play if possible in spite of wind, rain, and blindingly low sun on the occasional sunny day. Ice always stops play as the courts become lethal when they are occasionally frozen.

In spite of adverse weather conditions our league teams are doing well, with our Mixed Team third in Division 1 of the East Devon League, and our Men's Team first in Division 4 of the Exeter and District League.



Enjoying games at the Social





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the Parish Hall from 12.30 - 2.00pm**



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



25th November Demo by James Tatum

Acrylics

James Tatum is well-known locally and internationally, a South West academician and a prolific painter. For his presentation, he didn't aim to produce a finished painting in the time allowed, but demonstrated a variety of techniques with a focus on structure (the 2D shape on the canvas) and composition (the 3D arrangement of shapes).

James stressed the importance of drawing daily, outdoors if possible, to capture the atmosphere of a place. He likes to do numerous thumbnail sketches then work on the composition later in the studio.

Working on 300lb Saunders Waterford paper, primed with a mid-tone of yellow ochre, he rapidly sketched a few lines, then vigorously slapped on dark paint with a wide decorator's brush. This was then rubbed with a wet J-Cloth. He then added sky colour and reworked the dark areas. In all, James used a variety of implements (spatula, squeegee, credit card) and a range of marks.

James compared the structure of a painting to the steel in a building - essential but invisible when work is completed. He advised us not to let the background become too busy, and not to be distracted by detail. Atmosphere is paramount, and one should paint with passion. Otherwise, why paint? His technique is energetic and adventurous, as he believes one shouldn't have a specific plan but instead discover something during the painting process.

In a second demonstration, James showed us how to balance a composition, using light and dark areas, and including vertical, horizontal and diagonal lines.

Jenny Hallam



Adrian Andrews

home & garden maintenance

| fencing

| turfing

| garden sheds and raised beds

| grass & hedge cutting/laying

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Do You Remember...February?

February 1973

The question of lighting in **Sand Down Lane** was discussed at the Parish Council.

The Parish Council decided **not to ban lorries** from the car park.

The **Church wall** had been finished.

Ernest Butt retired as **Church Sexton** and was replaced by **Reg Bray**.

The Mothers' Union organised a '**Knit In.**'

The **Church of England Men's Society** was re-formed.

The **Parish Hall** reported that it had **repaid all of its loans** which had helped towards the re-building.

The **Newton St Cyres Players** were busy practising for their performance in March.

It was reported that **Newton Junior Football Team** had lost 34-1. Following that defeat they travelled to Poole to play in the Daily Express Five-a-side Competition. The team comprised **Nicky Down, Clive Vincent, Paul Martin, Charles Guppy & Philip Arthur** with **George Tahta** as sub,

February 1983

At the **Annual Parish Meeting** in the Hall. Two speakers were booked - Mr E Chorlton (Area Engineer - East) and Mr L Blake (Engineer for Mid Devon District Council).

The **wedding** took place between Stephen Brown and Kay Bloomfield.

At the **Cancer Research Campaign AGM** they reported a successful year with £600 sent to Headquarters.

The Parish Council heard it may be possible to construct a **pedestrian refuge** in the village but they were still asking for a speed limit to be considered.

The **Twinning group** had made their first contact with Rots and a party of four will visit Newton St Cyres this month.

Women's Institute (WI) meeting was well attended and a talk was given on cane work by **Mrs Hoster** from Crediton.

The **Afternoon Club** had a party with entertainment by Crediton Operatic Society and a lovely meal.

Old Vicarage Sold

The Old Vicarage had been bought by a local man and his young family.

February 1993

The Following Clubs no longer existed: Cubs and Scouts (**John Escot**), Sunday School (**Bill Holt**), Afternoon Club (**Geoff May**), Scrabble Group (**Iris Swain**), Prayer and Care Group (**Peggy Coates**), Newton St Cyres Players (**Reg Mear**),

The idea of siting a **Park and Ride at Cowley** had been withdrawn and Devon County Council were seeking a new site.

The Playgroup had acquired a **pet dog!**

The Parish Council were **appealing for more use of the trains** - use them or lose them!

The **Ramblers** were organising a walk round Blackdown and Crooklake with John Quicke.

A start had been made on serialising current and past **history of the Parish of Newton St Cyres**.

A list of **Parish Councillors** appeared: **John Durrant, Henry Gliddon, Brian Vickery, James Walters, Hazel Down, Douglas West, Stuart Dowle, Chris Lee** and **Lyn Durrant**.

The **Carol Singing** in December had raised £86.

Gardening Hints were on pruning from **Liz Mitchell**

February 2003

Newton Wonder Thank You Page
February 2003 The magazine started a 'Thank You' page as it had received so many requests.

The Parish Hall were advertising a **Barn Dance** with Home Brew Country Dance Band and entry included a Cheese Ploughman's.

Bogus Callers Warning

There were two warnings from the Neighbourhood Watch Group about bogus callers.

Happy Birthday to Reg Smith who celebrated his 70th birthday.

Squirrels

Tim Pearkes wrote an interesting article on squirrels, (both red and grey).

The regular article from the Post Office included mention on the **New Pin Pad** that had arrived.

John Durrant gave an illustrated talk on 'The 1549 Rebellion in the South West'. The talk was followed by a 'Pudding Evening'.

The Recreation Ground were concerned about people exercising their **dogs at the Rec** as they could be fined by the Football Association up to £1,000.

continued on next page

February 2013

Recreation Ground Club

So far not a single football match had been played. Most of the teams had lost between four and six weeks of football.

Newton St Cyres Primary School

Glynis Harris, Head of Teaching and Learning, wrote about the older children learning lines for the production of 'Treasure Island' and thanked all the staff and the parents who were involved.

Last term we said goodbye to **Ms Deborah Wright** and **Miss Penelhum**. Re-joining the staff was **Mrs Theedom** and two new teachers were welcomed, **Miss Ronchetti** and **Miss Anika Higgins**.

Parish Council Report

Cllr Hare-Scott assured the Council that the tree with the potentially damaging fungus in Court Orchard had been examined by MDDC and he would report back on their findings.

Recognition of Community Service

Nominations were being sought by the Parish Council from residents for people they think have made an outstanding contribution to the community life of the parish.

Arboretum on TV

The Arboretum will feature in a programme 'Secret Life of Dogs', to be shown on ITV1 on 31 January at 9pm. A unit from Oxford Scientific Films came in October to make a piece on the incident 3 years ago when 80-year-old **Margaret Haverson** was lost in the then much overgrown arboretum for nearly 48 hours and over two frosty nights. She was found by a sniffer dog brought from Cornwall after a helicopter search failed. The programme will feature Margaret, the dog Max and his handler Alex Lyons. We do not know how much of the programme will be devoted to this rescue.

Nick and Viv Henderson

Road Wardens Thanked

*The message below to www.newtonwonder.net arrived too late for inclusion in the December/January issue of the **Newton Wonder**.*

I just wanted to write and say **thank you** to the highway volunteer team who have repaired the potholes in New Estate. Good Job Team :) Its great to live in a village where people make the place a nicer safer place. Thanks again.

Gill Amos



MUSIC ALL THE WAY!

**Newton St Cyres Summer
Music & Dance Festival
Thursday 22nd - Sunday 25th June 2023**

Our first Village music & dance festival is for everyone, from the very young to the not so young! This four-day series of music-making, concerts and workshops will be featured in venues all across the Village.

For more information, programme updates and ticket sales, see next editions of Newton Wonder.

So don't go to Glastonbury this year - come to your very own Festival!

Christine & Nicola

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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.74



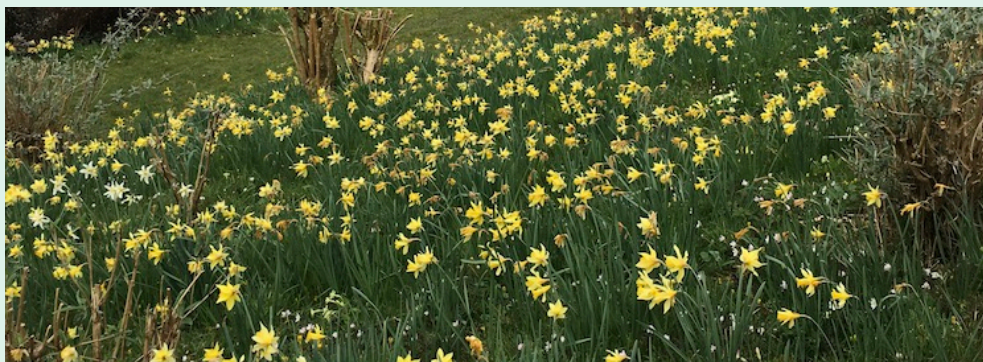
For a closer look see our website:-www.newtonwonder.net
On the Home Page you will find this picture and a link to all the quiz photos
so far and an easy form to submit your answers.

Sherwood House,

Newton St Cyres EX5 5BT 01392 851622

Nikki and Mark Chambers would like to invite you to come and walk around our beautiful garden of 25 acres.

EVERY WEDNESDAY ONLY - OPEN 10am to 1pm -



Sturdy footwear required.

We can only accommodate 20 cars, so first come first served!

At own risk

No charge.

No dogs.

NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP

Christmas Customs and Folklore in Devon



It was a pleasure to welcome Mark Norman to our Christmas meeting on 7th December. Mark is a librarian at Crediton Libraries Unlimited, and in that capacity hosted and chaired the Crediton Area History Zoom meetings throughout the Covid lockdowns, as well as delivering two talks himself.

An elected member of the Council of the Folklore Society and a folklore researcher, Mark has written three books and runs a podcast on the subject, as well as giving talks. He hosts the Folklore Archive and Library at Crediton library, where items of international importance are held.

As a background, Mark talked about the cycle of festivals through the calendar and how some traditions fade and go and some are revived. The friendly robin was welcome in the house of a writer in 1896, and stayed all winter, but there is also a tradition that it was bad luck to have a robin fly into the house, or to kill a robin or take its eggs. The same applied to the wren.

We learned that feeding the birds brings good luck, and it is a tradition in Scandinavia to raise a corn sheaf on Christmas Eve, for the birds to eat and to ensure a good harvest. There is a strong West Country tradition that the farm animals kneel on Christmas Eve and this is the source of the familiar poem 'The Oxen' by Thomas Hardy.

There are a great many traditional Christmas foods which vary from country to country and also have their own stories. German stollen bread has recently become popular here and is said to symbolise Jesus in his swaddling clothes. It was first baked in the Middle Ages. Gingerbread too dates back to this time, and was a widespread treat, using as it did expensive ingredients and spices. Gingerbread houses were baked as early as the 16th century and popularised in the 20th. Because they were made of sugar, candy canes were also a luxury, and it is said that they were first made in 1670 at the request of a German choirmaster who needed to keep his charges quiet during long services.

There is a story that eating ham at Christmas is developed from the medieval tradition of the Boar's Head, which itself was based on the sacrifice of a boar to the Norse god Freyr. Better-known is the fact that mince pies were originally a mixture of meat as well as spices, and they are very popular despite disapproval of the Puritans, who associated them with Catholicism. There is certainly a myth about plum pudding which links it to religion, in that it had to have 13 ingredients, to symbolise Christ and the Twelve Apostles. The term 'plum' referred to any dried fruit, and the later Stir Up Sunday custom involved east to west stirring to represent the journey of the Magi.

Italian panettoni have been sold here for many years now, and the tradition is that this recipe was invented in the 15th century by the daughter of a poor baker and the Duke's falconer, who were in love. It became so popular that they became rich and could marry. In Poland it is customary to have 12 dishes, none containing meat, and to start the meal with a wafer, broken into pieces which everyone has to taste.

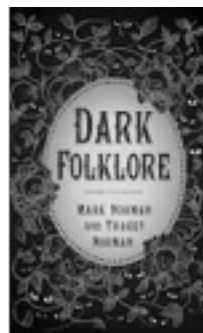
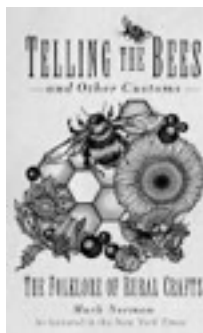
The tradition of burning a yule log was once widespread, and it could be an ashen faggot as long as eight feet, made of lots of pieces of wood bound with withies. In some places a fresh round of cider would be poured every time a withy burned through, and another custom was for young people to choose a withy, the first to burn through meaning the chooser would be the first to marry. Ash wood has long been considered sacred. Mistletoe is another sacred plant, and there is a saying that the Druids cursed Devon so that no mistletoe would grow here, even though it is common across the border in Somerset.

A custom which is also now rare, like the yule log, is the making of a kissing bough. This was a round construction of hoops adorned with holly, ivy, fruits and berries and also mistletoe, which was hung in the house. In Devon, a furze bush placed in a pot and dusted with a flour and water could be substituted, especially in poorer households.

In the days after Christmas, leading up to Twelfth Night and the New Year, there were other customs. Then as now, it was considered unlucky if any decoration was still in the house after Candlemas. Even a leaf would mean a goblin would appear. On the first Saturday after Christmas there would be a 'giglet fair'. This was a general gathering at which young women could be hired for work, but also when men could approach girls without any introduction, and thus it was a sort of marriage market as well as a hiring fair.

Wassailing in the orchards was another custom, this one revived in many places nowadays. Pots and pans are banged together and shots fired to scare away bad spirits. Cider was both drunk and poured on to the tree roots to encourage a good harvest. Another custom was for the women to lock the men out of the farmhouse after the wassail, until they guessed what was on the spit – and of course it would be something very unlikely! At New Year, the custom of First Footing was once widespread. The front and back doors would be opened for the first visitor of the year, traditionally someone dark, carrying coal, and a coin, these symbolising warmth and wealth. This was usually pre-arranged. The open doors symbolised letting out the old year and letting in the new.

As a folklorist, Mark wanted to hear about memories and Christmas traditions from the audience, and these were aired during the question period after the talk. Our thanks go to Mark for informing and entertaining us so well and also for stimulating many memories of Christmases of the past.



NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP MEETINGS FOR SPRING 2023

Meetings will now be held in the Club Room at 7.30pm and usually on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. February is an exception.

February 15th. Tony Gale. Crediton and the Great Fire of 1743

This was a massive event that made so many homeless and, without their businesses, no means OF making a living. An excellent detailed map drawn only a short time before the fire shows Crediton as it had been. How did the town recover?

March 8th Roger Wilkins. Newton St Cyres in the WW2 Years

Roger will draw on information from discussions with people who were in the village at that time and from various printed sources. He will outline the effects on life in the village arising from various restrictions, the impact of evacuees coming to the village and the contributions that were made to the war effort.

April 26th Jean Wilkins. A Window into the history of the A377

NB: this again is a deviation from our second Wednesday, this time because of Easter.

What was it like to drive a heavy horse drawn wagon through the village in 1797? What sort of traffic might you meet travelling in the opposite direction? I shall be explaining how and why some of the changes came about to the busy road through our village. I shall be using some old pictures of the village lent to me by Lynda Pearce. Also we shall consider the bigger picture and some of the traffic familiar to former residents.

Jean Wilkins

Anne Mitchell – A Thank You

On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to thank my neighbours and friends in the village for their kind wishes and offers of help since my unfortunate fall down the stairs in November. I have been overwhelmed by everyone's support and generosity. I would particularly like to express my gratitude to Chrissie and John Salter and Christopher Lee, who have gone above and beyond to help me during this difficult period. I am pleased to say I am slowly recovering and hope to rejoin normal village life soon. Thank you all so much.

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

Newton St Cyres History Group has an ever-growing library of publications. What better way to orientate and acquaint yourself with your local surroundings!

• 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)

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?

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 St Cyres Gardening Club

Happy New Year, I hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas and are now looking forward to time back in the garden.

With 2022 being officially recorded as the hottest year, the Met Office provided the following details about all four seasons. Winter was the eighth warmest, spring the fifth warmest, summer the fourth warmest and autumn the third warmest. As we all know we had a cold snap in December, and in fact the first two weeks of December 2022 were the coldest since 2010. Sadly we lost many flower buds from the camellia, but it was heavily covered in buds before the frost so I am still hoping for a good display.

After such a dry summer and we have now had many days of rain, so much so that much ground is saturated and many fields are holding excess water. At least the reservoirs are beginning to get back to reasonable water levels, as at 8th January this year the 5 largest reservoirs in the south west were at 62.5% of total capacity.

I am pleased to let you all know that we are starting 2023 Gardening Club meetings with a visit by Saul Walker who will talk about **Woodland Gardening: The art of Growing in Shade**. The meeting will be held in the Parish Hall on **Wednesday 22nd February at 7.30pm** with a charge of only £2.50 admission to include Tea/Coffee & Biscuits. All are most welcome so please come along and support the Club. Further details in the advert/posters

Once again the seed potatoes are on sale everywhere so buy early to get your particular favourites. This year I will not be chitting ours in the greenhouse, after the rat raid of last year, and will be using space in a cool conservatory instead!!

As I write this, the snowdrops in the churchyard have started to make their welcome return and many primroses have been flowering since before Christmas. Many gardens will be open for their Snowdrop Festivals - details at the end of this, under What's On?



Jobs to undertake in February include:-

- Plant lily bulbs for summer display in borders or containers. However although extremely beautiful, the PDSA advise that all parts of the plants, including the leaves and pollen, are highly toxic to cats and can result in kidney damage.
- Start dahlia tubers by planting in a shallow tray of potting compost and keep in a warm light location. When shoots reach about 1" the tubers can be divided, potted up and kept in frost-free conditions until planting out in early June
- Start feeding roses later in the month, to encourage healthy growth
- Prepare vegetable seed beds, and sow some vegetables under cover
- Protect blossom on apricots, nectarines and peaches with horticultural fleece. Hand pollinating can be carried out using a soft paintbrush (kept specifically for this use)
- Prune Autumn-fruiting raspberry canes down to the ground
- Prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering
- Prune hardy evergreen hedges and renovate overgrown deciduous hedges before the birds start nesting.
- Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter, remove dead grass from evergreen grasses

continued on next page

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What's On in February?

1st - 12th February 10am - 4pm RHS Rosemoor's **Celebration of Snowdrops**
Families can follow the snowdrop trail to find the best displays of these beautiful flowers in the garden. It is the perfect time to visit for both expert galanthophiles and visitors who appreciate these stunning early-spring flowers. There are free guided walks through the garden discovering snowdrops and early spring-flowering bulbs daily at 12 noon. These are on a first come basis as places are limited.

Friday 13th January to Sunday 12th March (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays)
Snowdrop Festival 2023 The Garden House, Buckland Monachorum PL20 7LQ becomes a mecca for Snowdrop lovers from all over the country and often from around the world, during the annual Snowdrop Festival.

Friday 3rd, Friday 10th & Saturday 18th February, as part of the National Open Garden Scheme, Higher Cherubeer at Dolton, Winkleigh, EX19 8PP is open from 2.00pm - 4.30pm

Sunday 26th February & Sunday 5th March 1.30pm - 5.00pm as part of the National Open Garden Scheme. East Worlinton House, East Worlinton, Witheridge, Crediton, Devon, EX17 4TS. Thousands of purple crocuses feature in this 2 acre garden, set in a lovely position with views down the valley to Little Dart river. These spectacular crocuses have spread over many years through the garden and into the neighbouring churchyard.

[Advance dates for your diaries](#)

Friday 17th March 8pm - although I didn't manage to get him to speak at *our* Garden Club, **Adam Frost** will be at the Corn Exchange in Exeter talking about his love of the great outdoors when he helped his grandparents on their allotment and his fascination of watching plants and vegetables grow. He is now well-known to viewers of Gardeners World and has written several books

Friday 28th & Saturday 29th April 2023. Toby's Garden Festival at Powderham Castle. Back for the 9th show and becoming Carbon-neutral this year, there will be many local nurseries crafts and food stalls along with Joe Swift as the celeb guest speaker on the Friday.

NEWTON ST CYRES GARDENING CLUB

ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME

SAUL WALKER



Who will be speaking on

Woodland Gardening: The art of Growing in Shade

Wednesday 22nd February at 7.30pm in NSC Parish Hall

£2.50 admission to include Tea/Coffee & Biscuits.

All Welcome - Do come and join us!

Saul studied the 3-year Kew Diploma of Botanical Horticulture at RBG, Kew and has travelled to Australia, Southern Spain and the French Riviera to study plants in their native habitats. He spent a couple of years as part of the Show management teams for both the RHS Hampton Court Palace and RHS Chelsea Flower Show respectively, but was unable to resist the call back to his native Devon, where he is now the Head Gardener of Stonelands House - a privately owned 10-acre garden. Saul has a specific interest in Woodland Gardens, He is a member of the RHS Tender Plant Committee and Trustee of The Hardy Plant Society and the Chartered Institute of Horticulture.

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Newton St Cyres toddler group

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

It is great family fun.

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

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



For further contact:

Kelly Berry

07890313010

or see our facebook page
Newton Nappies



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February 2023

LIVE MUSIC AT THE PARISH HALL

We had a great time at the Jim Causley Christmas concert in December, and as always Jim got the audience involved. We enjoyed a wide range of music from Devon, and further afield, and a few choruses to join in with. The hall had Christmas decorations up and Jim had his Santa hat and festive accordion. Just the right thing to get us in the festive mood! An afternoon concert, with hot drinks, mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas cake in the interval and we were back home to settle down for the evening!

Thank you to all who attended.

Our next music event in the Parish Hall will be on Saturday 1st April (not a joke!!), when we will be fortunate to have the wonderful multi-instrumentalist PHIL BEER (of Show of Hands). Phil will be performing a solo gig prior to his gig at Kensington Village Hall (aka the Royal Albert Hall!) on 10th April. So do come and see him in a more intimate setting.

Tickets are available from Nicola on 01392 851985 priced £16.00. Early booking is advised, as you do not want to miss this amazing show

Nicola Baker



Phil Beer

THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMUNITY FORUM

Help shape the future of the village
25th Feb. 2023.

Parish Hall

This is Our Future

Newton St Cyres Parish Council

Road Warden Scheme

The Scheme has now been operating for over 6 months and our many volunteers have generously given over 200 hours of their time to make our roads, verges and pavements safer for us all to use. In our work we have:

- ⇒ **Used over 500 kgs of tarmac filling small potholes**
- ⇒ **Cleared ditches and drains to help protect properties from surface water flooding**
- ⇒ **Cleared vegetation around Creedy Bridge and the Railway Bridge**
- ⇒ **Worked with Langford residents to remove over 3.5 tonnes of gravel from the road, as well as clearing all the drains around Langford Bridge**
- ⇒ **Cleared flooding debris from Riscombe Hill and The Beer Engine areas**

Supported by:



However we cannot do this alone—we **need your help!** If you see anything that causes flooding or creates a hazard in our Parish please report it using our online reporting form using the QR code or contact the Parish Clerk via email:
parishclerk@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk



CELEBRATING?

CHRISTENING

BIRTHDAY

ENGAGEMENT

WEDDING RECEPTION

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

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The Dog Whisperer of Newton St Cyres

You've probably seen her around the village, striding along with a gaggle of dogs around her. With her unmistakable braids, tall frame and all-weather gear, she is hard to miss. But have you ever spoken to her? Well, Ann Quon Cordingley has, and heard an incredible story.

Meet Mel Slade, who is sometimes known as the Dog Whisperer – and for good reason. She seems to cast an uncanny spell over the dogs in her care. No matter their size – as large as a donkey or small fluffballs, pure or cross breed – they are all very special to her. “Dogs always come first. Even my husband Brian knows that. They give you so much. They make you whole,” she says in her Lancashire accent.

Mel moved to Devon 20 years ago, when her first job was as a postie in the village. Through her interactions with residents, she started helping people out – such as doing a bit of shopping. “If you didn’t see people sat at the window, you’d knock at the door to make sure they hadn’t fallen. People would ask, ‘you couldn’t change my bed or walk my dog, could you?’ And I would say ‘yes, of course I can.’ So I started taking people’s dogs when they went to hospital. That’s how it came to me. It was never about becoming a dog walker,” she says.

When Mel was moved to an indoor postal position in Sowton, a pre-existing neurological condition gave her such severe pain that she would pass out. “It got to the point where I couldn’t enter the building,” she says. “That’s why I like to be outside and not inside, and why I don’t mind the weather.”

So she decided to quit her job and started looking after people and their dogs. “I’ve been helping people all the time I’ve been here. People just find me. If someone was ill, people would say ‘Oh, talk to Mel, she can help you’. Whether that included a dog or not, it didn’t matter,” she says. “I’m known as the Angel of the North. The people at church call me that because I come from the north and they love how I talk.”

When it comes to dogs, she has been through it all, from helping them overcome their anxieties to being bitten several times or trying to stop dogs attacking each other. She even delivered puppies while watching England play (and lose) in the 2018 World Cup semi-final. She takes it all in her long stride.

When one dog owner broke her ankle and asked Mel to walk her Jack Russell, she was warned it was highly anxious, always barking at others. After working with it for some time, Mel introduced it to her own three large dogs. Then one day Mel turned up at the dog owner’s house with a pack of six dogs. The owner was amazed to see her own little dog frolicking with the much bigger ones. “She said ‘How have you gone from walking her on her own to walking her in a pack? Whatever it is, I’d like you to carry on walking her because you have given her a life and friends,’ ” Mel recalls.

Mel was born in Burnley, Lancashire, the youngest of nine children. Her mother ran a sweet shop and her father had a building business. Tragedy struck early when Mel lost her father when she was nine and her mother when she was 13 – both to cancer. The years that followed were difficult ones as she was moved around, first to live with neighbours, then with various of her grown-up siblings.

“It was awful because you never knew where you were living that evening. I got passed around all the time. I spent three months here and three months there and there was always talk about changing schools,” she recalls.



Photo Ann Quon Cordingley

“My sister said to him, ‘Oh, don’t bother with that, just marry her because she can’t live here for ever.’ I told my sister I didn’t like him in that way but she didn’t care.”

While most would find such an “arranged” type of marriage unacceptable, it was quite common in those days and still exists in Lancashire, says Mel. Reluctantly, Mel married her suitor at 26, became pregnant with a son, George, and went back to school, where she got her higher national diploma in business and finance and then tried for a nursing degree, which she didn’t take to.

After getting her CSEs (equivalent of today’s GCSEs) at the age of 17, she moved to Warrington, Cheshire, where she trained in a number of fields – first as a fibre optics technician for the Gandalf IT company and then mechanical engineering for Lucas Automotive, the British manufacturer of motor and aerospace industry components.

After seven years away, she returned to Lancashire for a break and stayed with a younger sister. While there, a former workmate from Warrington sought the sister’s permission to get engaged to Mel.

She then switched to a sports science degree and trained as a referee instructor for the football association. “I used to teach football refereeing in the prisons, where we ran training courses for the inmates so they would have a qualification when they came out,” she says.

While her career seemed to be going well, her marriage broke down and she entered into a new relationship that became physically abusive. She became pregnant with her new partner and was told the unborn baby had Down Syndrome. When her partner found out, he left her. However, when the baby was born perfectly normal, he wanted to reconcile, but Mel refused. That’s when the abuse began.

“He would break into the house. He broke my cheekbone and everything, and I ended up at A&E on Christmas day. He wouldn’t leave me alone. He kept breaking into my house. I would come home and he would be sat in my kitchen,” she recalls. As a result, Mel was put in two refuges. “I ran away from both because I hated them”.

She was then sent to a women’s refuge in Exeter, where she told her children that they were here to stay and it would be third time lucky. That was 20 years ago – and she has never looked back.

“A lot of the women in the refuge were much worse off than me. Some had been set on fire, prostituted or been threatened. It’s hard to describe what it was like to live in a refuge. But if someone was going to court or to see social services, I would take care of their kids. That way I became known as Auntie Mel.”

Mel’s love of dogs began at the age of seven, when she yearned to have a dog, but wasn’t allowed. Instead, her mother encouraged her to walk other people’s dogs. “I used to knock on doors and get all these dogs and, armed with a sandwich and an apple, I used to go off for the day. I used to walk miles and sit in the field with the dogs, share my sandwiches and come back at the end of the day. I will always remember summer holidays walking those dogs.”

When she turned nine, her sister had a surprise for her. Mel thought it would be a pup, but it wasn’t. It was a tortoise, which was all their mother would allow. That didn’t deter Mel. She tied string for a harness around the tortoise’s shell and would proudly parade it up and down the street. “People would just laugh when they saw me. That’s how desperate I was for a dog,” she laughs. It wasn’t until she was in her 20s that she got her first dog, a Weimaraner.

Mel has always had unusual dogs. She currently has Bishop, a short haired Pointer, Bronte, a jet-black German Shepherd, and Fagan, a rough-haired Slovakian Pointer – plus Millie, a 23-year old parrot named after her daughter.

For 58-year-old Mel, a typical day begins at 4am, when she takes her dogs for their first walk of the day. Then it is back home for breakfast before picking up any number of dogs she will walk that day. Sometimes she will pack them all into the car and head out to places such as Exmouth or Woodbury, and walk between 12 and 15 miles a day. “It’s always different. You might have an elderly dog who just needs a tiny walk, or a hound that might need the exercise. They all need different things on different days,” she says.

Mel and her dogs are such a common sight around the village that one day someone stopped her and said ‘Oh, my gosh, you get everywhere’, “and I jokingly said ‘There isn’t an inch of this village we don’t terrorise’. He laughed his head off.”

Not surprisingly, Mel met her current husband of nine years, Brian, while dog walking. Brian was a retired widower with a German Shepherd and a Boxer. One day he was hospitalised and with no one to take care of him when he came out, she suggested he stay with her. Five days after he had come out of hospital, he called her up and said matter of factly “I’ve been thinking we should get married. But I have to go now because *Emmerdale* is starting.’ And that was it. That’s how he is, he’s hopeless,” she laughed.

Mel is convinced there will never be a moment in her life that she doesn’t have a dog or two. “My brother once said to me, ‘Even if you were in a wheelchair, you would drag yourself to the front door to walk your dogs.’ And it’s true’ I just can’t imagine a life without dogs. It wouldn’t be a life worth living.”

Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Devon <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/devon> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said ‘There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Devon (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you’.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk
john@walkinginengland.co.uk

EVENTS

Friday 13th Jan, 7.30pm

Gerard Logan presents

Hauntings Hauntings is an evening of three tales of the supernatural from two of the world's greatest writers of ghost stories, E.F. Benson and M.R. James

Tickets £12/£10, Bar

Tuesday 24th Jan-Saturday 28th Jan, 7.30pm

Brown Paper Bag presents The Picture of Dorian Gray

An innocent and young Dorian Gray is the subject of a portrait by his close friend Basil Hallward. When Dorian's wish to remain young seems to have been granted by the Devil, all the while his portrait ages and records every moral transgression he commits. Directed by Frank Kelsall.

Tickets £12/10 (£9/£8 on Tuesday), Bar



Friday 3rd Feb, 7.30pm

Cygnnet Theatre presents Airswimming

In 1924 Persephone and Dora meet in St Dymphna's hospital for the criminally insane. Neither of them quite know why they are there. Airswimming is a life affirming, musical-tragical-comical delight!

Tickets £12/£10, Bar

Friday 17th & Saturday 18th Feb, 7.30pm

Living Room Theatre presents The Washing Machine of Destiny

Devised and performed by Luca Saunders and Philip Robinson. Directed by Pippa Marriott. Luca is still a teenager, Philip is getting on a bit. Both are on the autistic spectrum. This show is a conglomeration of their bonkers ideas, perhaps like nothing you will have seen before.

This project is partnered by Crediton Arts Centre and generously supported by Recovery Devon and Villages In Action. Hurrah to them!

Tickets £10/£6, Bar

Friday 24th Feb, 7.30pm

Live Lounge @ Studio 1

More musical splendour from Crediton's finest, with the wonderful Arts Centre bar in full swing. Free entry, donations welcome.

Friday 10th March, 7.30pm

Select Society presents Divorced, Beheaded, Died

The year is 1544 and King Henry VIII is engaged upon Royal Progress about his realm; and has halted here to afford his loyal subjects the opportunity to have an 'audience' with their sovereign Lord and King. His Majesty will invite his loyal subjects to petition him or question him on *any* related subject. There may be some surprising answers. A lively Q&A is assured!

Tickets £12/£8, Bar

Friday 24th March, 7.30pm

Steven Spielberg's West Side Story

Steven Spielberg's much-praised and multi-award-winning remake of the 1961 film by Jerome Robbins and Arthur Laurents boasts barnstorming performances from a wonderful young cast.

Free entry, donations welcome, Bar

Friday 13th April, 7.30pm (+ 2.30pm matinee on Saturday)

Long for the Coast

Long for the Coast combines sincere lyrics with beautiful harmonies and sung stories about social change, spiritual adventures, and close friends lost and found.

Tickets £12/£10, Bar

Arts and Craft Workshops and courses

Please check out Arts Centre website or the current brochure for details of the courses and workshops running in 2023.

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Development in the Village



Early work is well underway on the construction of eight houses on the site of the old Newton St Cyres primary school. When completed, the development will consist of a mix of four and five-bedroom detached properties, each with single or double garages, accessed from the main A377 through the village. Plans include the demolition of the adjoining old school building, which was vacated more than four years ago when staff and pupils moved to the new school premises on Station Road. The project allows for the construction of more homes on the Exeter side of the site.

Peter Cordingley

Protecting the Creedy's crayfish

The River Creedy and its catchment is home to one of only two remaining populations of native, white-clawed crayfish in Devon. The white-clawed crayfish is under threat from the invasive American signal crayfish, poor water quality and a loss of habitat. Native crayfish were previously found over a greater length of the River Creedy but now only around 10% of the original population survives.

The Creedy Catchment Crayfish Conservation project, led by the Wild Planet Trust and funded by Natural England and South West Water, is raising awareness of the plight of the white-clawed crayfish, one of Devon's rarest endangered native species. The project will be working with the local community, landowners and other stakeholders to develop an action plan aimed at improving water quality and restoring habitat to help safeguard the future of white-clawed crayfish in the River Creedy.

Save the date: 15th March, 7pm-9pm. To learn more about the project and find out how you can help the white-clawed crayfish in the River Creedy, join us on Wednesday 15th March at the Boniface Centre, Crediton. The evening will include a series of short talks and information stands, and will include free refreshments. Further details about the event to follow. Look out for posters or contact the Newton Environment Group for more details.

Sue Rowell



NEWTON ST CYRES ARBORETUM

COFFEE MORNING

SAT 11 FEB at

NSC Parish Hall

Stalls, coffee, cakes and company!

10.30 to 12.00

All welcome. Proceeds for improving the Arboretum

February on the Farm

Women hold up half the sky, is the Chinese saying. A majority of the world's farmers are women. And the role of women on UK farms has been overlooked, as, historically, we've been behind the scenes, keeping the show on the road. Farming is a family enterprise, a partnership of all genders. I'll take a look at some of the women who have made our farm what it is.

My ancestor Elizabeth Luscombe had land from her father, who got it from the great redistribution of monastery land in Henry VIII's time, 14 generations ago. She married the first Quicke to come to Newton St Cyres, a lucky farmer from Sampford Courtenay, some 16 miles away, some time before 1540.

Jane Quicke married into the family in about 1759, and saw the farm needed some new input. The widow of a Cornish landowner, she brought Cornish tin miners to the farm. For a few years in the late 1700s, the farm and the neighbouring parish were the largest producer of manganese in the world. Jane also sold much of her extensive library to pay for repairs to the farm's houses in a sale that lasted for 25 days.

My mother came to the farm when she married in 1953. She had trained as an artist at Chelsea College and the Royal College of Art, under artists like Henry Moore. She'd been told that training would enable her to do anything. While raising six children, she set up our cheese dairy, while still producing some beautiful art works.



I came back to the farm in 1984. Over time, we've developed our cheese as a brand that is sold around the world. We've increased the dairy herd to a crossbred herd producing milk from grazed grass for most of the year. I'm setting up the Academy of Cheese, to teach and inspire people from round the world about cheese.

My daughter Jane is now back on the farm, looking to take the cheese business forward after a career in management consultancy. Now she sells our cheese and is taking on looking after the finances. Emma Cordery looks after the quality system, the people side and keeps the production and packing team working well. Emma Stoyke keeps the shop and online working, as well as the farm numbers. She even changed a wheel for a customer in the cheese car park, still wearing a skirt. Rachael tells people about what cheese we have, and about our beautiful and historical farm.

In the old days, going back to the 1920's, the standard weight in farming was two hundredweight (100kgs). Back then, it may have made sense that farming had become a male occupation. Lifting those weights isn't good for anyone. Now, with mechanisation and smaller standard weights, we have women in all parts of the business, from Olivia and Nikki milking and looking after the cows, Tracy making butter, Valentina and Gernina packing cheese and Holly and Sarah in the shop. We rely on our great people.

The current economic conditions are brutal. Milk prices have nearly doubled, energy costs have gone completely crazy, all costs are going up. People are buying less cheese – so thank you to everyone who supports us.

To keep the cheese business the right way up, we've had to make big changes in how we work. As people leave, we won't be replacing them. Most distressing of all is parting company with old friends. Malcolm Mitchell has been a mainstay of our cheese making, managing the dairy for around 20 years, and with us for 45 years. He has been a mainstay, ensuring that our cheese is world class. Malcolm has trained a great team, and we will miss him. We also parted company with Tracy Armstrong, who was with us for 5 ½ years, packing our cheese through all sorts of dramas, and getting cheese out of the door. We wish them successful next steps.

Mary Quicke

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Ruth Mary Beer

27/05/1930-18/04/2020

Ruth Mary Beer was a proud Newtonian through and through, born in the village and christened, confirmed and married in Newton St Cyres parish church.

Mum was born at home, No 48 The Village, Newton St Cyres, to William known as Bill and Annie Woolway. Mum was the youngest of three children. Doris, the eldest, was born at Keepers Cottage, followed by George, also born at No 48 The Village. Mum was christened in the Newton parish church by the Reverend Blakeman-Ball. No 48 The Village was knocked down as part of the road improvement through the village.

At some point and at least before 1953, the family moved to Bridge Cottage, now called Forge Cottage, beside the little cobbled bridge over the Shuttern Brook. Bill was the village cobbler and had his cobblers shop next to the Crown and Sceptre pub. In the 1920's Bill was the local gamekeeper, hence living at Keepers Cottage.



Mum aged 21

Mum had a very happy childhood in the village. She had a pet rabbit called Snowball who had the freedom of the garden and had two entrances to its burrow. It would nip the tail of the neighbour's cat who unsuspectingly sat outside the 'wrong' entrance. Mum also had a pet chicken called Goldie. On the night of 25th January 1938, her father took her outside to see the Aurora Borealis. Mum said this was a forewarning of war. It is documented that some folk take it as a bad omen. It was very unusual to see the Aurora Borealis this far south of the Arctic.

Mum wrote a piece about her childhood, school and memories of World War II in a book produced in 1999. I won't repeat the contents here but instead add a few more notes.

Mum joined the church choir when she was 11, along with her best friend Sheila Clake, who lived at Halses. Mum was also a Girl Guide. She left school in 1944 at 14, as was the norm. She first worked in the office of Gaumont British at

Newcombes, Crediton, and then in the offices of the laundry in Cowley Bridge Road. During this time she paid for herself to go to secretarial college in Exeter. This enabled her to get a better job in 1949, working for Glossops, first in Wardrew Road, Exeter and from there the business moved to Exhibition Way, Pinhoe Trading Estate, Exeter.

Mum loved to go to the dances in the Newton village hall with Sheila and mum's other lifelong friend Muriel Staddon. Mum really enjoyed dancing the jitterbug. She would ask her father for half a crown to go to the dances and always had to be home by 11pm.

In the household at Bridge Cottage was mum, her brother George and her parents Annie and Bill. Bill suffered from arthritis but managed to do his cobblers work. Annie suffered from cancer and mum looked after her. There was no electricity or indoor toilet or bathroom at Bridge Cottage.

Back then Newton St Cyres held carnivals, and one year mum was on a float where the driver of the float was Cyril Beer, who lived in Exeter. Sometime later mum met him by chance at the pictures in Exeter when she had gone to see a film. This was the beginning of their relationship, and they became engaged. But Cyril wouldn't marry mum then because he considered it too much of a burden on her when she was already caring for her mum and running the household. Annie passed away in September 1955 and mum and dad married on Christmas Eve that year in the Newton church.

Doris was living in Lincolnshire but returned with her two sons to live with mum, dad and grandad. Barry and David attended Newton primary school. Mum's second cousin Margaret recalls visiting Bridge Cottage at this time. She would spend time with Barry and David trying to catch 'tiddlers' with jam jars in the stream that ran through the garden. There was also a budgie called Joey in the household who had been taught to say things, including rude words that made Margaret laugh. Doris and the boys eventually returned to Lincolnshire.

In 1957, mum gave up her job with Glossops because she was expecting her first child, Jenny. Back in those days, it was the thing married women did. Roger was born in 1959 followed by Angie in 1960. Bridge Cottage belonged to the Quicke family and was to be sold so on 8th November 1962. On grandad's 80th birthday, we moved to Tytheing Close along with Joey the budgie. This was the start of the bitter winter of 1962/63.

During the time we three children lived at Bridge Cottage there was the fire at The Crown and Sceptre pub. The blaze also consumed grandad's cobblers' shop. We were put up in the old pig shed at the end of the garden with cream crackers to eat while mum and dad tried to salvage things. Firemen sprayed water on the thatch of Bridge Cottage and other thatched cottages around to prevent sparks catching the thatch alight.

The six of us lived very happily at Tytheing Close, with mum continuing as a housewife. Grandad Bill died on 28th May 1969, aged 86, the day after mum's birthday. Mum would always help anyone in need, and I remember when a vehicle crashed into the back of the school bus by Tytheing Close. Mum rushed out with towels to help those that had been injured. The road was eventually widened to create the lay-by, and the end of the gardens that fronted the road were removed for better visibility.

When we were older mum took a job as a part-time cleaner in a girls' hall of residence of the university in Lower Argyll Road. With her motherly ways, she made friends with the girls, and in particular corresponded with Alison in England and Reiko in Japan long after the girls left university.

Mum then got a part time secretarial job working for F.D. Innes in Queen Street, Exeter. Her employers were agents who showed women's clothing from manufacturers to various buyers for shops. This was a job mum enjoyed very much and sadly ended with the closure of the business.

The three of us children all married to live not far away and mum and dad continued to live at Tytheing Close with their boxer dogs. Mum took much joy from her grandchildren Holly, Jack and Rowena. Gradually, mum lost her mobility so was restricted to home. Dad had prostate cancer and both were looked after at home by carers from Horizon Care. Dad developed dementia and moved to Greenslades Nursing Home in Exeter in September 2015.

Christmas Eve 2015 was mum and dad's Diamond Wedding Anniversary but by then mum was in Okehampton Hospital, recovering from a stroke. As the following day was Christmas Day, we were able to have mum out with the family for a Christmas lunch and get her back to the hospital in the early evening. Not long after she returned to Tytheing Close, there were early signs of dementia, and it became apparent that she needed more care than we and the carers could provide. Mum moved to Treelands Care Home on 29th March 2016. Dad passed away at Greenslades on 2nd April 2016.

Mum was looked after brilliantly at Treelands. From her room she was able to watch all the wildlife in the trees and garden. She was able to see her first great grandchild Tor, who was born in January 2020.

Sadly, mum passed away during the Covid pandemic. Because of Covid restrictions, we could not fulfil the last chapter of having her funeral in the church. The family decided not to hold a memorial service, and so this is the story of her life.

Jenny Garne

Can you help Maryna?

Maryna fled Russian-occupied Crimea last year with her husband Oleksandr. After many weeks living in temporary accommodation in Poland, they were given permission to move in with me under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Maryna and Oleksandr are self reliant and resourceful people. Like most Ukrainians who have recently come to live in Devon, they arrived in late November with their world packed into a very few bags. They are keen to work and are attending Exeter College for English classes and also English classes in Crediton.

At home in Crimea, Maryna painted beautiful pictures, mostly of flowers and nature. I'm keen that she continues this during her stay with us in Newton St Cyres. I'm helping with art materials but I would very much appreciate any support you are able to give. Do you have art equipment or materials that you could spare? In particular, Maryna needs an easel, but any contribution of card, or paper, or artists' brushes would be very much appreciated.

If you can help, please call me. Thank you.

Graeme

Halses, West Town, Newton St Cyres

EX5 5BS

01392 851308 or 07564541572



Would you like to play Bridge?

Exeter Bridge Club offers you the chance to exercise your mind and meet people. The club meets at the Isca Centre (EX4 4NT) on Tuesday evenings (6.15pm for a 6.30 start) and on Thursday afternoons (1.15pm for a 1.30 start). There is ample free parking, and refreshments are available on site. We play duplicate bridge at just £2.50 per session.

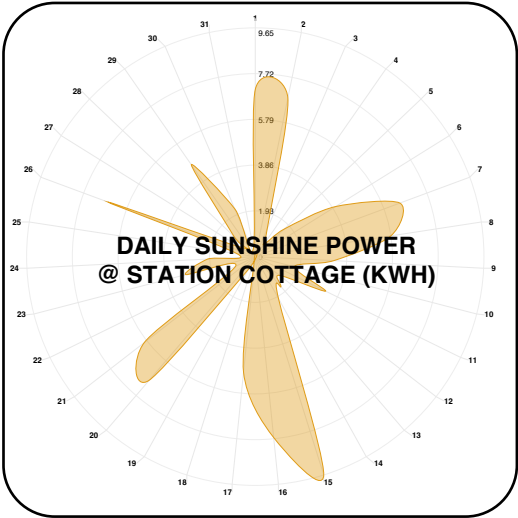
Do come along and play. If you don't have a partner, please contact me on 01392 861062 or 07496 392106 or by email to nevilleslane@gmail.com to see whether we can provide a partner. We usually can. You can also join us online on Mondays at 7.15pm or on Fridays at 3pm (visit our website at www.bridgewebs.com/exeter for further information).

It's a great game to learn, so if you'd like to, please contact Jeremy on 07969 297 633 or by email to ltpb23@gmail.com.

Newton Weather

in December 2022

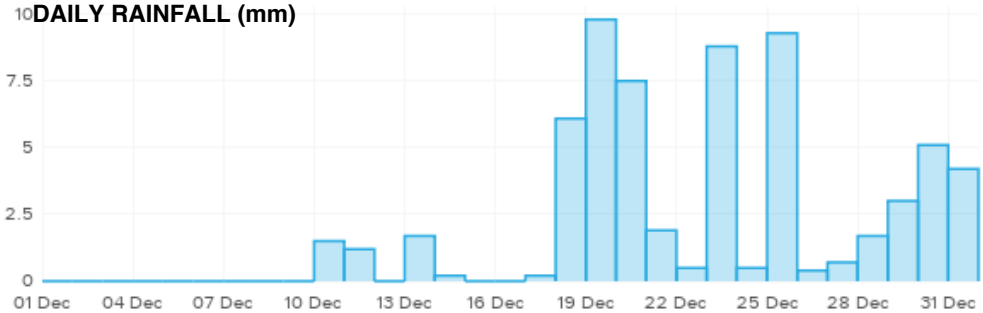
Q: What did the icy road
say to the car?

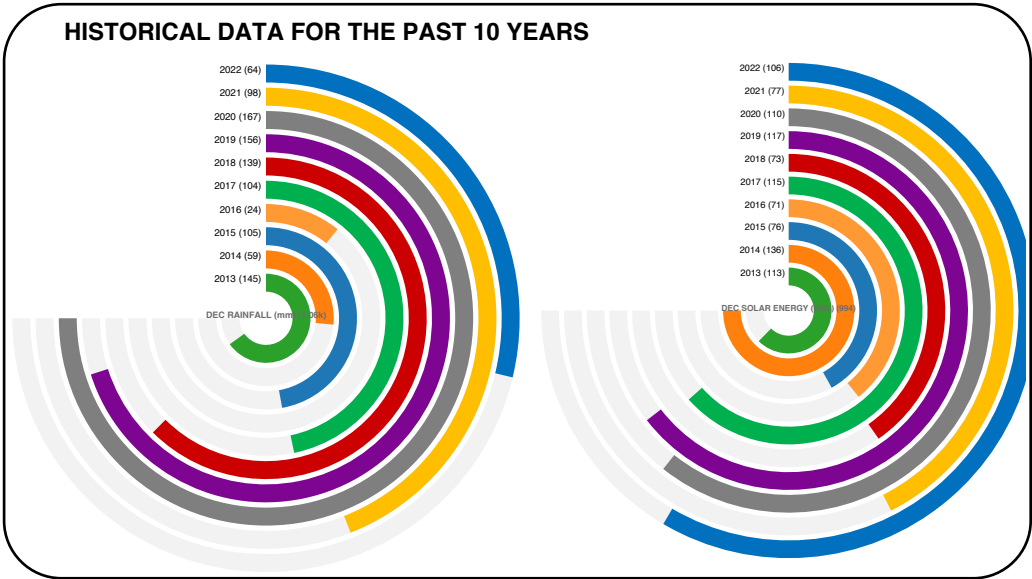
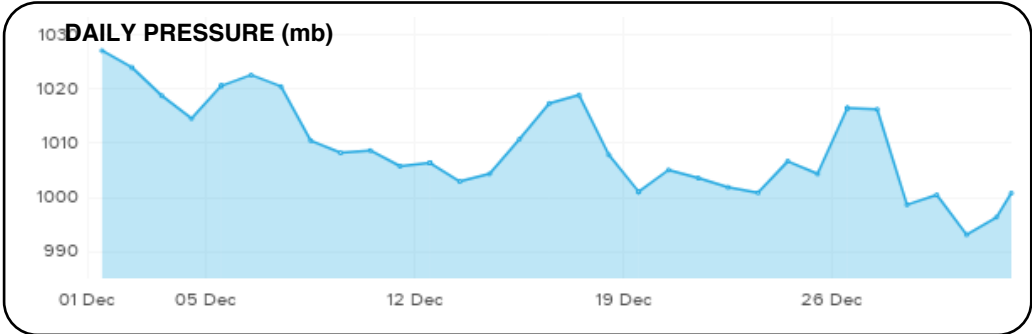
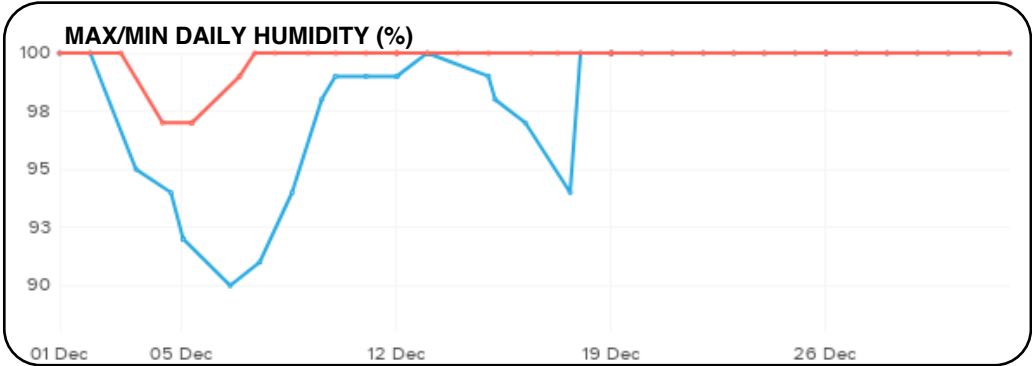


MAX/MIN DAILY TEMPERATURE (Celsius)



DAILY RAINFALL (mm)





"I keep seeing on the news that my bills could be going up soon. It's making me really worried especially as I spent more on Christmas than I should have done. How can I get my spending back on track in 2022?"

Lots of people are asking themselves this very question just now but there are lots of things you can do to be more in control of your money and be better prepared for the future.

1. Be very clear about exactly how much money you have coming in and going out each month and be realistic about what you really need for essentials like food and travel.
2. Set yourself a budget that you can stick to. You may find our budgeting tool useful to help you. <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/budgeting/budgeting/work-out- your-budget/>

If any of your bills do go up during the year, you can go back to our budgeting tool at any time, create a new plan and stay in control.

3. See if you can reduce any of your living costs
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/help-with-debt/dealing-with-your-debts/reducing-your-regular-living-costs/>

4. Make sure you are getting all the income you are entitled to.
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/help-with-debt/dealing-with-your- debts/check-if-you-can-increase-your-income/>
Will show you if you are entitled to support such as benefits or government grants. It will also tell you if you are being paid the correct wage.

5. As credit or store card bills land on the mat it is perfectly understandable that these debts add to your worries but the priority has to be paying your rent/mortgage, energy bills and Council Tax as failing to pay these has serious consequences. The following links give advice about which bills you need to prioritise and support available to help pay these and other bills.

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/help-with-debt/dealing-with-your- debts/work-out-which-debts-to-deal-with-first/>
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/budgeting/budgeting/get-help-with- bills/>

When you have planned how to cover your priority bills the budgeting tool can then help you plan on how to repay credit/store cards and overdraft charges.

Here at Citizens Advice Torridge, North, Mid & West Devon we have a specialist team of people to help with debt problems and money management. Visit our website, www.ruraldevoncab.org.uk and click on 'Get Advice'. Alternatively, you can ring our free, local Adviceline on 0808 27 87 999.

Would you like to help people resolve their problems? Demand for our services is increasing dramatically and is likely to continue to do so for some time. We rely heavily on our volunteers and are always keen to recruit more. We give full training and ongoing support so if the idea of working with us appeals to you please email recruitment@ruraldevoncab.org.uk and find out more!

UPTON PYNE & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

All events are held in the Upton Pyne Village Hall and everyone & anyone is welcome to join us.

FOR MORE INFO ON ANY OF THESE EVENTS PLEASE CONTACT June 01392 841272

Our meeting on February 20th will be held at the Village Hall at 7.30pm with a talk and slide show.

With John Walters who will talk about

The Secret lives of House Martins, Swallows & Swifts

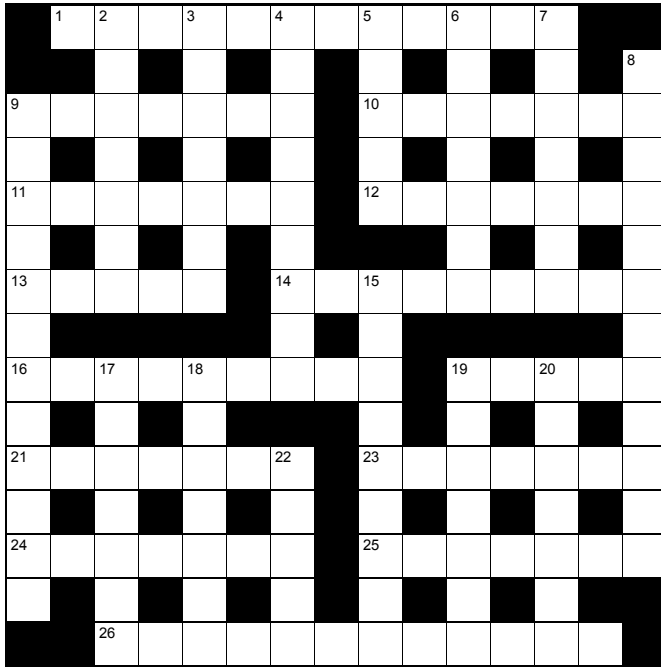


Our meeting on March 20th will feature

Penelope Townsend speaking about
Gilbert White a 'Parson-naturalist'



Cryptic Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 They work on cars doing better than the experts? (5,7)
- 9 Song about region largely in US state (7)
- 10 Left in charge of first of obituary columns (7)
- 11 Vegetable served with one bird or another (7)
- 12 Cloth acceptable for Native American (7)
- 13 Decorative work produces popular song (5)
- 14 Runs into a very sad, crushed opponent (9)
- 16 Female gave a kiss when nagged (9)
- 19 Make secure by holding drink back (5)
- 21 Achieves destruction of satanist without leader (7)
- 23 A canoe comes to grief around island in Pacific area (7)
- 24 Reconstruct buried ruins round lake (7)
- 25 Send a daughter clothing (7)
- 26 Don't heighten problem of acceptable behaviour (3,4,5)

DOWN

- 2 Girl from Ayr initially going to great trouble (7)
- 3 Frugality shown by company in management of money (7)
- 4 Moorish sailor's card game (9)
- 5 Like little picture of jelly? (5)
- 6 Nobleman, one with the Queen previously (7)
- 7 Philosopher from Australia found in Spain perhaps (7)
- 8 A long time finding Eeyore's age? (7,5)
- 9 Building designed for performances, or part of one (12)
- 15 Recording of top diva performing around eastern Spain (9)
- 17 After stick-up I will get time – it's nothing (3,1,3)
- 18 Not entirely bothered if I certify large building (7)
- 19 Adaptation of the Bard shows broadness (7)
- 20 One abandons new internal source of light (7)
- 22 Unsociable sort is unhappy at party (5)

Set by Alberich

Sudoku

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

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

© Web Sudoku 2023 - www.websudoku.com

Solution to Dec 2022/Jan2 Cryptic Crossword

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



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**Come and join us for our popular annual
SOUP AND CHEESE LUNCH**

**Selection of soups and cheese
stalls and raffle**

**NEWTON ST CYRES PARISH HALL
on
FEBRUARY 18th 2023 at 12.00**

£6 a head, £4 under 12, payable on the door - in aid of the Church

**Back by popular demand
Coffee and Chat**

in Church

in the carpeted, cosier North Aisle

February 5th, 2023

10.30

**A relaxed discussion over refreshments
with questions to get everyone thinking**

Come and enjoy!!

Time gone and to come

It's always a tricky thing writing for a magazine that is due out weeks after the article was written! Even more so for a February edition, when there hasn't been a January one! It is definitely too late to share experiences of Christmas and to wish you all a Happy New Year – though it was so good to be able to enjoy an amazing range of services and celebrations across the area, from a very, very chilly Cadbury Church in the middle of that really cold spell in December, to the 'olde worlde' atmosphere of the candlelit carol service at Netherexe; Thorverton Church bedecked for its Christmas Story Extravaganza, and outdoor carols at Brampford Speke. My huge thanks go to all who were involved in ensuring all these services and events happened.

But by the beginning of February the tinsel and turkey are distant memories, New Year's resolutions have probably already been slightly bent, if not well and truly broken, and already we are catching glimpses in the gardens and hedgerows that winter is drawing to a close and that spring is just around the corner. Though with my luck, even as you are reading this, we may well be either struggling through an avalanche of snow, wading through inches of rainwater or basking in brilliant sunshine – such are the vagaries of our all-too-fragile climate.

And so, as the year turns, thoughts quickly focus on the next of the 'seasonal' periods in the year of the Church – Lent. That time of reflection, a 'wilderness' time. A time for many of self-denial, of giving up – chocolate, coffee, alcohol etc; or a time for taking on something extra – prayer, bible study, community service. The forty days from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday (and before you get your calendars out, I know that is more than 40 days, but Sundays don't count!) reflects the time Jesus is said to have spent in the wilderness after his baptism by John the Baptist. And since the very early days of the Church, the time has also traditionally been a period of intense preparation for those who wished to become part of the family of Christians. A time for seeking and searching, exploring one's deepest thoughts and beliefs.

And so, the people and parishes across the area will once again be encouraged to use the time of Lent to deepen their understanding by reflecting on the time of trial that Jesus endured in the wilderness, and to consider the needs of the wider communities. We will be offering a number of opportunities to creatively explore aspects of prayer during Lent, so please keep an eye out for "*Creative Conversations with God – Stepping Out into Prayer*"

All blessings

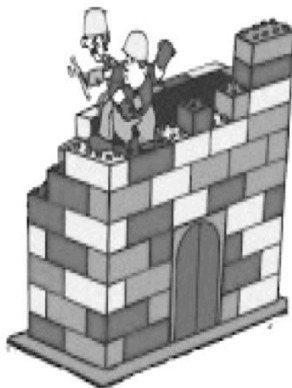
Tim

Rev'd Tim Collins

Priest-in-Charge, Netherexe Mission Community

LE_t's GO

LEGO CLUB IS BACK



**on Sunday February 12th at 4 o'clock
in Newton St Cyres Church**

***New Year, New Project, Exciting Ideas
How big can we go?***

Food Bank

A small Food Bank is starting up
in the Church Porch

Something you need? – leave a message

Or like to give? – please do!

SERVICES & INFORMATION FEBRUARY 2023

The Netherexe Parishes - A Mission Community in the Diocese of Exeter

Sunday 5 February 3rd Sunday before Lent

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Thorverton	JH
10:00 am	Morning Worship	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
10:00 am	Coffee & Chat	Newton St Cyres	Lay Led
11:15 am	Informal Service	Cadbury	Lay Led
11:15 am	Informal Service	Rewe	Lay Led

Sunday 12 February 2nd Sunday before Lent

10:00 am	Informal Service	Newton St Cyres	Lay Led
11:15 am	Holy Communion	Upton Pyne	TC

Sunday 19 February Sunday before Lent

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Brampford Speke	TC
09:30 am	Choral Morning Prayer	Thorverton	Lay Led
11:15 am	Holy Communion	Cadbury	KR
05:00 pm	Holy Communion	Stoke Canon	JH

Tuesday 21 February

09:00 am	Chattertots	Thorverton	Lay Led
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Wednesday 22 February Ash Wednesday

11:00 am	Ash Wednesday Service	Cadbury	TC
06:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service	Upton Pyne	LF

Friday 24 February

06:00 pm	A Service for Peace [on the anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine]	Stoke Canon	TC
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Sunday 26 February 1st Sunday of Lent

09:30 am	Holy Communion	Newton St Cyres	JH
10:00 am	Messy Church	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
11:15 am	Holy Communion	Rewe	TC
04:00 pm	Evening Prayer	Upton Pyne	TC

Evening Prayer: Every Tuesday 6:00 pm in Rewe Church

This information will also be available via our website at www.netherexe.org
see "Please Note" section of the homepage.

Who's Who? Abbreviations Key

TC	Revd Tim Collins	LF	Laura Ford [Licensed Lay Minister]
JH	Revd Julia Hocking	KR	Revd Preb Kathy Roberts
TL	Revd Tony Lane	MSS	Revd's Michael & Sharon Simpson
GC	Revd Preb Graham Cotter	TBC	To be confirmed.
SN	Sheila Newton [Licensed Lay Minister]		

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:

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

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

Correspondence: The Netherexe Parishes, Church Office, St Mary Magdalene Church, Stoke Canon, Exeter, EX5 4AS

Neighbourhood Watch Deputies

Tim Sedgwick	Godolphin Close	2	851223	twsedgwick1@supanet.com
Sue Gee	Church Area	Glebe House	851164	asgee@btinternet.com
Tom Dowle	Court Orchard	24	851704	tomdowle@live.co.uk
Chris Lee	Langford Road	Greenlands	851280	
Mike Kersey	Half Moon	12	851603	
Sandy Fleming	Newton House	12	851646	afleming12@btinternet.com
Wayne Meeton	Norton	Glenacre Sweetham	851954	wayne@wvmstudio.com
Derrick Rhydderch-Evans	Pump Street	Old Beams	851443	derrickrevans369@btinternet.com
Anna Mace-Leska	Sand Down Lane	Compass House	851441	leska@btinternet.com
Jacqui Ward	Smallbrook	2 Broadgate Cottage	851918	Jacquiward30@yahoo.co.uk
Jill Hawksley	Sweetham	Station Cottage	851269	peterbrew@aol.com
Clive Wootton	West Town	4 Meadowlands	851428	hollywallydoda@outlook.com
Alan Hancock	Woodlands		851744	
Damien Hodge	Tytheing Close	2	851111	damienhodge@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk
Geoffrey Jackson	"The Village"	Shaplands Cottage	851551	megalops@btinternet.com

*For help, further information or to submit a report please go to the website or contact the
NSC Parish Council Co-ordinator Damien Hodge tel: 01392 851111
email: damienhodge@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk*

Newton St Cyres Parish Hall

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

UP TO HOURS 3 6 9 12

VILLAGERS

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

NON VILLAGERS

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

Bookings Secretary, Mary Long maryglong@btinternet.com ; 01392 851624

A WEEK IN THE PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall is now fully open. **The special covid restrictions and number limits have been lifted**, but we urge users to think of others and continue to be careful.

If you wish to book the Hall or learn more about the facilities, please contact our Bookings Secretary, Mary Long (marylong@btinternet.com ; 01392 851624).

Roger Furniss Chairman, Hall Management Committee

Tuesday (weekly)	Line dancing	7.30 pm	Paula Benford	01392 210830	pbenford45@gmail.com
Tuesday (weekly)	Adonai Community Kitchen	12.00 - 2.00pm	Jocelyne Whittaker	07508 871172	TheAdonai-CKitchen@outlook.com
Tuesday (fortnightly)	Young Farmers Club	8.00 pm	Katie Davie	07706 760500	kmdavie@gmail.com
Wednesday (weekly)	Adonai Community Kitchen	12.00 - 2.00pm	Jocelyne Whittaker	07508 871172	TheAdonai-CKitchen@outlook.com
Wednesday (monthly)	History Group	7.30 pm	Jean Wilkins	01392 851337	jeanwilkins1@btinternet.com
Thursday (Twice per month)	Mah Jong	2.00 pm	Geoff Jackson	01392 851551	megalops@btinternet.com
Thursday (2 nd in month)	Exe Valley Bird Club	7.00 pm	Kevin Smaldon	07710 427817	kevin.smaldon@btinternet.com
Thursday (monthly)	Parish Council	7.00 pm	Jane Hole	01392 851148	parishclerk@newtonstcyrus-pc.gov.uk
Friday (some weeks)	Art class	10.30 am	Sue Rose	01363 772284	suerose9@hotmail.com
Friday (weekly)	Table Tennis	7.15	Roger Wilkins	01392 851337	rogerwilkins1@btinternet.com
Saturday (second in month)	Coffee morning (for Church and other organisations)	10.30 am	Church Sue Browne	01392 851460	suecbrowne@gmail.com
			Others Mary Long	01392 851624	marylong@btinternet.com
Saturday (some months)	Model train group	2.00 pm	Ann Feetham	01392 215837	annfeetham@virginmedia.com

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

Priest-in-Charge	Rv. Tim Collins	
Church Wardens	Sue Browne, 1 Glebelands, Sand Down Lane	01392 851460
PCC Hon Secretary	Pita Burt pitaburt@gmail.com	01392 851410
PCC Hon Treasurer	Jackie Enright	01392 851859
Electoral Roll Officer	Jen Holt, 21 Woodlands	01392 851521
Tower Captain	Mary Quicke - mary@quickes.co.uk	07729 844945
Doctors (Crediton)	Redlands Primary Care Joseph Locke Way, Crediton, EX17 3FD	01363 727111
Newton Wonder Magazine and Website	Editor – Peter Hawksley Email: editor@newtonwonder.net	01392 851269
Parish Council	Chairman - Jim Enright Clerk - Jane Hole	01392 851859 01392 851148
Parish Hall	Chairman – Roger Furniss Booking Sect - Mary Long, - maryglong@btinternet.com	01392 851601 01392 851624
Primary School	Head of Teaching – James Akhurst School Office	01392 851267 01392 851267
Newton Nippers Pre-School	Contact the school	01392 851267
Newton Nappies Toddler Group	Kelly Berry	7890313010
Recreation Club	Chairman - Tony Lewis, 80 Wrefords Lane, Exeter Booking Secretary - Mrs Wendy Lewis, 80 Wrefords Lane, Exeter	01392 432287 01392 432287
Newton Revels	Chairman - Eric Fee - ericwfee@hotmail.com	01392 851595
Art Group	Jenny Hallam, jennyhallam6@gmail.com	7787383658
Neighbourhood Watch	Damien Hodge, 2 Tytheing Close damien.hodge@centraxgt.com	01392 851111
Footpath Warden	Steve Parker, Lilly Farm.	01392 851505
Newton Environmental Wellbeing Group	Andrew Broadhead, newnewgroup@protonmail.com	07813 532544

Community Police	PCSO Nicola Payne, Police Station, Crediton Nicola.payne@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk	Dial 101
District Councillor	Graeme Barnell, Halses, West Town Rd. Email: gbarnell@middevon.gov.uk	01392 851308
County Councillor	Margaret Squires	01363 84337
Local M P	Mel Stride mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk	01392 823306
Football Club	Mark Smaldon	7733455177
Friends of NSC Station	Chris Southcott	01392 851569
Luncheon Club	John Salter, Hill Park	01392 851346
Mah Jong Club	Geoff Jackson megalops@btinternet.com	01392 851551
Newton Ramblers	Rosemary Chambers	01392 851400
Tennis Club Secretary	Laura Leigh	01647 24259
Twinning	Lorraine Mitchell	01392 851596
Upton Pyne PC	Jacqui Ward- jacquiward30@yahoo.co.uk	01392 851918
Young Farmers	Will Ayre (Chairman) willayre@hotmail.co.uk	7964286831
Archery	Alison Couling	01392 841282
Gardening Club	Jane Timlett	01392 851361
Honky Tonks Line Dancing	Paula Benford	01392 210830
History Group	Jean Wilkins	01392 851337
Table Tennis	Roger Wilkins	01392 851337
Friends of the Arboretum	Roger Wilkins	01392 851337
Adonai Community Kitchen	Jocelyne Whittaker	07508 871172
Crediton Citizen's Advice	Adviceline (10.30 - 3.30)	03444 111444

The **NEWTON WONDER** is delivered within the Parish at a charge of only **£8.00** per year(in 2023). Subscriptions are due in January.

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

If you move away it can be posted for an additional £7.50 p.a.

To pay online/by BACS please ensure that payment is made to
"Newton Wonder Community Magazine"

Sort Code: 30-93-14 Account Number: 05351394

Please add your last name and distributor's name as reference

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

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

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

Local voluntary Village events are included free of charge.

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

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

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

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

	1 Year	Colour
Small (approx. 73mm x 46mm)	£30.00	£40.00
Quarter Page	£60.00	£70.00
Half Page	£100.00	£120.00
Full Page	£200.00	£200.00

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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Tel:-01288 341617 or 07784 008471.

Email:- printroom@communitymagazineprinting.co.uk

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September 2022

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