

NEWTON WONDER

THE MAGAZINE & WEBSITE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF NEWTON ST CYRES

£1.00

February 2025

Newton St Cyres Station wins Stations in Bloom award



**STATIONS
IN BLOOM**
CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERING
AT STATIONS

Stations in Bloom is a
Celebration of Volunteering at
stations across SWR & GWR
railway networks in
Southern and South West England

A campaign devised and delivered by the
Blackmore Vale Line Community Rail
Partnership



www.blackmorevaletrains.com

Image by Caroline Rowland

Stations in Bloom Awards 2024

Sponsored by The Gardens Group / Castle Gardens Sherborne



NEWTON ST CYRES GOLD Award

Village and station working
as one. What a lovely little
station with passionate
volunteers. A special place.



Congratulations to the volunteers

www.newtonwonder.net

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome to the first issue of the Newton Wonder in 2025.

Our cover picture this month is of the certificate for the Gold Award presented to the Friends of the Station for their efforts in ensuring the station always looks tidy and interesting. Well done to all the volunteers.

We still need a volunteer to write up the "Do You Remember?" column. Whilst this is not now a particularly onerous task it is one with which the editors would like help.

At a recent meeting with other local magazine editors I learned that Upton Pyne and Brampford Speke have WhatsApp groups for the parishes. This means that it is very easy to communicate local problems, like trees fallen across a road, power cuts etc. This could be something for the Parish Council to consider. It would probably need more than one administrator.

Looking forward to 2025.

Peter Hawksley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Peter, fellow villagers/parishioners,

We are truly blessed, I feel, to live in such a safe and pleasant place. So, as we progress into 2025, I would like to recognise and thank those unsung heroes who keep our village that way.

I am talking of our Neighbourhood Watch volunteers and our Litter pickers. You know who you are! But, sadly, my lists are somewhat out of date and I don't have up to date contact details for you, to thank you personally for all that you do for our community.

I would love to rectify the situation and maybe we could all get together later this year. But first, of course, I need to know who you are. The list of NW deputies, further on in this issue, is not quite complete, I think. As for our wonderful litter pickers I would love to know who you are. Please contact me and if you would like to join the ranks, please, also get in touch.

In the meantime thank you for all you do.

Monika

monikaherpoldt-bright@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk

Newton St Cyres Parish Council

The meeting held on Thursday 5TH December 2024 was attended by 6 Councillors, D/Cllr M Squires, and J Hole Parish Clerk.

Newton St Cyres Parish Council issues relevant to Devon County Council

Bus service:

A response from DCC re. the poor bus service had been circulated and was noted. Cllr G Barnell has requested bus services to be added to the next Crediton Cluster Group meeting.

C/Cllr M Squires reported the overhanging branches at the bus shelter at Half Moon and noted that the bus shelter was in a poor state of repair which will be discussed at the next meeting.

The response to the DCC Transportation Consultation had called for the Boniface Trail to be more prominent in DCC Transport Plan.

Update on priorities list sent to C/Cllr M Squires :

A public meeting will be held in February to discuss road issues and what the Parish Council's priorities should be.

DCC have awarded £437.00 from the Community Enhancement Fund for the purchase of hedge trimmer/brush cutter and battery charger.

Update on budget for 2025/26

A draft budget, prepared with detailed notes by Cllr G Barnell, highlighted some key financial trends and challenges.

It was noted that, in recent years, the Council's expenditure had grown faster than its income, with reserves built up in previous years being used to cover the additional spending. However, this year, the forecasted carry-forward balance is significantly lower. After accounting for reserves, amounting to approximately 40% of the precept (£5,619), it became evident that an increase in the precept would be necessary. This marked the first significant rise in many years.

In response to these challenges, the proposed budget has been carefully reduced by £4,000 compared to last year, while still prioritising key community projects. After thorough discussions, the Council resolved the following:

1. **Grants Budget:** A total of £5,000 has been allocated for grants.
2. **Church Garden Project:** A grant of £1,000 will support the creation of a *Garden of Peace and Reflection*. This land, adjacent to the churchyard and currently owned by the Parish Council, will be managed by the

Church, pending formal transfer of ownership from the Diocesan authorities. The grant will be released in May, with the project planned for the 2025/26 financial year. Broken fence posts on the site will also be replaced.

3. **Parish Hall Repairs:** Up to £2,000 has been earmarked for addressing damp issues in the Parish Hall's Club Room. Grant payment will be subject to the submission of quotes and approval by the Parish Council. Both the Parish Hall Committee and the Parish Council have agreed not to contribute further to the Hall Maintenance Fund in 2025/26.

4. **Recreation Ground Improvements:** A grant of £2,000 will go towards new play equipment and maintenance of existing facilities. This funding will complement approximately £10,000 in S106 money from MDDC. The grant will be released alongside the S106 funds, following the submission of quotes and a project timeline.

5. **Precept Increase:** The precept will rise to £16,500, representing a 14.86% increase. For a Band D property, this equates to an annual increase of £5.87.

6. **Future Expenditure:** Parish Council spending will be reduced by 16.9% in the 2025/26 financial year, dropping from £20,026 (2024/25) to £16,649.

7. **Precept Policy:** Moving forward, the Council resolved to set the precept at no less than 95% of proposed expenditure, barring exceptional circumstances.

Other Council Matters

Quarterly Report – Development and Planning – Cllr G Barnell Cllr G Barnell provided an update on discussions with D/Cllr S Keable, MDDC's Planning Portfolio Holder. Key points included:

- **National Policy Changes:** MDDC is awaiting the Government's decision on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and increased housing targets, which could mean a 70% rise for the district.

- **Culm Garden Village:** A decision on Government funding for a new M5 junction will affect the proposed Culm Garden Village, potentially adding 4,000 homes toward MDDC's target.

- **Local Plan Consultations:** MDDC may consult local councils in the spring on proposed development sites and could issue a new "call for sites" to meet housing targets. Contingency sites might also need to be identified. If consulted, the Parish Council plans to engage parishioners for input.

Given these uncertainties, Cllr Barnell advised delaying work on the Neighbourhood Plan but committed to keeping the Council updated on future developments.

continued on page 23

Newton St Cyres 200 Club

The winners for December and January were:

December 2024

No. 96	P Watts	£50.00
No. 105	C lee	£50.00
No. 18	Dr A Hughes	£10.00
No. 26	Dr Harding	£10.00
No. 17	CA Finning	£10.00
No. 61	S Mundy	£10.00
No. 36	J Rook	£10.00

January 2025

No.174	L&G Bewick	£100.00
No. 94	W&T Hough	£10.00
No. 225	Q Palmer	£10.00
No. 14	D&T Clague	£10.00
No. 99	M Ashdown	£10.00

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

John Salter 01392 851346 and Jane Hole 01392 851148

Newton St Cyres toddler group

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

It is great family fun.

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

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



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



**Sustainable
CREDITON**

Vegetable casserole

**This is a way to use up any excess
Christmas vegetables**

1 400g tin Butter beans
1 400g tin chopped tomatoes
4 oz(100g) celery
8 oz (200g) carrots
8oz (200g) celeriac
4oz (100g) mushrooms
8oz (200g) swede
2 red onions
2 tablespoonfuls olive oil
garlic, paprika, a tablespoonful tomato
puree, a bay leaf

Peel and wash the root vegetables
and cut into bite size chunks.
Slice the washed celery and
mushrooms.

Gently heat the olive oil in a large
saucepan and add the vegetables,
with a clove of crushed garlic, stirring
well.

Add the butter beans, chopped
tomatoes, tomato puree, and a
teaspoonful of sweet or smoked
paprika.

Bring to the boil, season with salt and
pepper, add the bay leaf, pour into a
casserole.

Cook in a moderate oven until the
vegetables are tender.

Serve with crusty bread, jacket, or
mashed potatoes.

Paul Cleave

CELEBRATING?

**CHRISTENING
BIRTHDAY
ENGAGEMENT
WEDDING RECEPTION
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

Why not consider the Parish
Hall for your venue?
It's local, not expensive, has
its own car park, two rooms and
a new kitchen.

Also has wi-fi and suitable for
club and business meetings
For further details, please contact
Peter Watts, 01392 851369
peterwatts361@btinternet.com



The hall has also been used for Coffee Mornings, Bands to Practice, New Years Eve, Community Kitchen, Folk Festivals, Children's events, Gigs, Silent Disco, Craft Fairs, Church events and more

ALL ON A WINTER'S NIGHT

It was good to see so many at our Christmas concert in December, which was our second joint promotion with Exeter Folk Club. The audience consisted of many long-time fans of this annual tour, along with others for whom it was their first time for an evening made up of music, stories and tales with a Christmas/winter theme.



From Left Dik Cadbury, Paul Burgess, Nicola Baker, Johnny Coppin, Phil Beer

Playing acoustic guitar, keyboards and vocals, Johnny Coppin was joined by his ex-Decameron colleague, the guitarist and singer Dik Cadbury, and storyteller, violinist, recorder player and singer Paul

Burgess. A special surprise guest was Phil Beer, who has played here on previous occasions and he joined the band on several numbers during the evening.

The set lists contained several well-known songs and carols, as well as their own material, including some older, less familiar numbers. Songs included 'God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen' and 'Gabriel's Message', a truly moving 'O Holy Night' sung by Johnny, and an acapella 'Past Three O'Clock'. Anecdotes, stories and songs looked at the traditions and preparations for Christmas and the religious aspect of the season together with some more humorous tales, one involving a tractor, and Miss Fogarty's Christmas Cake!

The evening also included songs linked to the practice of Wassail, which is typically held on or around Twelfth Night or Old Twelfth Night 17th January, when the health of the cider apple trees is toasted and evil spirits are frightened away to ensure a good crop that coming year.

The musicianship was amazing, with keyboard, guitar, violin and recorder creating a truly magical feel to the vocal harmonies. The evening took us on a journey away from the commercialism of Christmas, back to times of sitting, talking and singing with family and friends. I am sure that we will repeat this event.

Looking forward to future winter events in the Hall, 2025 will see the return of the **New Year's Eve Ceilidh with The Barnstormers**. More details to follow, but tickets always sell quickly. For **November 2026** we have booked **Jim Causley & Miranda Sykes with their midwinter tour**, which again will be a wonderful way to get you ready for Christmas.

Thanks, as always, to those who helped before and on the night and to everyone who bought tickets for the evening.

Nicola Baker (on behalf of the Parish Hall Committee)

NEWTON RAMBLERS

Sunday 16th February

On Sunday 16th February the Ramblers will do a circular walk of about 4 miles from the New Inn at Coleford. We shall firstly head to Coplestone and then take in the hamlets of Elstone and Knowle before returning to Coleford. The walk has a few hills but is on lanes and footpaths through pleasant countryside. It features a number of interesting buildings with quite a few historical links. It is based on Walk 4 described in the 'More Tarka Line Walks' booklet.

After the walk we plan to book for lunch at the New Inn for those who would like to stay – please contact Rosemary to reserve a place.

We will meet in the Newton St Cyres Parish Hall Car Park **at 9.30 am** so we can share lifts. Alternatively you can meet us at 10 am at the New Inn.

All welcome. Any queries to Nigel or Rosemary Chambers on 851400.

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



Thoughts for February from Peter Cordingley

The last 50 or so years have seen major changes in the way we buy our food. Back in the day, most of us shopped at the grocers, butchers or fishmongers on the local high street. But not any more. Today, of the £76 billion that is spent nationally on groceries, more than 80% goes to supermarkets.

Of the big four operators nationally (Tesco, ASDA, Sainsbury and Morrisons), Tesco is the elephant in the room. It hoovers up one in every three pounds and is growing richer by the day. Profit last year, if I have understood the numbers correctly, was £2.9 billion.

Anyone who has visited the Crediton store (and who hasn't these days?) can see why. There's tons of parking space, the shelves are loaded with goods, the staff, by and large, are cheerful, informed and friendly and, if you shop wisely, there are special offers galore. (Those self-service checkout machines are a different story, but maybe that's just me).

But these days, Tesco and its competitors are going further. They are muscling in on non-food areas such as clothing, electrical goods, stationery, beauty products and other services, such as pharmacies and the Internet. It's obvious what they are up to. They are taking on the entire range of stores found in our towns. And, in the case of this part of the world, the target is the shops on Crediton High Street.

And now we have Lidl with its new store at Lords Meadow. Doomsdayers tell us that all this could add up to the end of Crediton as a go-to shopping destination. To that, I say ... well, I can't tell you what I would say because it's quite rude. Suffice it to say that I think the pessimists are wrong. Very wrong.

True, the opening of Lidl means that Crediton now has three supermarkets – Tesco, Morrisons and Lidl. That's quite a lot for a town of a little more than 8,000 residents, but there are special factors at play.

For a start, we've seen it all before. The opening of Tesco in 2009 was supposed to signal the end of the town's independent shops. It never happened. Those places are cherished. Like all retailers, they are feeling the effects of the national economic downturn, but their personal touch makes shopping a different experience to anything a supermarket can offer.

And then there's the matter of what the three supermarkets offer and who their customers are. Broadly speaking, Tesco and Morrisons fit into the middle of the market in terms of quality of goods and price, while German-owned Lidl is cheap and cheerful. It stocks a more limited range of goods in order to avoid what it calls

overload" (whatever that is). It's a very competitive purchaser and it squeezes its suppliers hard. As a consequence, there's hardly a shop in Crediton that can compete with its prices, but for the High Street's loyal customers, that doesn't matter. It's all to do with the experience.

Of course, there are no certainties these days, but I like to think Crediton High Street and its wonderful shops are safe – though I suspect there may be one big casualty before too long. Its name? Morrisons. It's just a feeling.

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

How well do you know your village?

Can you answer the following questions:-

1. WHEN was the picture taken?
2. WHERE was it taken?
3. WHO is in the Picture?

No 95



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



27 High Street Crediton EX17 3AH (Next to Costa) Email: enquiries@creditonbeds.co.uk
Website: creditonbeds.co.uk Tel: 01363 774156



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2 Drawer Divan Set With Matching
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4'6 Double Pocket Master 1000 Pocket Spring
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Divan Set with Any 24" Padded Strutted Headboard in
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Double Sided Firm Comfort Mattress with 2000 Pocket
Springs Covered with Layers of Fine and Sumptuous
Fillings. This Deep Hand Tufted Mattress will Eliminate
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1500 Individual Pocket Springs Surrounded by Luxurious Fillings
and Covered in a High Quality Fabric with Handles and Vents.

Medium / Firm Comfort

£399

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Sprung Mattress Made with Ethically Sourced Fair Trade Materials.
Filled with Wool, Polyester and Cotton Covered in 100% Viscose.
Chemical Free, Recyclable, Breathable and Hypoallergenic.
Medium/Firm Comfort - **£599**

5' King Size Fusion 1500 Pocket Spring Gel Hybrid Mattress, For
The Ultimate In Pressure Relieving, Support And Coolness

This is Incredible Value - £769

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Supplier Based at Sampford Courtenay on the Edge of Dartmoor
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Their Own Farms. Available In Soft, Medium Or Firm Comforts.

Singles From £649 All Sizes Available.

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Calendars for 2025

NOW available to buy

£5.00 each

A3 with spiral bound top for easy hanging

To order your 2025 Calendar,
email
thenewtonwonder@gmail.com
or call Nicola on

01392 851985

CASH preferred for all
payments please.

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

Newton St Cyres
Calendar
2025



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



February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16

Cheese is for life, not just for Christmas!

From Sharpam Brie and Devon Blue to Cornish Yarg and Colston Bassett Stilton, our counter is bursting with a delicious selection of artisan cheeses all year round! Our entire range of cheeses are also available from the shop - we have our cheddars, oak-smoked cheeses, goats milk cheeses and flavoured cheeses (our Elderflower Cheese and Hops Cheddar). You are always very welcome to come and sample the cheeses in our counter.

*At present, we have some beautiful
brie Valentine's hearts handcrafted
by our friends at White Lake
Cheese Dairy, Somerset available
in our cheese counter and on our
website.*

Find out more by visiting
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HOME FARM, NEWTON ST CYRES, EXETER, DEVON EX5 5AY

THE CHEESE SHOP IS OPEN - MONDAY-FRIDAY 10AM-4PM AND SATURDAY 9AM-1PM.

Bert Jewell writes Rhymes and Ways about Gardens and Gardening

February

The celebrations over, a new year to embrace,
While I sit making notes of the challenges we face,
Like will there be storms, will my fence stay upright,
If it does blow over it'll probably be at night.

Then I'll wake in the morning to a brand-new view.
I could have sworn all those posts were new,
They've been there a while says the person next door,
As we look at the debris all over the floor.

And will the garden be muddy when it's time to sow,
Will the lawn be too wet when it's time to mow,
Or will it be cold with a frost overnight,
Will the daffodils wish that they'd stayed out of sight?

Or will they be brave like the snowdrops before,
Will they give me a nod as I step out the door?
Caught up in the breeze as it welcomes the day,
The birds on the feeder all having their say.

About what, I'm not sure, is the seed to their taste,
The ground below scattered with the food that they waste,
Cleared by the blackbird without leaving a trace,
While I sit making notes of the challenges we face.

Things to do in the garden

Like all who work the land, be it farmers growing crops, gardeners tending large gardens or the person who loves to grow a few veg and maybe some flowers to cut for the table, we all have to work with the weather.

I remember my father, who was very regimental in his approach to gardening. Every row had to be straight, the distance between each row was measured using sticks that he had cut to certain lengths, one for between rows of

potatoes, one for between rows of seedlings and so on. One particular year he had raked over the seed bed and sown the seeds of carrots, parsnips and cabbage for summer and autumn use. The seed bed was on a bit of a slope and a couple of days after he had sown the seed we had a thunderstorm. You can guess what happened. All the seeds moved in the deluge and when the seedlings appeared it looked as if the seeds had been broadcast rather than sown in straight lines.

Father pondered for a long time whether to sow another batch, but decided to put up with the crooked lines. I'm a little bit like my father. I like the garden to look neat and tidy, and, yes, there are some straight lines on our allotment.

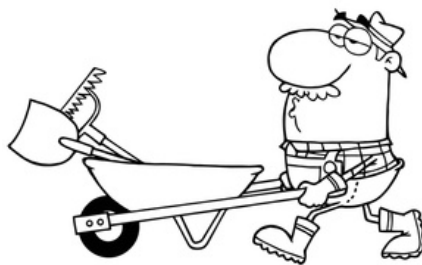
Now if conditions are right and you still garden in the old way, winter digging can be finished if the ground is vacant. Don't turn the ground if it's frosty as you will be turning in the frost and it will take longer for the soil to warm up. If mild and dry towards the end of the month, the lawn may benefit from a trim, not too short at this time of year, if the soil is wet the wheels of the mower will leave what we call tram lines that could take some time to grow out.

You will soon be able to buy pots of Polyanthus, Pansies and Violas. The plants always look great in full flower, but remember most of them, not all, have been grown under cover to get them into flower. Once that flower fades, it may be a while before the plant settles in and starts flowering again.

Plant of the month

"Helleborus Niger"

Known as the Christmas Rose, but it all depends on the weather and slugs and snails as to whether it flowers at Christmas. The hybrid Hellebores are slightly later to flower, "Niger" has white flowers, the hybrids or Lenten Rose can have white, pink, purple or yellow flowers. Grows best in partial shade in well-drained soil. It self-seeds but seedlings are not true to form.



Enjoy your gardening

Newton St Cyres Tennis Club

A Happy and Healthy and Active New Year to you all

The first social event was on Friday 10th January.

We celebrated the New Year with poems and songs written by Club members as an ode to the Tennis Club. There were wonderful entries and vocal performances. It was a great evening in The Recreation Club Building. Everybody voted for the best entry and Emma won the prize, a book with Devon poems.



Club members enjoying the January Social

The Rusty Racket Members' Group is thriving and playing a couple of times a week. If your New Year's Resolution is to play tennis again, do contact Sue Bloomfield

at rustyrackets@newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk

The new membership year is starting in April. Do contact our membership secretary Laura Leigh on 01647 24259 for details and you shall have an enjoyable year of tennis and banter and friendships.

Winter League matches are nearly finished. The ladies', men's and mixed teams have been battling with various weather conditions and enjoyed them all! New teams are being formed for the the summer. If you like a challenge and play competitions, contact the membership secretary.

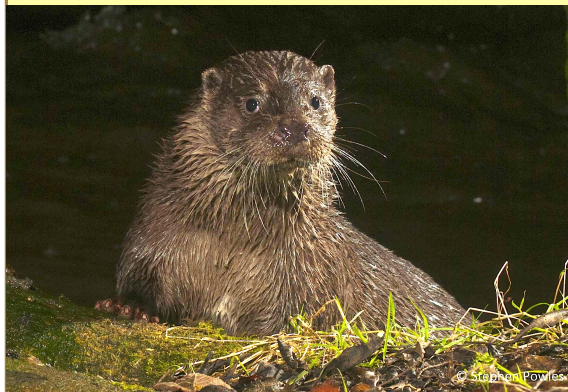
The Junior Coaching is well attended and takes place on Wednesdays after school during term time. If you would like to enroll for the spring term please email: juniors@newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk for further information and put your name down and check if there is room in the right age and right level group.

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

Frederiek Maddock

NEWTON ST CYRES GARDENING CLUB

WELCOME THE RETURN VISIT of STEPHEN POWLES



speaking on 'Otters – Coming to a River Near You'

Stephen will give an insight into the secretive lives of otters, the signs to look out for and then go on to discuss their decline and subsequent recovery. He will also introduce "Hammer Scar", a female that lived on the stream below his home. He observed, photographed and filmed her life

in remarkable detail over five years and will share some of the highlights.

Wednesday 5th February starting at 7.30pm

in the Main Hall of **Newton St Cyres Parish Hall EX5 5BW**

Membership not required – all welcome

£3.00 to include a hot drink & biscuits.

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ALL THIS FEBRUARY

THURSDAY 6TH

MUSIC: Jazz on the Green. 19:00.
Music and Food
Tickets: £27

FRIDAY 7TH

MUSIC:
Caoilfhionn
Rose. A rising
star of the
contemporary
acoustic music
scene.
Tickets £14/£11



SATURDAY 15TH

FAMILY THEATRE:

Little Lotte - Akimbo

Theatre bring their sparky,
funny and charming clown

& puppet show about a young woman 'bitten' by the magic of the first 'moving pictures' - Suitable for 3+



SATURDAY 22ND

FAMILY MAGIC: The Great Baldini -
Legendary magician the Great Baldini
tells the story of his magical life
through a series of spectacular illusions
Tickets £10/£8

SATURDAY 15TH

THEATRE: Sherlock Holmes: The Last
Act - Nigel Miles-Thomas (Grange Hill,
Dr Who) brings his take on the last case
for the Conan Doyle's great detective.



FRIDAY 14TH FILM: Nightmare Alley

www.creditonartscentre.org
info@creditonartscentre.org

Newton St Cyres Gardening Club

May I start by wishing you all a belated Happy New Year, and I hope that you had an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas.



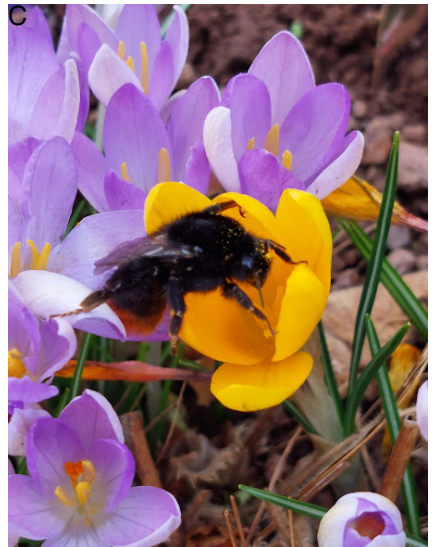
Outdoor macrame to protect the pond

I would like to thank all those who attended our 2024 talks. We run the Club to provide you with gardening, and garden-related, topics in a social setting so I hope you will be able to join us again this coming year.

Our first meeting of the Club in 2025 will be on **Wednesday 5th February** when **Stephen Powles** will make a welcome return following last year's talk on Tawny Owls. This year, Stephen's talk will be entitled **'Otters – Coming**

to a River Near You'. Our meeting will start at 7.30pm and be held in the Main Hall of the Parish Hall. Due to all costs increasing, the charge for each of our normal talks will be £3, including a hot drink and biscuits. Please do come along as Stephen will give an insight into the secretive lives of otters, the signs to look out for and then go on to discuss their decline and subsequent recovery. He will also introduce "Hammer Scar", a female that lived on the stream below his home. He observed, photographed and filmed her life in remarkable detail over five years and will share some of the highlights.

I hope that many of you will have taken part in the **RSPB Garden Birdwatch** (24-26th January) and I will include the results in an article later this year. Recent visitors to our garden have been a Sparrowhawk, who regularly settles in the damson tree whilst looking for a take-away meal from the bird feeders, a Grey Wagtail investigating the pond



Crocus and Bumblebee

and another less welcome visitor, a Grey Heron who managed to discover the fish in our pond. Michael had to take up outdoor macramé in the hope we can discourage him/her. This is also the prime suspect for a pond leak in the neighbours' garden!

It is that wonderful time of the year when snowdrops, crocuses, hellebores, aconites and daffodils all make a very welcome appearance in our gardens. Details of gardens that are open to visitors are listed under 'What's On'?

This month, I thought I would highlight the **crocus**. These dwarf perennials grow from an underground corm and are members of the Iris family. They can be grown in sunny beds, borders or rock gardens with good drainage, or under deciduous trees. You can either buy them as corms or as growing plants in garden centres when they are coming into flower. Due to the brightness of the colours, spring-flowering crocus provide early nectar and pollen for bees emerging from hibernation on warm spring days. Some bumblebee queens will even sleep in the flowers overnight before they find a nest site.

There are around 80 varieties of crocus and good ones to start with include *C. angustifolius* the Cloth of Gold crocus which has scented bright, deep yellow flowers feathered with dark mahogany on the outside, *C. bifloris* 'Blue Pearl' a smaller variety which usually produces up to four fragrant pale lavender-blue flowers per corm and *C. 'Snow Bunting'* with fragrant white flowers with a greenish yellow centre (throat). In addition to the spring flowering varieties, there are also autumn flowering varieties so if you have missed planting for spring why not try for autumn? These corms are sold in garden centres from late summer for planting in September. *C. speciosus* 'Alba', known as the White Bieberstein's crocus, are good for naturalising outdoors in sparse short grass in an open site. They have large pure white flowers with orange stigma.

Some Jobs for February

- Browse seed catalogues and get your orders in. Maybe try something that you have not grown before.
- Prune autumn fruiting raspberries down to ground level
- Prune late flowering clematis to just above a low pair of healthy buds. This will then produce lots of vigorous new stem growth leading to lots of flowers.
- Prune deciduous hedges while they are still dormant and before the bird-nesting season starts
- Trim winter heathers to just below the flowered stems, ensuring you do not cut into the old wood.
- Pre-warm vegetable beds with cloches, re-useable plastic sheeting or fleece until you are ready to sow.
- Along with Easter eggs, seed potatoes are readily available from January. Do you plan trying a different variety this year? Dundee based Potato House www.potatohouse.co.uk offer a wide range of heritage varieties from pre-1950,

Rosemary and I now have copies of **Suttons Catalogue 2025**, together with our Club's discount code. If you would like a copy, please contact either me 01392 851985 or Rosemary 01392 851400. Alternatively, you can search online www.suttons.co.uk

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

S – Standard roses: With their tall stems topped by a sphere of foliage and flowers, standard roses bring elegance and formality to gardens. Their classic lollipop-shaped appearance works a treat when grown in containers as a focal point either side of a doorway or path, or to frame a dramatic view. Browse a selection of superb standard roses here: <https://www.classicroses.co.uk/roses/standards.html>

T – Top dressing: While many roses grow happily in containers, compost can become depleted of nutrients over the years, leading to lacklustre displays. To give plants a boost, scrape away the top 5cm of compost every couple of years and replace it with fresh John Innes No.3 or specialist rose compost. It'll help to replenish nutrient levels which encourage healthy growth and a profusion of flowers.

U – Underplanting: Keen to stop animals from using your borders as their toilet? Underplanting with very low-growing roses or perennials holds the key to carpeting ground beneath shrubs with a profusion of blooms. The Flower Carpet series is a brilliant, spreading, low-growing rose, with varieties available that bloom in a host of hues, from yellow to white, red, coral and pink. These low-maintenance superstars boast superb disease-resistance, too, and are perfect for underplanting tall standards and tall shrubs.

WHAT'S ON?

- **Wednesday 5th February** NSC Parish Hall at 7.30pm **Stephen Powles 'Otters – Coming to a River Near You'. Membership not required. £3 to include a hot drink and biscuits.**

- **Saturday 1st-Friday 14th February** RHS Rosemoor. **Celebration of Snowdrops.** 10am-4pm with guided walks at 12 noon each day. Normal admission applies.

- 10th Jan-16th March. **'Snowdrops at The Garden House' 2025 Festival.** Buckland Monochorum near Yelverton PL20 7LQ. **Opening times** 10.30am-3pm every Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Adult **(+16yrs)** £11.00 with Gift Aid. (£10.00 – Standard) **Child (+6yrs)** £5.50 with Gift Aid. (£5.00 – Standard) **Child (0-5)** Free RHS Member 1, free admission on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until 31st March

- 7th 14th & 23rd February. **Higher Cherubeer, Dolton, Winkleigh EX19 8PP.** Woodland paths lined with around 400 named snowdrops, Cyclamen species, hellebores and winter flowering shrubs. 2pm-5pm NGS. Adult £6, Child Free

- 23rd February & 2nd March **East Worlington, Witheridge 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. Walks from the garden across the river and into the woods. Dogs on leads please. 1.30pm-5pm. Cream teas in the thatched parish hall next to house, in aid of Parish Hall. Adult: £6 Child: Free

- From Saturday 25th January-Sunday 23rd February. **Snowdrop Valley**. This is a privately owned remote valley in a hidden part of Exmoor close to **Wheddon Cross**. The Badgworthy Land Company kindly allow access to the valley while the beautiful carpet of snowdrops is in bloom. There are various walking routes for visitors to enjoy, the most popular being the shorter walks, which are approximately 1 mile down to the valley and looping back uphill for a further mile. Maps of the walks will be available from the parking kiosk, staffed 9am-pm each day. **Parking is available at Cutcombe Cattle Market (TA24 7DT)**, at a charge of £5.00 per car. In the past we have been fortunate to see the beautiful Scarlet Elf Cups *Sarcoscypha austriaca* growing alongside the snowdrops. These attach themselves to leaf litter or decaying twigs on damp woodland floors and, as the name suggests, they look like cups. Folklore said that elves would drink the morning dew from them or fairies would bathe in them. Whatever you like to believe, they are stunning with their smooth bright red inner surface and pale pink downy exterior.

Other Local Garden Club Meetings

CREDITON Meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7pm in Crediton Library. Annual membership £12, talks free. Visitors welcome. £3 per talk.

- **Tuesday 25th February 7pm.** A talk by **Julian Sutton** on ‘**The Secret Life of Bulbs & Corms**’

UPTON PYNE

- **Monday 17th February 7.30pm** in the village hall. A talk by **Dan Vidler**, author of ‘**Crop Circles and their Layers of Mysteries**’.

Happy Gardening!

Nicola Baker

Permissive Path

The annual closure of the permissive path in the Churchyard, between the South Porch and the Arboretum, will be on February 3rd. The alternative path, running north side above the road between Church Lane and the Arboretum, is a public path and remains open.



Newton St Cyres to enter RHS Britain in Bloom

Plans are underway to enter the village in the annual RHS Britain in Bloom competition this year. Several groups/individuals in the village have already joined up.

What is RHS Britain in Bloom?

The Britain in Bloom competition is 60 years old and has been organised by the Royal Horticultural Society since 2002. The overall aim of 'Bloom' is for local people to bring like-minded people together to help maintain and improve the environment, create floral features and enhance lives through collaborative efforts. The competition is entered by cities, towns and villages across the UK and is divided into categories so only communities of a similar size compete against each other. All those taking part, including judges, are volunteers.

Why would we enter?

A number of groups and individuals in the village already make a real difference to our community. Entering the 'Bloom' competition will showcase and celebrate their achievements.

What are the principal aspects to be judged for awards?



Horticulture—the 'right plants' in the 'right place'; care and management of green spaces; use of sustainable materials e.g. peat-free compost

Environment— care for where we live; reduced litter/graffiti; clean, good condition signage; planting with respect for wildlife; production of local food; composting; water harvesting and sustainability.

Community – volunteering, use of local expertise; liaising with schools

and school projects; litter-picking projects; devising 'art in the landscape'; sharing local food; organising events and talks; creating a record of year-round activities.



When will judging take place?

Between 1st and 31st July (we hope it will be early in July). The time allowed for judging a village in our category is expected to be 2.5 hours.

How can villagers get involved?

We would like to encourage as many people as possible to get involved and share their skills, knowledge and ideas. Areas you can get involved with include:

Growing plants for hanging baskets, planters and flower beds; volunteering with established groups in the village; general maintenance; building a planter (or two), painting a bike (as well as a range of skills we may not have thought of yet!)

The organisers, Christine Fraser and Julie Furniss, are keen for anyone in the village to join in. There will be an introductory meeting at the **Beer Engine at 7pm on**

Wednesday 19th February to learn more, share ideas and set a timetable leading to July judging.

If you would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact Christine Fraser at christine.fraser1945@gmail.com 01392 851988/07773 038689 or Julie Furniss at juliefurniss99@gmail.com 01392 851601/07843 176060.

You can find more information on southwestinbloom.org.uk/default.aspx

Nicola Baker

Newton St Cyres Parish Council

continued from page 5

Quarterly Report – Travel and Road Safety – Cllr J Dean

Cllr J Dean provided an update on key highways and safety concerns:

- **Traffic on the A377:** Despite previous discussions with Devon County Council (DCC) about priorities like a Tytheing Close crossing, improved signage at Smallbrook, and school signage, the increasing traffic on the A377 due to development in Crediton and beyond remains a significant issue.
- **Community Speedwatch:** The group now has eight volunteers actively involved.
- **Roadside Maintenance:** Following the recent parish walkabout, a work schedule will be developed to include routine clearance of roadside vegetation.
- **Landowner Contacts:** Efforts to engage landowners about specific issues have been challenging due to limited contact information. A comprehensive and workable contact list is needed.

The Parish Council resolved to:

1. Request that C/Cllr M Squires ask DCC to conduct a vehicle count on the A377, allowing comparison with pre-pedestrian crossing data.
2. Have the Clerk share landowner contact details with Cllr G Barnell, who will supplement the list with additional contacts.

Cllr L Ouldrige noted that the QR code for reporting issues to the Parish Council would soon be up and running.

Date of next Parish Council meeting: Thursday 6th February 2025 at 7pm in the Club Room.

Jenna Browne

A fond farewell to Daphne and Tom Clague

It was standing room only at the Parish Hall for a farewell lunch for Daphne and Tom Clague as they prepared to embark on the next chapter of their lives.

After 26 happy years in Newton St Cyres, the couple were upping stakes to move closer to family in Swaffham, Norfolk. Daphne explains: "My son Andrew, his wife and grandson are there, as well as his in-laws, so we are going to be with family and friends." Another son, Richard, lives in Cornwall.

As much as they have loved their life here, Tom's health was the main reason for the move. Tom, who is 82, suffers from vascular dementia.



Tom and Daphne Clague

But you wouldn't know that as they reminisce later in their cosy Woodlands home just days before they leave. Tom is in good spirits and speaks fondly of the many friends he has made and what he will miss. "Just about everything really," he says. "Whoever you pass in the street, you always say hello or you know them."

Adds Daphne: "It was a very hard decision to leave. Our son is worried about Tom falling down the stairs here, but fortunately we are moving to a bungalow 10 minutes from him, so we don't have to worry about any of that."

It's clear that Daphne and Tom are devoted to each other. They can barely believe they celebrated their 60th anniversary last year, with no signs of either slowing down. As they look back over their time here, they can be proud of their contribution to the community.

For many years, Tom was a familiar sight along Station Road as he used to walk its length and breadth picking up the litter left by careless passersby. He also helped maintain the train station garden with former Parish Councillor Chris Southcott and the team of volunteers.

Daphne has always been a familiar sight around the village. Most days, she could be seen walking up and down Station Road or Pump Street at a determined pace, getting in her 20 minutes of daily exercise. It's hard to believe that she is 84. Her motivation? "My older sister had been chair bound for four or five years and I was determined that I wasn't going to be like that, so I needed to keep my legs going."

Daphne always had a head for numbers. She was treasurer of the Newton Wonder for 10 years, and also treasurer of the 200 Club.

Newton Wonder co-editor Peter Hawksley recalls the day that he and his partner Jill won £100 from the 200 Club. "Daphne came around with an envelope of money. It was lunchtime and Jill said, 'You really must have a drink.' Daphne answered, 'I'd like a drop of sherry.' Normally, we don't have sherry in the house, but we happened to have a bottle. So Daphne had a sherry – and then another one."

No surprise, then, that the thank-you gift for the couple at the farewell lunch was a bottle of sherry!

Tom was in the Royal Air Force for more than 20 years based in Plymouth. After he retired, they came to Exeter, where he worked for the NHS and then as a relief manager in a care home.

However, he had to give up full-time work because of heart issues. When it came to retirement, they looked around and found their new home in Newton. Says Daphne: "It was in July, there was a lovely garden and the sun was shining – it looked so nice. We have never regretted it."

Tom says, half-jokingly: "Do we have to move?", to which Daphne replies: "It's too late to change your mind, we've already signed the contract, so no going back now. That's why we say it was a very hard decision – the neighbourhood, the friends, we won't lose touch with these friends and we will stay in touch. Promise."

On the day of the farewell lunch Daphne received the sad news that her 88-year-old sister had died, causing her to cut short the lunch. She said later: "It was lovely to see everybody and I'm sorry if I had to rush away. We have enjoyed seeing everyone and just chatting. A special thank-you to Jocelyne Whittaker for putting on the farewell."

Words and picture by Ann Quon Cordingley

A message from Daphne and Tom

Daphne and Tom Clague would like to thank everyone who organised the lunch in the Parish Hall for us in December. Thank you also to everyone who came to wish us well in our new home in Norfolk.

Do You Remember.....February?

February 1975

The Editorial highlighted the problems on the A377, i.e. Cowley Bridge junction; Half Moon Village (narrow roadway); Castlands (narrow); the Village; Smallbrook (tight bends, bus stops and Dunscombe farm entrance).. BUT asked why work on widening and straightening 2 bends at Cartaway had been carried out.

The Church re-decoration would start in April and scaffolding had been loaned by Exeter Cathedral.

Cowley Church were advertising a Coffee Morning at Cowley Manor.

The Parish Council had put up four new notice boards at a cost of £46 and were continuing to press for more Council housing.

A Public Meeting was advertised to discuss the provision of a Tennis Court.

The Over 60's went to the Pantomime to see Babes in the Wood at Torquay.

In the Gardening news a problem with mice eating the peas growing in pots was reported

February 1985

The lead article from the Editor was about the problems on the A377 and how dangerous it is particularly for pedestrians.

The Afternoon Club had held a dinner at the Devonshire Café, Crediton which was attended by 37. They had also been to see the Pantomime at Tedburn St Mary.

The W I had been unable to go to see Dunsford Pantomime because of the arctic weather.

The Scrabble League was active with many matches being played.

February 1995

The School welcomed David Lockley who would be taking games and outdoor education. The School also had a burglary when a TV and video recorder were taken.

The School Hall was being offered to village groups to use when not in use by the School.

The Parish Council reported that Newton St Cyres had been identified as possible location for a gateway traffic calming scheme.

It was reported that the Church Christmas Fair had made £913.05 and that the Sunday School had been re-started.

Pauline Loo was collecting postcards which were being sold for Hospiscare funds.

February 2005

The editorial mentioned the tsunami and it's after effects.

Hazel Price requested information and memories of Langford Park and Winscott Hamlet as she is compiling a history.

Langford Park Care Home thanked the Beer Engine and all the staff for the lovely Christmas meal enjoyed by their residents.

There were two and a half pages of earthquake news which had caused the largest number of casualties world-wide. The largest recorded was on December 16th 1920, magnitude of 8.5, in Ningxia, China when about 235,000 were killed.

The ramblers have 2 walks planned, one at Shobrooke and one to Snowdrop Valley.

The NSC Church Clock history and maintenance schedule was printed dating back to 1697 with items such as "pd for lent of a horse to go to newbuildings to fetch home ye Clock and Dyall Table"

- 1s (one shilling) and in 1736 "pd Tucker for doing up ye Clock"
- £2.2.0 (2pounds, 2 shillings and no pence).

A Coffee Morning was advertised at Ford Farm for Church funds.

A list of memorable quotes from George W Bush were listed:-
'If we don't succeed, we run the risk of failure';
'The future will be better tomorrow';
'For NASA, space is still a high priority'!

February 2015

A meeting was held and villagers who were not necessarily churchgoers agreed that the village needed certain essential services for the community and that the fabric and environs of the Church should be supported. It was made clear that funds raised by non-churchgoers would be used solely for the benefit of Newton St Cyres church and would not be used for the purposes of the diocese.

March saw the installation of the "Harrington Hump" on the platform at the station so it is now relatively easy to get on and off the trains. It had been suggested that as the station was now more passenger friendly more trains would stop. Sadly this had not yet happened.

The community Support Group used its funds and the talents of some of its members in raising money and grants to provide the village with a portable defibrillator. Winning the

Prince of Wales Award of Honour brought a cheque for £1000. The Defibrillator is located outside the Crown and Sceptre and, should it be necessary to use it there will be help from the pub. The machine also contains a computer system which tells the operator how to use it.

Several significant contributions to the community include the establishment of a community Resilience Plan which will enable the community to respond to emergencies and unexpected events. These include storms and floods as well as accidents and other emergencies.

The Village unveiled a new sign and came second in its category of the Best Kept Village awards.

Peter Hawksley



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WE ALSO SUPPLY WOODCHIP AND LOGS

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

Newton St Cyres History Group has a growing library of publications.

- **Newton St Cyres – A Village Story (£5)**

Compiled by residents of this village in 1999 (the green 'millennium book') containing a wealth of reproduced photographs.

- **Newton St Cyres Historical Village Walks (£1)**

Four brief walks around the Village, the Western Bluff, West Town and Station Road with maps and an explanation of the road cuttings, levelling and straightening.

- **Newton St Cyres Mining and Miners (£1)**

Our mining heritage, both manganese, claimed to be "*the first commercially successful manganese mines in the world!*", and lead & silver up on Tin Pit Hill that may go back to Roman times.

- **Newton St Cyres Church – Statement of Significance (£2)**

Describes the history and most important features of the church, dedicated to St Cyr and St Julitta.

- **Memories of Boyhood in a Devon Village (£3)**

Written by Alfred Abraham, born in Newton St Cyres in 1893. He shares his memories growing up in the village at the beginning of the 20th century.

- **Newton St Cyres in the 1940s & 1950s (£5)**

Written by Stella Cork, born in Newton St Cyres in 1934 and the daughter of the village postmaster. She gives a remarkable description of families in the village and an insight into village life.

- **Newton St Cyres and The Civil War 1642-46 (£5)**

Written by Jean Wilkins. The story of grief, hardship and a little excitement for those living in the village almost 400 years ago during the English Civil War supported by coloured photos and maps. Would you have been a Roundhead or a Cavalier?

- **Newton St Cyres in the WW2 Years (£5)**

Written by Roger Wilkins, The contributions of the village to the war effort are described, as are impacts on village activities and businesses.

- **Newton St Cyres & the A377 (£5)**

Written by Jean Wilkins, A window into the history of transport into and through the village and the development of the A 377.

Also visit **newtonwonder.net** where you will find data and analyses on:

Births, Deaths and Marriages in Newton St Cyres (16th–18th century)

UK Censuses on Newton St Cyres (1841-1911)

Newton St Cyres Tithe Map of 1843

Copies can be purchased by contacting

Jean Wilkins 01392 851337 jeanwilkins1@btinternet.com

First local history prize awarded

The inaugural Nick Baker Local History Prize sponsored by the *Newton Wonder* has been won by a former botanical researcher and environmental policy expert who never “got” history as a young student.



Toasting the award L to R: Peter Hawksley, Jilly Baker, Midge Kelly and Lord Iddesleigh

Newton St Cyres resident Midge Kelly was awarded the prize at a ceremony at Pynes House, the former residence of Sir Stafford Henry Northcote, a Conservative politician who served as Chancellor of the Exchequer and Foreign Secretary in the 19th century and who, some say, could in other circumstances have become prime minister.

Midge Kelly’s essay on the distinguished and colourful Sir Stafford, the first Earl of Iddesleigh and 8th Baronet of Pynes, won praise from his great, great grandson, the current and very much living Lord Iddesleigh as “an absolutely brilliant piece of work.” He says: “I would give Midge absolutely top marks. It gives me such pride that the first prize goes to [the biographer of] one of my ancestors.”

It was therefore fitting that the award ceremony took place at Pynes House, Upton Pyne, the original Northcote family home where the First Earl of Iddesleigh lived when he wasn’t in Westminster attending to parliamentary duties.

In accepting her £100 prize award from Jilly Baker, Midge said: “I am absolutely delighted to receive this award and think it is an amazing initiative. When I moved to Newton St Cyres in 2010, I really didn’t have any interest in local history at all. I didn’t see the point of history at school but gradually have come to realise that arguably the main value of local history is that it helps people become more rooted in their local community, to value it more, and to see a different side of where they live.”

The prize was established in honour of the late Nick Baker, a Cowley resident and avid historian who was keen to share his detailed knowledge and expertise of local history with others. “Nick more than anyone else explored the history of this area and recorded it in a really professional and rigorous way,” says close friend Peter Tyldesley. “If he told you something about the local history, the chances are you would find it was spot on.”

In Nick Baker’s memory, the competition asked entrants to write about the history of one of four local areas – Newton St Cyres, Cowley, Upton Pyne or Brampford Speke.

Taking up the challenge, winner Midge says she decided to write about Sir Stafford after reading about him at the Northcote Memorial in the village church during a Heritage Open Day tour. “I wasn’t aware that such an eminent politician had lived in the area – and neither was anyone else that I spoke to.

“Reading his biography led me to online research about his parliamentary career, and a forage through [digitised] newspapers of his time. I became quite hooked, and wanted to re-introduce this kind and clever man to people who live in the area today,” she says.

Although the present Lord Iddesleigh lives in the area, Midge says she didn’t contact him or his family during her research. “I didn’t involve them because I had never met them, and my superficial scratchings at the history of their family felt too trivial to bother them with,” she says. “Having since met Lord and Lady Iddesleigh at the award ceremony, I now realise it would be fun and interesting to discuss aspects of Lord Northcote, including some enigmas that didn’t make it into the essay.”

Growing up in Barnstaple, Midge says she never really did ‘get’ history at school. Instead, she says, “I was always curious about how and why things are, and embarked on a career of botanical research lasting several years and then to environmental policy roles in the public sector – in Merseyside, Lancashire and Devon – on recycling, aspects of biodiversity, energy and climate change. “

Has she won any previous prizes for writing? “Decades ago, I did win the Thomas Woodcock Prize at Sheffield University for an essay on ‘Polyphosphate – the Manipulatory Molecule’. I have to say that writing about Lord Northcote was far more fun!”

The judges for the competition were Peter Hawksley, Jean Wilkins and Jilly Baker. “For the next competition,” says Peter Hawksley, “we may add a category for younger entrants to encourage them to have a go.”

Words and photo by Ann Quon Cordingley

The winning essay by Midge Kelly is published on the next pages.

Sir Stafford Henry Northcote (1818-1887), 1st Earl of Iddesleigh:

Forgotten Tory Leader?

In appearance, Sir Stafford Henry Northcote, 8th Baronet of Pynes (later First Earl of Iddesleigh and Viscount St Cyres) - or 'SHN' as I'll call him - was above middling height, very fair with a bushy beard (worn after an injury from a cricket ball) and he wore spectacles for short-sightedness. He lived at Pynes House, Upton Pyne – and in Westminster when Parliamentary duties required his presence.



Sir Stafford Henry Northcote aged 32

His CV would have been impressive. He attended Eton and graduated from Balliol College Oxford (with a first in classics and a third in mathematics), then embarked on his political 'apprenticeship' in 1843, becoming private secretary to William Gladstone at the Board of Trade. Although called to the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1847, he didn't take to the legal profession. After meeting Prince Albert in 1850 he was asked to play a key role in organising the Great Exhibition of 1851, where he worked on the French and Belgian sections. He also co-engineered (with Sir Charles Trevelyan) a major reform of the Civil Service in 1853 to base recruitment on merit rather than nepotism. In 1855 when aged 37 he entered the House of Commons as Conservative MP for Dudley. From 1858 until 1866 he represented Stamford; then

North Devon from 1866 until his retirement in 1885.

He was President of the Board of Trade under the Earl of Derby (1866-67); Secretary of State for India (1867); Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company (1869); Chancellor of the Exchequer under Disraeli (1874-80); and Leader of the Conservatives (1876-1885). In 1885 he was raised to the peerage, becoming First Earl of Iddesleigh and Viscount St Cyres. He also served as First Lord of the Treasury (1885-86) and Foreign Secretary under the Marquess of Salisbury (1886-87).

Whilst Chancellor of the Exchequer, SHN lived at No. 10 Downing Street, normally the prestigious address of the sitting Prime Minister. Because SHN had



1st Earl of Iddesleigh aged 62

10 children and Disraeli was a childless widower, the two men agreed to swap residences. The Prime Minister moved into the smaller flat at No. 11, while SHN and his large family settled into the more spacious No. 10 where, as Disraeli explained, "the drains are so much better." One of SHN's grandchildren was born at No. 10 in 1878 (Flora MacLeod).

These days, politicians are sometimes suspected of being self-serving, or of putting the interests of their Party ahead of that of the country. SHN doesn't seem to have been like that. When he died, 300 wreaths were sent to his funeral – including by Queen Victoria, and staff at St David's

Railway Station, Exeter; 5,000 people came to view his grave and the afternoon trains helpfully made special stops at Pynes Bridge; throughout the county and beyond church bells rang mournful knells, window shutters were closed, blinds drawn and business operations suspended. Later, in the Midlands, potteries made plates bearing his portrait, and statues were erected in Northernhay Park, Exeter and the Palace of Westminster.

What was it about SHN that elicited deep affection and respect in people from all walks of life? His letters and diaries, events reported in newspapers of his time, and other sources give us an insight into his undoubted charisma.

Lord Carnarvon (1831-1890), a leading Conservative politician, wrote that SHN 'had a serenity of disposition rarely ruffled by controversy and wholly unsusceptible to the venom of vulgar politics'. SHN never allowed political antagonism to influence his personal relations with other men – the result of his natural kindness and the liberality of his mind. A shrewd and penetrating observer of men and life, he had a charming vein of humour and could illumine any subject with his bright flashes of playful wit. His satire was bright and penetrating, but not unkindly. Though not a great orator, he was able to command the unbroken attention of the House of Commons, and during his term as Chancellor, SHN acquired a reputation for 'accurate knowledge, sound views and wise circumspection'.

By 1882, he was displaying some health wobbles and signs of age (64 years). Some members of his own Party – notably Sir Randolph Churchill (father of

Winston) and his cabal known as the Fourth Party – were growing impatient of what they saw as SHN's want of initiative, his willingness to listen to compromise and his lack of 'fighting spirit'. Churchill (31 years' SHN's junior, and a man in a hurry) was in the habit of heaping scathing criticism upon SHN and certain others, referring to them as 'the old gang', and to SHN himself as 'the goat'. He was known for the 'vituperative fluency of his invective', offensive rudeness and high-pitched hysterical laugh. It was generally recognised though that the changing politics of the time required the Conservatives to adopt a strong and bold policy, and that SHN was not well-fitted for the initiation and advocacy of such a change.

The last year or so of SHN's political life had all the drama of a theatrical production.

A newspaper of 2 July 1885 described how he left the House one Monday 'beaten down and depressed'. Within 24 hours it was announced that SHN was raised to the peerage as Earl of Iddesleigh and Viscount St Cyres, as reward for his lifetime's service. At around this time, it is alleged that Churchill agreed to accept the office of Secretary of State for India *only* if SHN were removed from the Commons. The Prime Minister (Lord Salisbury) agreed, and SHN moved, reluctantly, to the House of Lords. (Months later, in 1886, Churchill as Chancellor of the Exchequer proffered his resignation from the Cabinet in a tactical manoeuvre which famously backfired when it was accepted by the Prime Minister).

In 1886 SHN returned to the Commons as Foreign Secretary, but following the Cabinet reshuffle after Churchill's resignation, SHN considered his own resignation 'was rendered necessary by



The Northcote Memorial in Newton St Cyres Church

circumstances'. Perhaps understandably, he died a few days later of a heart attack at No 10 Downing Street on 12 Jan 1887.

Many people held Lord Salisbury responsible for at least bringing forward SHN's death [the most beloved of his Tory colleagues], of literally breaking his heart through scurvy treatment....and having blood on the head of his ill-fated....doomed and haunted Ministry.

Despite being regarded by some as a sheep in sheep's clothing, SHN had tenacity and reasonableness which made him very successful at fixing difficult situations (e.g. negotiating the transfer of land from the Hudson's Bay Company to Canada c1870, and settling various disputes with the US which led to the Treaty of Washington in 1871). As Chancellor of the Exchequer he was respected particularly for introducing the Sinking Fund in 1876, a measure intended to reduce the burgeoning National Debt (then £84M).

Many believe that if not for his mild and shy personality SHN could have become Prime Minister in 1886. Instead, he is one of only two First Lords of the Treasury – ever - not to have become Prime Minister (the other was William Henry Smith 1825-1891, and both men served under Lord Salisbury's premiership).

In retrospect, SHN was perhaps overshadowed by two of the 19th century's greatest politicians (Gladstone and Disraeli) as well as some other exceptionally talented orators, and he simply lacked the opportunity to make his mark and gain the glory he deserved, a situation compounded by his self-effacing nature.

It was said after his death that, 'No man in either House enjoyed more fully the confidence and the respect of all political parties', and SHN's political life was summed up by his biographer, Andrew Lang, in 1890/91: 'He was tolerant, candid, no seeker of his own interest, ambitious only in the lines of duty and rectitude. The age for which he was fitted ended when he died..... he did not live to see the new tumult at its worst.'

Away from politics:

SHN married Cecilia Frances Farrer in 1843. She was the sister of a life-long friend from Eton, and his letters to her suggest a happy marriage based on friendship, mutual respect and shared interests. They were very fond of children, and had 7 sons and 3 daughters. His seventh son Amyas recalls that his father had an especial fascination for ghost stories and tales of the Arabian Nights, and needed little encouragement to spin yarns of magic, wizardry and the fantastic to his children and grandchildren.

The education of destitute children was of particular interest to SHN and much time and energy was occupied with reformatory schools for juvenile criminals. In a pioneering move, he made cottages and land on Pynes estate available at

Brampford Wood (just east of Woodrow Barton) for such a school, which opened its doors in April 1855 to boys under 16 years of age who were guilty of minor offences such as stealing a bag. The first school master was William Harris, and he ran the school until his retirement in 1894.

Although SHN was lauded for his good intentions, there was significant opposition to the school from villagers anticipating a crime wave, keepers dreading poaching, and farmers fearing arson attacks (not reassured by the incendiary names of the first 3 boys admitted – Messrs Sparks, Gale and Burns). Some 9 years after the school opened, a newspaper article recorded that, ‘The young thieves at Brampford Speke have long been indulged with a gymnasium, and beginning to get tired of that, music and dancing has been introduced.’ There were rumblings that ‘roguery’ brought substantial comforts unknown to ‘honest poverty’.

Throughout his life, the school was always one of SHN’s foremost interests. He visited the place regularly, read to the boys, won their confidence, and used to hold a class himself on Sundays. The school was funded through annual subscriptions from leading magistrates and clergy, and its teaching was around farm work. Around 30 boys referred by local magistrates were accommodated at a time, and when they left the school SHN helped to find employment for them. The school buildings at Pynes closed around 1900 and no longer exist, but the school itself was moved to Whipton.

Life at Pynes ran along the traditional lines of the time, and friends and tenants alike received warm hospitality. SHN’s son Amyas, recalls that all the great Tory politicians, including Disraeli, Lord Salisbury and (even) Randolph Churchill, were guests at Pynes. It is understood that Queen Victoria also visited, probably during the 1850s. Disraeli’s wife (Mary Anne Evans) was born in Brampford Speke, and in a letter to his wife in 1859, SHN teased, ‘What do you say to the idea of asking them [the Disraelis] to Pynes? It would complete the astonishment of the neighbours.’

SHN was above all a thinking man. He loved reading, and was chairman of Exeter Literary Society, delivering talks on a wide range of topics, but he also enjoyed hearing and recounting country anecdotes. He was never more at ease than when the conversation turned on books or pictures, or the theatre, and the opening night of a new show at one of the great London theatres was almost certain to have him and Lady Northcote among its audience. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1875 and was twice appointed Lord Rector of Edinburgh University (where he addressed the students on, amongst other things, ‘Desultory Reading’).

As a country gentleman SHN was interested in farming, and wrote a treatise on the draining of catch meadows. He was also on the council of the Royal Agricultural Society. Hunting was his chief winter pastime, and he was master of

the Pynes Harriers, though he was described as a reckless rider (despite his short-sightedness) – his approach was ‘to throw his heart over first’ and his favourite horse Nimrod usually managed the rest.

He enjoyed taking holidays, and often borrowed friends’ yachts to go off with family and friends to explore destinations such as the Mediterranean. In the winter months of 1882 he made what was later described as a ‘boisterous’ voyage to Sicily and Greece in the Pandora, the yacht belonging to W H Smith (First Lord of the Admiralty and the inspiration for the character of Sir Joseph Porter in Gilbert and Sullivan’s HMS Pinafore – and a book seller). At Gibraltar they ran into heavy gales and he wrote, ‘Indeed, if the weather was exceptional, it persevered in being still more exceptional day by day and, as in another case of bad years in finance, not to be exceptional was the exception.’ The weather did improve eventually, and the group enjoyed touring the antiquities of Sicily and Pompeii and watching Vesuvius ‘flare up grandly’ from the yacht.

Back home at Pynes, SHN was a kind and fair landlord. At the annual rent audit dinner of 1885, attended by 30 tenants and chaired by his loyal steward Edward Osmond (son of Edward Osmond of Hayne Barton, Newton St Cyres) he delighted all present by refunding 10% of their rent. There were entertainment evenings at Pynes, involving dinner, singing and dancing for his servants, labourers and tradesmen connected with the estate. SHN always opened the dancing with the housekeeper and family members partnered other guests.

When his second daughter Margaret married Frederick Shelley (of Shobrooke Park) in the Church at Upton Pyne on a sunny June day in 1882, the reception was held at Pynes. SHN welcomed the whole village to share in the celebrations. In a marquee on the lawn there was a lunch for attendants of the (150) guests, dinner for tradesmen and labourers, and afternoon tea for women and children. The day was rounded off by an evening of dancing on the lawn for villagers and others.

SHN was an enthusiastic and generous supporter of Upton Pyne church, attending services whenever possible, often reading the lesson, and funding repairs and restorations. He funded two of the stained glass windows in memory of his father and grandfather, and in 1872/3 extended the churchyard to enable construction of the vaults for the Northcote (and Roberts) families. SHN’s sixth son Edward Louis was the first occupier of the Northcote vault, having died of rheumatic fever in 1872 when aged just 15. SHN was the second. It was observed of SHN that, ‘He rests in the place he had chosen, by the church in which he had worshipped from the happy days of his boyhood, and which he loved as a part of his home.’

In its obituary the *Times of London* wrote that SHN was ‘the man of perfect courtesy of soul, the man who by word, deed and conduct always strove to make others content with themselves and with him.’

Thank you from Jilly Baker

Dear Newton Wonder Team,

On behalf of myself and Nick's family, I would like to say a huge 'Thank You' for the honour you have bestowed on Nick's memory. Yes, he loved this area, hence all the historical research he did in the community, and here I feel I should quantify community – living in Cowley we felt betwixt and between Newton St Cyres, Upton Pyne and Brampford Speke, so loyalties were widespread!

So, thank you – especially to Midge Kelly, excellent winner of the competition, to Kate Tilley for allowing the ceremony to be held at Pynes House, and to both Peter Hawksley and Peter Tyldesley for being the instigators of this challenge. I was also delighted to both meet and thank Lord and Lady Iddesleigh for their kind words. The prize money was given by a very generous but anonymous donor, so a *big* thank you to you, whoever you are!

I felt certain that Nick was standing there beside me enjoying the event!

Best regards
Jilly Baker

NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP SPRING MEETINGS

Wednesday 12th February TOPSHAM CANAL/EXETER SHIP CANAL

Gill Mclean of Topsham Museum

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

**Wednesday 12th of March SOME HISTORY OF SWEETHAM AND THE
BEER ENGINE Midge Kelly and Peter Hawksley**

Meetings are held in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated .There is no special membership fee but a charge of £3 to include a drink and a biscuit.

Everyone is welcome



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NEWTON St CYRES ARBORETUM

COFFEE MORNING

SAT 8 FEB 2025 at

Newton St Cyres Parish Hall

Stalls, coffee, cakes and company!

10.30 to 12.00

All welcome. Proceeds for improving the Arboretum

HERE COMES BIG MAC!

There was early resistance but McDonalds won the day and is about to open a 24-hour drive-through restaurant in CREDITON. Ann Quon Cordingley has been looking at what the fast-food giant has in mind.

Since planning permission was granted by the Mid-Devon District Council (MDDC) last September, McDonald's has wasted no time in turning a patch of wasteland next to Mole Avon into its latest venture.

If all goes to plan, burgers will be flipping and fries frying in a few weeks' time. "We can confirm that the restaurant is due to open towards the end of February," said McDonald's Sian Lee.

The single-storey restaurant will create jobs for over 120 full and part-time workers in the surrounding area. It will seat up to 76 people with 36 car parking spaces, including two blue-badge bays and four electric vehicle charging bays (of which one will be for blue badges). There will also be a parking space for bicycles.

An outdoor patio area will feature a play area for children with a climbing frame and other features.

McDonald's cited the strategic location of the new site, with its proximity to Tesco, the petrol station, the Mole Avon store, and the Red Deer pub. "This choice of location ensures convenient access for customers and promises to contribute to the existing commercial landscape of the area," the company said.

While many locals are looking forward to the convenience of McDonald's on their doorstep, not everyone is lovin' it. An online campaign to keep the restaurant at bay attracted 340 signatures. "How many more McDonald's must this country have?", said the 38 Degrees resistance group. "Time to say no, and stand up to these big businesses. Let's keep Crediton independent and local. Let's be proud of our independent status, and let's continue to back local traders and local businesses."

Perhaps predictably, it was to no avail. But in response to such concerns, the Mid Devon District Council imposed several conditions when it approved the building plans.

These included a financial contribution of £35,281 to be spent on traffic flow measures and another £15,000 to be invested in Crediton town centre in the form of a shop-front enhancement scheme targeting small and medium-sized businesses serving food.

A further £5,000 will allow Devon County Council to provide double-yellow lines and secure land on the eastern side of Joseph Locke Way, north of the junction to the proposed entrance, for a cycle path and footpath.

McDonald's also agreed to change access to the site to benefit Mole Avon, reduce the height of signage, enhance landscaping and include local materials in the building.

In response to concerns about litter, McDonald's says it is serious about litter picking, responsibly disposing of waste and keeping areas clean and tidy.

On noise and disturbance, McDonald's stressed its commitment to maintaining a peaceful environment. It said: "All shift managers shall receive conflict-resolution training sufficient to ensure they can deal effectively with noise or anti-social behaviour. Good management training and practices, in combination with appropriate physical security equipment, will reduce the risk of crime and disorder.

On the company's economic impact, latest figures indicate that it contributed £3.34 million to the Mid-Devon economy. This is based on sales of meals in restaurants (85%) as well as expenditures with suppliers, and other factors.

In its planning statement, McDonald's states: "The McDonald's brand is globally recognised and has been trading in the UK since 1974. The company trades from over 1,280 restaurants across the UK and has a workforce of approximately 125,000 people. Over 81% of restaurants are operated as local businesses by franchisees."



An artist's impression of the new restaurant

NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP



Those were the days

Our Christmas meeting was held on Wednesday 11th December, and as well as our usual tea and coffee we all enjoyed a seasonal spread of wine, mince pies and stollen provided by the history group, with a bonus of delicious homemade sausage rolls from Christopher Lee. The evening was planned to be informal, without an official speaker.

We began with some aerial film footage of the village, supplied by Chris Southcott, who commented with technical support from Midge Kelly. It was very interesting to see the village from above, and also to see how it has changed over time. The first film was made in 1967, nearly half a century ago, and was a few minutes filming from a flight in a Chipmunk aeroplane taken by John Durrant. He and his wife, Lynn, used to live in Pump Street and many people present remembered him.

This was followed by footage taken by Chris Southcott's son from several different drone flights, between 2017 and 2018. These included the building of Kingfisher Close and the new school, as well as views of Quicke's Home Farm and Newton House. Chris explained how the group of trees in the fields below Newton House are the site of an old mill which was dismantled at some time after 1843 (it is marked on the tithe map of that date) presumably because it was an eyesore and no longer used.

The second part of the evening was about Christmas in the village before, during and after the war. Jean Wilkins had assembled a panel to lead the discussion from their memories of this period; John Burrows, Anne Mitchell, John Salter, Chris Southcott, and Anne Ward.

John Burrows started off the conversation by telling us his memories of post-war Christmases. He lived in West Town and just after the war there were 15 houses there, though now there are 57. He started school in the village in 1951 and said that holly was the decoration he remembered; it was plentiful in the woods and hedges and was brought into the houses and hung at windows.

John did not remember commercial Christmas trees, though John Salter and Jean Wilkins remembered pine branches being used and some people grew their own. Little candles were lit, no bigger than birthday cake ones, and held in little metal clips. They were not lit for long, because of the fire risk and because they were so small. He remembered that at school they made paper chains that were hung to decorate the rooms. Anne Mitchell remembered that they would have strips of green and red paper and sew it up on a machine to make streamers to decorate the house; decorations were never bought. There was not much spare money around in the 1950s, and decorations were saved year to year.



Photo: Richard Southcott

Aerial view of Sweettham

The children's stockings would have a present such as a Dinky toy in it, John said, and Jean remembered that her stocking would have three balloons, an orange and a banana. In 1946, these were unfamiliar and a great treat. Anne Mitchell remembered a pencil sharpener and pencils. One year her brother, Frank, was given a drum! Other presents would be handmade, knitted jumpers and gloves or homemade toys, all wrapped in brown paper.

The discussion then moved on to the food cooked on Christmas Day. Many on the panel remembered that there were two related farmers called Roach, one was called Pig Roach because that is what he reared, and the other Chicken Roach, because he reared chickens and turkeys for Christmas. One of the Roach brothers lived at the farm that now overlooks Tesco's garage in Crediton.

Cockerels were turned into capons by inserting a pellet into their neck and they would be fattened for Christmas, though this is no longer done in the UK. Courtney, the butcher, lived at Lily Farm. The 15 houses at West Town had large gardens and the occupants grew a great many vegetables for their own consumption. Consequently, there would be carrots, parsnips, swede, potatoes, sprouts and cabbages available, and the surplus would be taken into Exeter to be sold.

Chris Southcott said that Christmas puddings would be boiled in their large laundry copper boiler and his mother would do as many as eight at a time for the neighbouring households. Christmas cakes would be baked, even when fruit was hard to come by after the war. He also described how pigeons and rabbits were shot for eating until, in the case

of rabbits, myxomatosis put an end to that (in 1953). He remembered that his father wept because this valuable source of income was now gone.

Cream was obtained from skimming the top of the milk which was freshly supplied by Jimmy Clegg from a pony and trap. It was unpasteurised and unhomogenised so the cream would rise. You could go to fetch it in a jug, or he would leave it on the step, and Anne Mitchell remembered with a shudder how his long and rather dirty fingernails would dip into the milk when he filled the jug! John Salter's family had a milk separator which dealt with the cream production.

A great deal of cider was produced on the local farms. In a very severe winter it might freeze, and the ice would be taken off. Then the cider would be delicious and strong, and John Salter remembered that in a year such as this he took a straw to the barrel and was later found later asleep on the floor!

Christmas Day was spent with the family, and relatives only came if they lived nearby in the village because there was little transport, and not even pavements in the village then.

Anne Mitchell came to the village in 1935 and lived at Glebeland Villas on the corner with the main road. Opposite was the School House and the Police House, and there were no other buildings then in Sandown Lane. She remembers how her Granny was in tears at the announcement of the outbreak of war and how evacuees came down to the school from London, and after a while integrated and proved to be knowledgeable in comparison to the village pupils. Her mother ran the house as a café with the help of her children (her father had lost his job as a cloth salesman) and continued it all through the war until her death in 1951. Although they would regularly cook ordinary Sunday lunch for 15 or 20 people, they never opened on Christmas Day. It was the one day in the year when they were closed. Anne's mother would make Christmas cakes to sell; they all worked very hard at the café.

Christmas holidays lasted for the two days of Christmas Day and Boxing Day, and people really enjoyed the time off. The two days were considered to be special. On Boxing Day the Silverton Hunt was held and many people would follow it. Games such as Chinese checkers and monopoly were played, and lots of card games too. In 1947 there were six weeks of snow and a great deal of sledging.

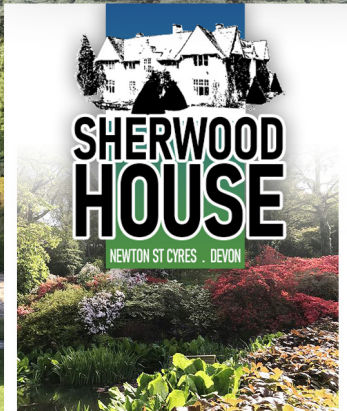
John Salter said what a lovely time it was for his family (at Norton Farm). The decorations were taken out of the special house shaped box in which they were stored. A branch of a fir tree would be sawn off and he remembers it by the shutters in the big bay windows with red hessian curtains, all the fires lit and the house full of friends and relations. A goose was cooked with its delicious crispy fat and his aunt would play the piano.

Thanks to the panel and everyone who attended and enjoyed reliving and sharing their childhood memories.

Isobel Hepworth

Nikki and Mark Chambers would like to invite you to come and walk around our beautiful 25 acre gardens.
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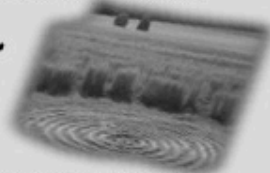
UPTON PYNE & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Events are held in the village hall - Contact June Nicks 01392 841272

Annual membership £15 Non-members welcome at all events (£4 per talk)

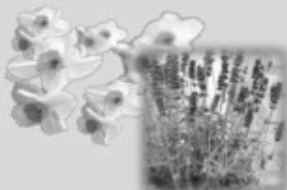
MON 17TH FEB 7.30 pm - A talk by **DAN VIDLER** author

'THE WONDERS of CROP CIRCLES'



MON 17TH MARCH 7.30pm a talk by **JEREMY WILSON**

(Strete Camelia Nursery)



'THE SCENTED GARDEN'



SAT 12TH APRIL 2.00pm

**ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SHOW
& PLANT SALE**

A variety of categories to display the best from your garden
- cookery competition - photographic competition

Afternoon teas - raffle

Everyone votes for their favourite in each class

We welcome new exhibitors, & we would welcome gifts of
extra plants to add to our sale!



The schedule will be available at the March meeting

Or contact Anne on 01392 851457

February on the Farm

Is that a splash of light just a little earlier in the morning sky? The shoots of the wild daffodils and the hazel catkins just starting to lengthen, they say they think it is. The dusk holds just a bit longer in the evening, light behind the clouds in the western sky over the hills. The dawn chorus builds from the midwinter near-silence. Old stories have it that the birds all pair up on St Valentine's Day, and the sweetest loudest singers win the best brides.



The wheat starts sending up tillers, the secondary shoots that will each send up an ear. Too many and the ears will be small and the grains puny. Too few and the grains will be bold, the ears long but too few across the field. We are growing a reduced area of grain this year. Our soil and damp weather better suits grass and clover. They cloak our soils and shield our slopes all year from soil washing into the river.

We are also learning that ultraviolet rays hurt soil life – another reason to keep a nurturing coat of growth over the soil for as long as possible. Clover adds protein and also feeds and structures the soil.

This year we are growing beans to feed cows, to grow more of our own protein. We'll grow the beans as a main crop to feed the cows from our own resources, and the crop will feed our soils along the way with their bacterial nodules. Mostly, cows eat a lot of leftovers from human food. They usefully reuse what's left over from white flour, white rice, crushing oranges for orange juice, oilseed rape meal

from crushing seed for vegetable oil, brewers' and distillers' grains left over from making beer and whisky, and pulp left over from sugar beet.

The young cows, heifers, will join the milking herd when they calve at the end of the month. They've been grazing on tired pastures that have become less species-rich with age. We supplement the pasture with bales that we made on the pastures. The cattle scuffle up the pasture and ready to grow spring wheat. The crop uses the animals' self-spread manure. Once we harvest the wheat (probably as a whole crop, fed as a silage to the cows), we will have a good start for the grass clover and herbal mix we will sow in August.

The spring cows are starting to calve at the end of the month. They got in calf well last May and the calves pour out, up to 15 a day at the end of the month. We go round with little collars made of old inner tube with numbers scrawled on to keep a track on whose calf is whose. They must have the right amounts of colostrum, that miraculous first milk mammals produce that hands over the encyclopaedia of the mother's immune system to their newborn. If the calves have colostrum, they will thrive. No colostrum, and they won't.

In the cheese dairy, it feels warm compared with the cold outside. All the skill and judgment of our cheesemakers creates the right firmness in the calcium and protein net of the cheese for it to hold the right amount of fat and moisture to make cheese that will mature beautifully for next Christmas and beyond. We carefully see how the milk sets to junket, how finely to cut the junket, how the starter bacteria are acidifying the milk, and how the temperature balances everything out. Our expert cheesemaking team use their depth of experience (101 years in total) to make the most beautiful cheese we can out of each vat

The heart of our farming is to feed our cows to produce the best milk for our cheese. We want the right balance of protein, fibre and energy. Interestingly, it is the energy in the cows' diet that makes the protein in the milk (the protein in the feed nourishes the cows' bodies). The protein in milk provides the core structure of cheese, with the calcium acting as a glue, in a net that holds the right amount of fat, moisture and vitamins. The right amount of fat provides the lusciousness we all treasure in cheese without it become greasy and over acid.

That good balance of nutrients makes cheese the perfect food for nourishing us, building bone and muscle, and for the bliss that is a hallmark of cheese eating. That arises from the main cheese protein, casein, which makes an opiate-like peptide (protein fragment) called casomorphin. The fat delivers satiety, that feeling you've had enough. Though dairy contains fat, the research appears to show that people who eat it are leaner and have less heart disease than people who don't. Joy and pleasure, legal and good. That's cheese for you!

Mary Quicke



Save the weekend dates of **15th and 16th March** and join us in Newton St Cyres Church to celebrate the 80th anniversary of The Rev W Awdry's Railway Series featuring Thomas the Tank Engine.

Saturday 15 March @ 4pm: Celebrations start with a **FREE** illustrated talk from Rev. Awdry's daughter, Veronica Chambers on what inspired her father to write 'Thomas' and Friends and how 80 years later the books still inspire new generation.

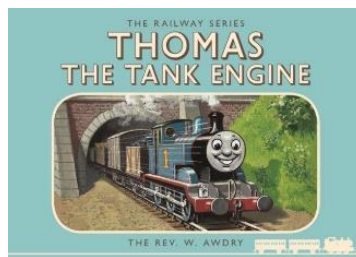
7pm: The wonderful **Exeter Railway Band** will perform popular classics and marches (Tickets £8 in advance, £10 on the door – children free!). Interval refreshments. **Tickets from Christine 07773 038689 or Julie 01392 851601.**

Sunday 16 March @ 2PM: Celebrations will continue with story-telling, the interactive train track layouts; book signing (bring your own books); write your own story; colour/draw your own images; make a Thomas birthday cake competition (with a prize for the winning cake!) **Admission FREE!**

Veronica and her son, Mark, who lives at Sherwood House, will both be present and will be delighted to meet and talk about their memories of the Rev Awdry and his famous creations, so do bring your favourite Thomas and Friends characters with you and celebrate Thomas' 80th anniversary with us.

We look forward to seeing you. Toot Toot!

Christine Fraser and Julie Furniss





**Torridge, North,
Mid & West Devon**

Happy New Year!

Inevitably perhaps, debt and energy are the two key problems people are bringing to us. The cost of living continues to rise, pensioners missed out on winter fuel payments they have come to rely on and energy costs continue to rise. If you are struggling and getting into debt please take action sooner rather than later. Our specially trained debt advisers can help you navigate what seems a minefield and remember, our advice is confidential, professional and totally non-judgemental. Our website has some useful links and information so check out www.citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk.

We are also able to issue fuel vouchers please get in touch to see if you are eligible. Our AdviceLine is a free, local number: 0808 27 87 999.

We are delighted to announce that we have new outreaches opening this year so people can access us directly in their own area. In Crediton we are at the Age Concern office in the Lady Mills Centre every Wednesday. Drop-in is available 9.30am – 12.00noon and afternoon appointments are available which can be booked via our website. We are at the Cullompton Community Centre on the 3rd. Friday of each month between 9.30am and 12.30pm. The last Friday of each month sees us at Lapford in the Ark Community Café from 10.00am – 2.00pm. Ongoing dates have still to be confirmed at Uffculme and Hemyock however, on 17th. January we will be at Warm Spaces on Square Corner in Uffculme between 10.30am and 3.00pm and we will be at the Blackdown Support Group Building (next to the GP surgery) in Hemyock on 23rd January from 10.00am – 2.00pm.

Details of all our opening hours in Bideford, Barnstaple, Okehampton, Tiverton and Tavistock as well as our other outreach offices are on our website and news of our new outreach offices can be found on social media.

Sadly, we are unable to meet demand which continues to rise as more and more people seek our help. We have an ongoing recruitment campaign to encourage more people to come and volunteer with us. Volunteers make new friends, learn new skills and have the satisfaction of knowing that they are helping people in their community. If you are interested in joining us as a volunteer, please contact recruitment@citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk or check out our website for more information. Maybe the New Year is an ideal time to broaden your horizons!

Rosanna Teale
CEO and Trustee Support Officer

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The Weather in Newton St Cyres

In this month’s article we review the monthly weather for October, November & December 2024, and review the statistics for the entire year of 2024.

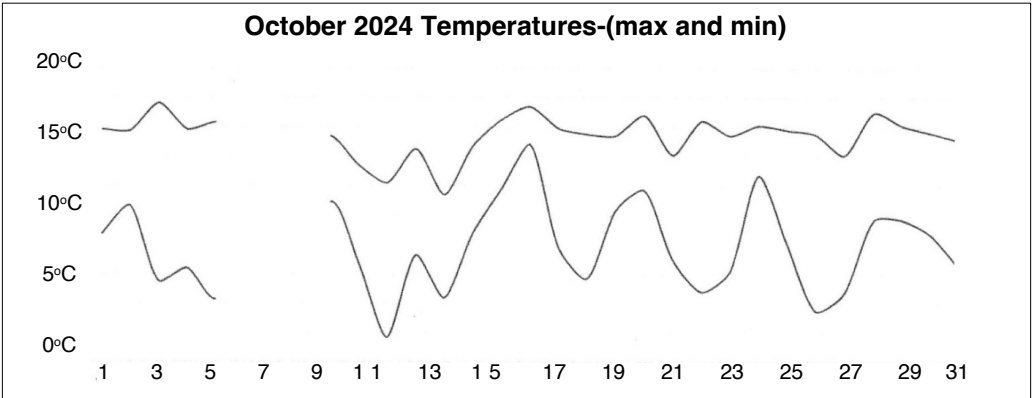
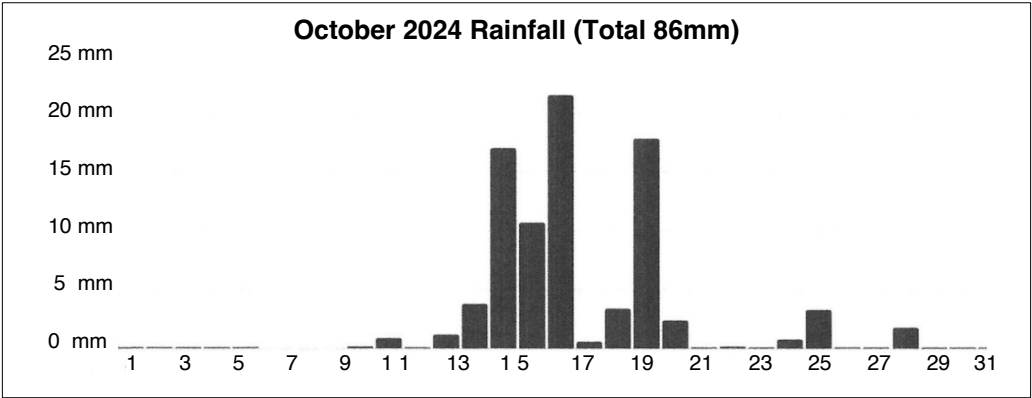
During this period the highest MONTHLY temperatures were 17.6 on 3rd Oct, 15.8 on 10th Nov, and 13.6 on 1st Dec.

The lowest MONTHLY temperatures were 1.7 on 11th Oct, minus 1.5 on 20th Nov, and minus 0.6 on 20th Dec.

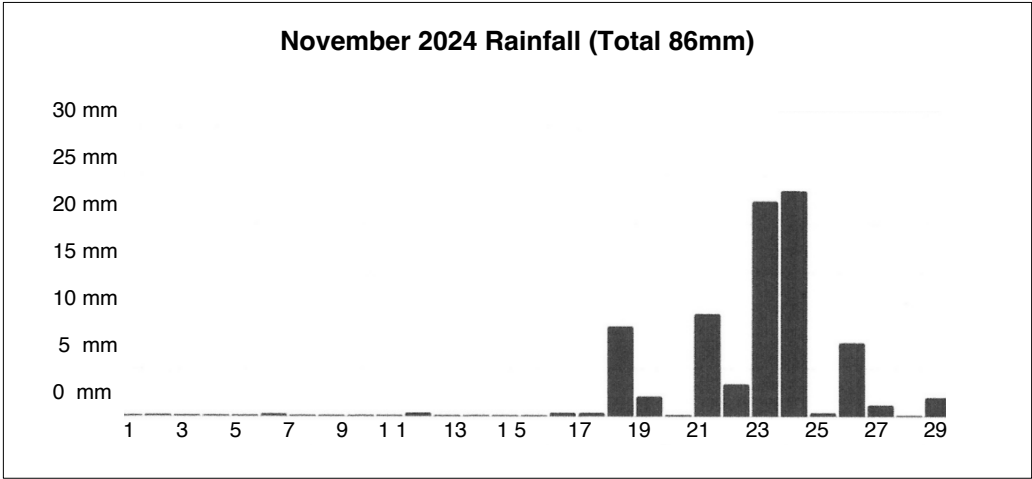
The wettest MONTHLY days were 16th Oct at 21.5mm, 24th Nov at 23.5mm, and 6.7 mm on 1st Dec.

The sunniest MONTHLY days were 3rd Oct at 16.84 kWh, 13th Nov at 10.23 kWh. and 8th Dec at 8.55 kWh.

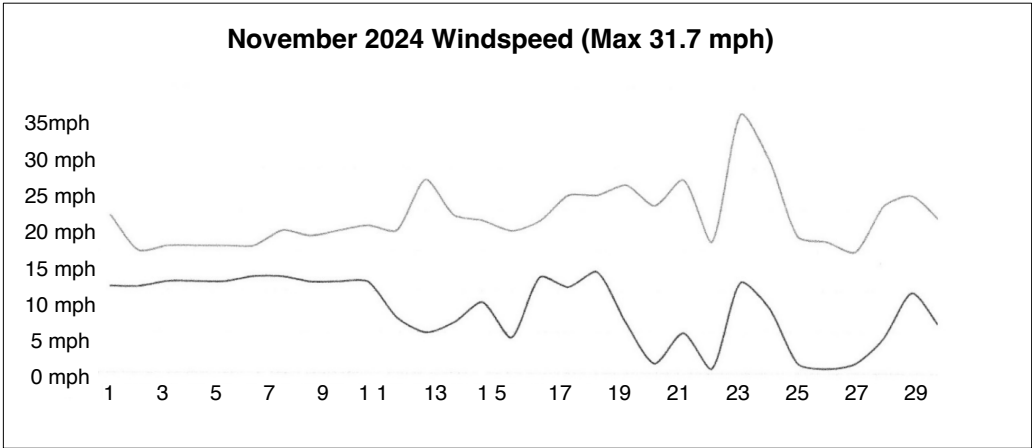
The windiest MONTHLY days were 37.9mph on 20th Oct, 31.7mph on 23rd Nov, and 24.2 mph on 9th Dec.



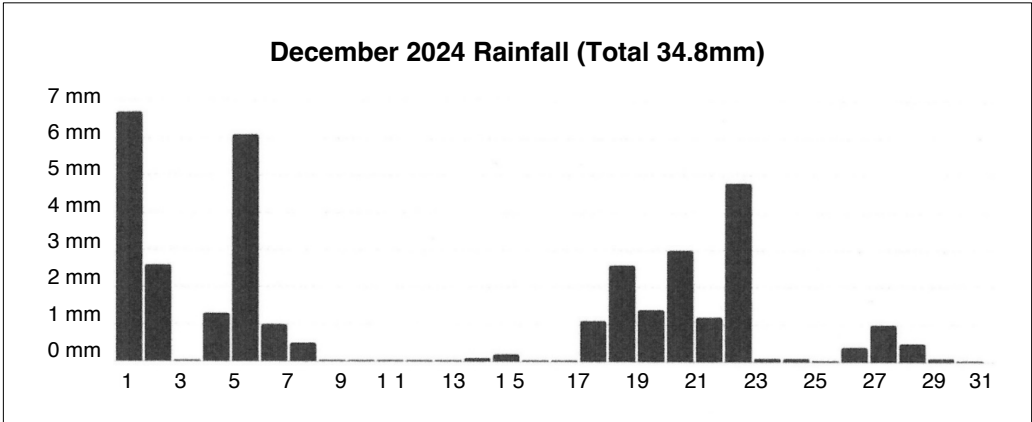
November 2024 Rainfall (Total 86mm)



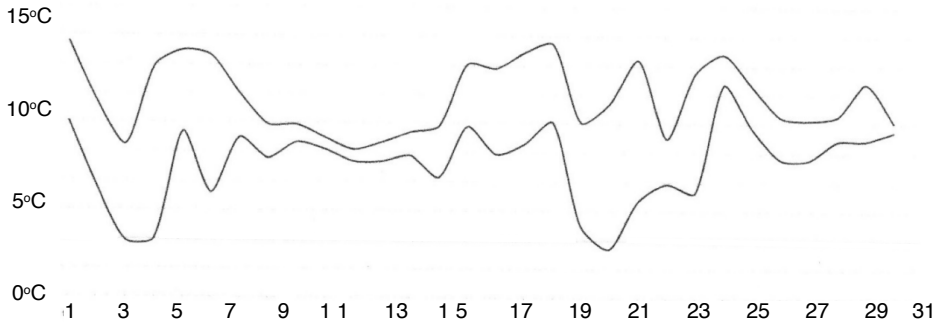
November 2024 Windspeed (Max 31.7 mph)



December 2024 Rainfall (Total 34.8mm)



December 2024 Temperatures-(max and min)



The Maximum temperature in 2024 was 30.2 on 31st July.
The minimum temperature was minus 7.4 on 19th January.
The maximum rainfall was 42.5mm on 5th September.
The maximum wind speed was 39.8mph on 17th May.
The sunniest day was on 7th July at 22.4kWh.
2024 recorded the lowest sunshine since records commenced in 2011.)

Let's hope for a better summer in 2025!

Rob Crane

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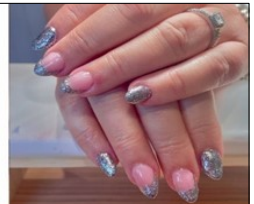
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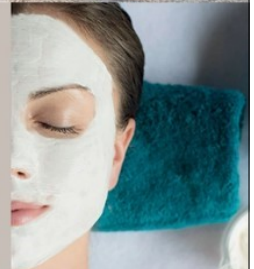


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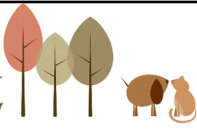
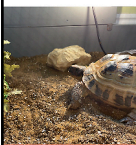
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jessoleach1@gmail.com

Newton St Cyres

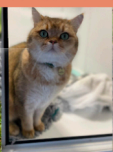


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Newton St Cyres, Devon, EX5 5AX
01392 851282

Table Tennis

at

Newton St Cyres Parish Hall

every Thursday from 7 to 9 pm.

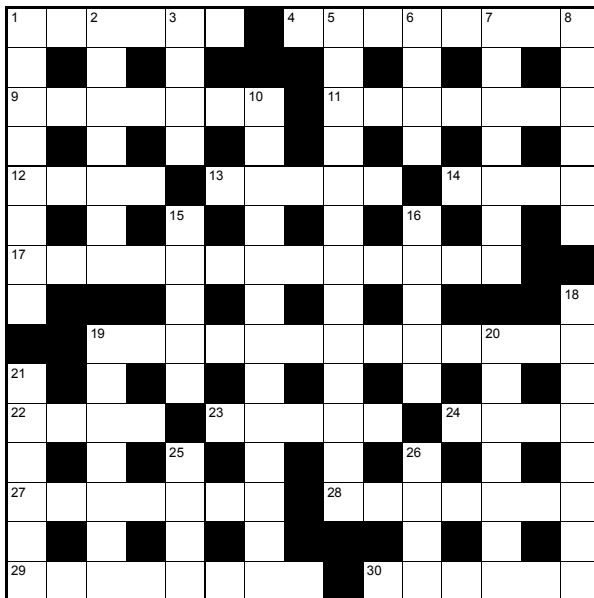
As well as seeing present members of our Group, we are keen to welcome new players – with or without experience adults and children from the age of 12.

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

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

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

Cryptic Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Goal's beginning to stir up game (6)
- 4 Ray waits nervously for flight (8)
- 9 Tart performs turn to entice (7)
- 11 Takes permanent possession of building extensions (7)
- 12 Runs into policeman with whip (4)
- 13 In discussion, brought up money (5)
- 14 Caught old king with Ecstasy and another drug (4)
- 17 Take back a sum fellow distributed to earn money quickly (4,1,4,4)
- 19 He said I'll test new TV receiving equipment (9,4)
- 22 Chap providing article about Los Angeles (4)
- 23 Edible bulb used in cannelloni only (5)
- 24 Sick son takes seat in church (4)
- 27 Search for drink before playing game (7)
- 28 I plunged into one river then another with lack of success (7)
- 29 Exciting tale involved her till end of November (8)
- 30 He needs new teacher for London area (6)

Set by Alberich

DOWN

- 1 In Georgia a locum cured eye disease (8)
- 2 Viewpoint of striking appearance (7)
- 3 Slovenly woman is scum (4)
- 5 Angriely remove football shirt and give reprimand? (4,1,5,3)
- 6 For starters, it's now no smoking in pubs (4)
- 7 Increase labour of one in Tussaud's (7)
- 8 Enemy's confused by sycophants (3,3)
- 10 Pretend not to have seen Annie belt Rudy viciously (4,1,5,3)
- 15 The world is heartbroken (5)
- 16 Accepting rule finally, leave in peace (5)
- 18 Food, reportedly chief Chinese dish (4,4)
- 19 M-master possibly showing this speech defect (7)
- 20 Take legal possession of one thousand quid (7)
- 21 Repeat standard codswallop (6)
- 25 Bucket gives Penny trouble (4)
- 26 Concealed English leather (4)

Sudoku

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

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

© Web Sudoku 2025 - www.websudoku.com

Solution to Dec 2024/Jan2025 Cryptic Crossword

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



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



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

The Parish Church of St Cyr and St Julitta



Looking Ahead

One of the joys (and challenges) of putting this magazine article together is that it forces me to look some way ahead; to think about not what has just happened (Christmas and the New Year with all its wonder and splendour and joy), not what is happening just now (in the middle of January as I write this, there have been days of de-icing the car and trying to stay warm and safe), but what will be happening in the weeks and even months ahead. And we certainly have a wonderful mix of the mundane, the challenging, the wonderful and the spectacular in and across our churches this year. Let me give you a little flavour of what will be happening.

First, on a purely practical level – and perhaps a little obscure for those not deeply involved in the church – we have a new **Electoral Roll** being compiled this year. Every parish church in the Church of England has an Electoral Roll. Simply put, it is a list of people who are connected with or a part of the local parish church, perhaps by attending worship or living nearby. It is a helpful record of who and how many people are involved with each parish church. And every six years the Church of England requires us to re-establish a new Roll. So, we tear up the old one, and start again. For those of you who would like to be closely involved in your church, please do complete the short form that will be available by the time you read this.

And now for those things that might have a much wider appeal! In the months to come, please look out for, among many other things:

- In March: an event and exhibition celebrating **80 Years of Thomas the Tank Engine** at Newton St Cyres Church.
- Also in March, on Friday 7th, the World Day of Prayer – with this year's theme of *I made you wonderful* (church to be confirmed).
- We are planning a number of pilgrimages during Lent and Holy Week – some virtual, others taking in the spirituality and beauty of the wonderful walks to our churches.

- After Easter, an art exhibition: ***Jesus: Laughing and Loving*** – incorporating art from around the world exploring the joy and love of Jesus, and making good use of our new exhibition space at Newton St Cyres church.
- On May 8th there will be a number of services to commemorate the ***80th anniversary of VE Day*** - the ending of the war in Europe; and likewise on August 15th to commemorate the ***80th anniversary of VJ Day***: the signing of the surrender by Japan, effectively ending the Second World War.
- August 9th will be our amazing all-day celebration of all things rural with our ***Tractor Jamboree and Country Fair***.

All these are in addition to the plethora of regular events and activities across our churches – coffee mornings, lunches, discussions, etc. And, of course, there will be celebrations and services to mark the feasts and special days in the Church's calendar: Pentecost, Mothering Sunday (30th March), Holy Week and Easter, when we will look to have a range of activities for all ages.

As I look ahead, at the seemingly endless possibilities and opportunities that lie before us, there will definitely be something for everyone in the weeks and months to come. I very much look forward to meeting you at some or all these events.

All blessings

Tim

Revd Tim Collins

Priest-in-Charge, Netherexe Mission Community

Willing Hands!

At the beginning of the year the Parochial Church Council was dissolved and the eight local churches formed a Joint Council. This will be a good thing for our church and a step forward as we embark on new community initiatives. It leaves us with very few people, however, to help maintain the church's day to day running. Whether you attend services or not the church is a peaceful place for everyone and is visited by many each week.

Small jobs, such as cleaning, flower arranging, maintenance of the churchyard, need not take up much time if we have a group taking turns, but make a big difference to the welcoming atmosphere.

If you would like to help, even occasionally, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Sue (851460)

SERVICES & INFORMATION FEBRUARY 2025

The Netherexe Parishes - A community of Anglican churches in Devon

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

Sunday 2 February

10:00 am	Communion	Stoke Canon
11:15 am	Communion	Cadbury
05:00 pm	Candlemas Service	Thorverton

Wednesday 5 February

09:30 am	Mid-week Holy Communion	Thorverton Exe Valley Farm Shop]
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Sunday 9 February

09:30 am	Communion [BCP]	Thorverton
10:00 am	Messy Church	Stoke Canon
10:30 am	Communion	Upton Pyne

Sunday 16 February

09:30 am	Communion	Brampford Speke
09:30 am	Bubble Church	Thorverton
10:00 am	Service	Stoke Canon
11:15 am	Service [with The Bishop of Exeter, blessing the new heating system]	Cadbury

Sunday 23 February

09:30 am	Communion	Newton St Cyres
09:30 am	Choral Service	Thorverton
11:15 am	Communion	Rewe
05:00 pm	Taize Service	Upton Pyne

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AFTERNOON TEA

Sat 15th Feb 3:00 -- 5:30pm

£5:00 (under 8, free)



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**Newton St Cyres Village Hall
In aid of Church funds**

LEt'sGO

LEGO CLUB IS BACK

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How big can we go?*

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

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

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

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

Please add your last name as the reference

Neighbourhood Watch Deputies

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

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

Newton St Cyres Parish Hall

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

UP TO HOURS 3 6 9 12

VILLAGERS

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

NON VILLAGERS

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

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

A WEEK IN THE PARISH HALL

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

Nigel Chambers, Chairman, Hall Management Committee

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

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

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

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

Local voluntary Village events are included free of charge.

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

Advertising Rates for the Newton Wonder

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

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

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

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

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

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Tel:-01288 341617 or 07784 008471.

Email:- printroom@parishmagazineprinting.co.uk

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