

NEWTON WONDER

The Magazine and Website for the Community of Newton St Cyres

A photograph of a narrow, paved road lined with lush green trees and bushes. A large red DAF truck is stopped in the center of the road, facing the camera. Behind it, a blue car is partially visible. The road is flanked by tall grass and wildflowers. In the foreground, two black and white striped bollards stand on the right side of the road. A light blue cloud-shaped bubble is overlaid on the left side of the road.

**Your Life in
Whose Hands
on the A377?**
see page 7.

50p

July 2021

www.newtonwonder.net

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Thoughts for July from Peter Cordingley

You don't need me to tell you that Covid has changed our lives, from the stress of lockdowns to the unpleasantness of having to wear a mask for extended periods to the far bigger problem of losing our jobs, plus, plus.

But now, as the worst of the disease may be dissipating, many people in Devon are facing what could be a new, much more long-term drama – the fact that house prices have shot up so much that tens of thousands of would-be home owners – particularly the young – are looking at the grim possibility of never owning their own home.

Just look at the numbers. Some real estate companies are telling us that the average price for a house in Newton St Cyres stood at £477,815 in June. If this is true (and you never can really tell with estate agents, can you!), this is an astonishing rise of 2.67% over the three months since March this year and an increase of 14.52% over the past year.

According to the same people, flats in Newton have been selling for an average of £165,537 and terraced houses for £337,361. For the whole of Devon, the average price of a house was put at £336,944 in June – up 2.35% in three months and 10.59% over the year.

What's going on? Well, it's complicated, but one thing seems sure. It's that the West country is more than ever a magnet for people fleeing the major cities, particularly London. Thanks partly to the Covid-driven phenomenon of people working from home, big-city dwellers are on the move, saying goodbye to their cramped homes and stressful lifestyles and heading this way in search of more space and a better way of living.

Now that Zoom has replaced the workplace for many people, why would you choose to have to get up at 6:30am and catch the 7:25am commuter train into town when you can live in Exeter, Plymouth, Taunton or just about any of the wonderful places down this end of the country – as long as your Internet connection is good, of course? (Ah, but that's another story altogether, as the long-suffering residents of Newton St Cyres know.)

But there's another big and growing problem. More and more city dwellers are buying holiday homes or homes to rent in the West country. Some villages in the county are swamped with these homes, sometimes with half of premises empty for all but a few weeks of the year. Where there were once thriving local communities, there are now villages that can't even justify a bus service.

People who buy a second home for the weekend tend to have quite significant resources, so they are often happy to pay a premium over the advertised price to secure the house they want. Wham! Up go the prices again, taking them further beyond the reach of local families on average wages and of first-time buyers.

A side-effect is that in some villages, the young have fled, turning communities into very large old people's homes. With fewer people around, the results are inevitable. The post office disappears first, then the village store and finally the pub. And the bus to Exeter doesn't run any more.

Too gloomy? I wonder.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT June 2021

The meeting, held in the Parish Hall, was attended by nine Councillors, the Parish Clerk, the Mid Devon District Councillor (Graeme Barnell), and 7 members of the public.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Parish Council was notified that Newton St Cyres Football Club has applied for part of Station Road to be closed in one direction from 8am to 10am on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th July to allow the arrival of the participants in the annual football tournament. During this time, traffic will be allowed to enter Station Road from the A377, and access to Kingfisher Close and Court Orchard will be unaffected. However, from the primary school onwards, traffic will only be permitted to travel in the direction of the Recreation ground. Traffic wishing to join Station Road at the Beer Engine Pub will be diverted along the appropriate back roads.

Planning Issues

- The Parish Council decided to offer 'no comment' on two recent planning applications. These were for construction of an outbuilding at Bodley farm and an extension at Enniskerry. The installation of antennae on the Church tower was supported.
- A very recent application to remove a cypress at 4 The Village will be discussed at the next meeting.
- The Parish Council received notification that the installation of a flood monitoring system at New Bridge, Langford and the removal and pruning of some trees at the church have been granted permission by Mid Devon District Council.
- A new local plan is currently being devised by Mid Devon District Council. Consultation on the plan will start this autumn. Graeme Barnell, our Mid Devon District Councillor, encourages all residents of Newton St Cyres to become actively engaged with this consultation as it is likely to have important consequences for our village.

Traffic on Langford Road

There continues to be heavy use of Langford Road by large vehicles. This is a problem for residents and one that is likely to get worse if the planned digestate lagoon gains approval. Devon County Council have said that the road is unsuitable for vehicles above 16t. A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) request has been submitted by Langford residents to limit the size of vehicles that are allowed to use Langford Road.

The case for a TRO can be read at: <https://www.middevonParish.co.uk/media/281173/the-case-for-a-traffic-regulation-order-3.pdf>

Cllrs Graeme Barnell, Margaret Squires (our Devon County Councillor), three members of the Parish Council and seven residents of Langford met with an officer from Devon County Council Highways Department to discuss the possibility of the TRO being accepted. DCC had subsequently rejected the TRO without proper investigation and the Parish Council decided to progress matters by using the official DCC Complaints Procedure, under the direction of the chairman.

A group of Langford residents and some Parish Councillors have been invited to attend a meeting of the East Devon District Council Planning Committee when it considers the application for permission to build a digestate lagoon at Rixenford Lane, Upton Pyne. Access to this site would be along the Langford Road, and there would be a substantial increase in heavy traffic on the road should the lagoon be built. A petition of over 500 signatures has been raised in opposition to this planning application.

Liz Ouldrige
Press Officer

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Parish Council Reaches Quality Award Status

The work of the Newton St Cyres Parish Council has been recognised by its securing Quality Award status for its role in the community.

The Local Council Award Scheme offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed by their peers, and to put in place the conditions for continued improvement.

The scheme has been designed to provide the tools and encouragement to those councils at the beginning of their improvement journeys, as well as promoting and recognising councils that are at the cutting edge of the sector. The scheme was created in 2014 and is managed on behalf of local councils by the Improvement and Development Board (IDB).

Councils can apply for an award at one of three levels:

- The Foundation Award demonstrates that a council meets the requirements for operating lawfully and according to standard practice.
- The Quality Award demonstrates that a council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement.
- The Quality Gold Award demonstrates that a council is at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and council development.

The scheme sets out criteria to meet at each level covering selected aspects of the council's work. Councils can seek to progress through the tiers over time, thereby raising standards.

Councils of any size can aspire to an award appropriate for their budget and level of activity.

So, the next step for Newton St Cyres is to work towards the Quality Gold Award!!

Jim Enright, Chairman
Newton St Cyres Parish Council
Tel: 01392 851859

Petition re village walkway

Last month 69 residents of Sand Down Lane and Tytheing Close signed a petition asking John Quicke to please reconsider plans to limit the use of the walkway (apparently, it is not a footpath) between Sand Down Lane and Pump Street.

The path has been available for the use of school children for about 40 years. The school has now relocated to Station Road but there are around 20 children living in the two roads - many of whom have to walk to and from the new school site, albeit in the opposite direction.

But, increasingly, adults have been using the path to access the centre of the village and beyond, and herein lies the problem. Although the path is now in a poor state of repair and in places quite hazardous, nevertheless people would rather use it than risk their lives on the pavement adjoining the A377.

A couple in Sand Down Lane say: "We are now in our Seventies and find it very unnerving walking down the pavement on the A377 - particularly when being passed by huge lorries."

A neighbour added: "If a lorry or bus comes past, they come so close that stones and chippings fly up from their wheels. It is just so dangerous and I just feel safer on the 'footpath'.

To make matters worse, the trees and foliage are now covering half of the pavement - in some places forcing people to walk in, or very close to, the road.

One elderly resident made the point that: "It's not just about the children; it is about *all* of us. We are all scared to walk beside the road. Speeding vehicles do not use age discrimination when they hit someone. We are all taking our lives in our hands!"

Another lady, who is a teacher, explained: "I have lived in this village for over 30 years and I no longer feel part of the village, as the residents at the top of the hill are not included in village plans. The 'footpath' is our only safe route to and from the village."

Efforts are ongoing to try and persuade the police and Devon County Council Highways to do something to control speeding and dangerous driving on this section of road, but as yet there has been no useful action.

The residents who signed the petition are hoping that John Quicke will take their concerns seriously, in a village that has basically been carved up by a very dangerous road. We ask him to allow local people access to this lifeline to the village, at least until something has been done to reduce the dangers we face from the A377. We also ask that the Parish Council make every effort to bring this about.

Elizabeth Vousden



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RECREATION GROUND CLUB

July has its big highlight on the 10th and 11th of the month with this year's Youth Football Tournament. Station Road will be busy with lots of small boys with only one thing on their minds, playing football!

The football club has a good number of teams entered and we wish them a successful weekend. Even though we are committed to cricket for both June and July, the football players will be at the Rec in June for their presentation days – the youth players on the 12th and the seniors on the 19th.

July has lots of cricket matches planned. It's so nice to see the contrast of the cricket whites against the green of the grass – a proper English sight.

The archery group are back and practising on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

The Tennis Courts will be well used through July as several competitions and club nights are planned.

Hoping to have a lot more to tell you next month, but if this pandemic keeps us all at home, who knows what will be happening over the next weeks.

Wendy Lewis

NEWTON RAMBLERS

Sunday July 11th

As restrictions ease and the weather improves we look forward to regular monthly walks with the Newton Ramblers.

Liz Fiddock will be leading our walk on Sunday 11th July which starts in Shobrooke.

Park anywhere along the main street in Shobrooke and meet outside the Red Lion Inn at 10 am.

The walk is a sort of figure of eight around the village. It is about 4 miles long and will take about 2 hours.

All are welcome to join us. If you need a lift or would like more information please ring Liz Fiddock



Newton St Cyres Football Club News



It's been an unusual season, to say the least! With so much uncertainty due to the pandemic, it was unclear whether and how we would even start this season, given that the previous one had to be abandoned. We did finally manage to kick off in August, albeit with additional Covid measures such as no after-match refreshments, but at least we could play some football.

The season started well and we managed to get a few games under our belts, but by Christmas it was clear things were deteriorating and our last match of 2020 was on 19th December. And then Lockdown 2.0 commenced.

We were then without football until April, which meant we had a lot of games to fit in in a short space of time. It was helped by the fact not all teams returned to football as the layoff either meant players had lost interest or the club's felt uneasy playing during the pandemic.

We were happy that we had good precautions in place and having balloted the players, they were also keen to return to playing, but with promotions and relegations removed, it was more of a friendly league.

It meant all our youth and senior teams could get in a couple of months of football and shed some of that lockdown weight!

The season drew to a close at the end of May with the Reserves enjoying an unbeaten run in their last four games, even overturning a 3-nil deficit against Tedburn and eventually winning 4-3.

The First team had an excellent final part of the season and were chasing the top spot. They won six and drew two of nine, but unfortunately lost the one that mattered against Halwill, who eventually went on to pip us to the division title.

Fingers crossed, we can get back to a normal season this year!

Summer Tournament (10th & 11th July)



After having to cancel the tournament last year, we lost out on a significant income stream, but, fortunately, we are able to hold it this year, although there will be additional measures in place. The tournament has been signed off by Mid Devon's Safety Advisory Group and by Devon County FA, so we are now in the advanced stages of planning.

We will also be putting in place a temporary one-way traffic flow along Station Road between 8am and 10am on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th July. This will mean that traffic will be prevented from travelling north along Station Road from the Beer Engine to the Primary School. A diversion will be in place which will take you via Langford and this will be signposted. This temporary measure has been agreed with Devon County Highways, and we apologise for any inconvenience it may cause.

Mark Smaldon

Fancy playing tennis again after a break?

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Not sure if you are good enough to join a club?

Come to a Rusty Rackets session at Newton St Cyres Tennis Club. Saturdays 9-10am from 10th April, (10 am-12pm if more time wanted).

Coach Jon Wills will facilitate play and advise you on your game. Maximum 6 people per session, £8 for one hour.

Please contact Jon on:
jrw23@hotmail.com,
tel. 07555 595747

Or Laura Leigh on:
winstodehouse@gmail.com,
tel. 01647 24259

Newton St Cyres Tennis Club

Our Rusty Rackets sessions with coach Jon Wills have proved very popular, so we are continuing them into July. They are aimed at those who would like to return to tennis but feel they need a bit of practice before joining a club. They are held on Saturday mornings, and anyone interested should contact Jon on 07555 505747 or email jrw23@hotmail.com.



We are holding a Finals Day for our club tournaments on Sunday morning July 18th, which all are welcome to come and watch - there is usually some exciting play to be seen. There is no Wimbledon ballot for club members this year as numbers of spectators are greatly reduced, but the limited tickets will be sold electronically on a first come first served basis.

For all details about the club and our activities please see our website www.newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk

Sally Baldwin

Parish Hall

With the delay in implementing Step 4 of the "roadmap" to freedom from the restrictions imposed because of the Covid-19 pandemic the Hall will remain open on a restricted basis.

There remains, at least until the regulations change, a limit of 24 people in the Main Hall with a need to maintain socially distanced groups of up to six people. The kitchen will stay closed.

Further details from either:-

Mary Long (01392 851624; marylong@bitinternet.com) or
Roger Wilkins (01392 851337)

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Do You Remember... July

July 1971

Mr T R Robinson, a leading expert in clocks in the county, came to see the church clock in action. He had read an article in the Western Times that fired his interest. The striking hammer was connected last month and is working very well.

Mr George Carter, known for his prowess for downing raw eggs, has accepted a challenge from a gentleman from Sandford as to who can down 36 eggs in the shortest time. George won with a time of just over a minute.

The Coffee Club was treated to graphic anecdotes by Mr Lupka on his work as a chiropodist.

The Recreation Ground has plenty of activity with improved facilities.

July 1981

A small group met to talk to Mr Frank Claxton, the Devon Twinning officer, and decided to proceed with a link to a similar village in France.

This months programme for the Afternoon Club includes a talk on antiques and an outing to Weston-Super-Mare and Burnham.

The Royal wedding will be celebrated at a WI tea party for all pensioners and WI members in the village.

The cricket team reported all eleven matches were played in June with Newton winning 8 matches, losing 2 and one abandoned.

July 1991

The Parish Hall committee met to discuss future events and it was agreed to start a meat bingo in September, hopefully this will become a weekly event.

The Afternoon Club enjoyed a sunny day at Swanage.

The neighbourhood watch scheme is now registered with the police authority.

A representative is still sought for the station area.

The Parish Council has reminded parishioners, again, that the school path is for the exclusive use of pupils and parents.

July 2001

The Twinning Circle had a visit to Rots on 26th May. After arrival visitors were taken to a nearby village Carpiquet for a meal. The evening was climaxed with the cutting of two large cakes to celebrate the occasion.

The recreation ground reports full use of the tennis courts being played on every daylight hour.

The repairs to play equipment have had to be put on hold due to Foot and Mouth restrictions.

There is a report of roe deer raiding the allotments, a method to deter them is to place rags dipped in creosote around the plot.

July 2011

Plans are already being formed for the diamond jubilee of the Queen's reign, to be celebrated over 2nd to 5th June next year.

The Parish Council decided to object to the planning application for three properties adjacent to Laundry Cottages, because the roof line was too high and allowance had been made to make even higher. The Council is still pressing for a pedestrian crossing in the middle of the village.

The Newton Ramblers are to take a circular walk from Shobroke to Stockleigh Pomeroy on paths through farm land and woodland.



Demonstraton by Trudi Day

26th May 2021

It was good to see familiar faces from the group for our first (distanced) get-together after months of near-hibernation! There was a limit of 20 on numbers attending,

and many are still cautious about socialising, so not a full group.

Our "guide" was Trudi Day, who helped us to appreciate the versatility of acrylic inks and Brusho, used with a variety of mixed media. Since many of us have been feeling uninspired for months, this was a welcome opportunity to see the effects that can be created by using a combination of masking fluid, wax (not candlewax), tissue paper, clingfilm, a water spray bottle, rubbing alcohol, and brushes, with inks and Brusho. Patience is of the essence, to allow the media to do their own thing, rather than pushing them around and overworking them. So a good activity to do to activate the imagination, and allow right brain to dominate over left.

Trudi recommended heavyweight watercolour paper for this kind of work, as so much water is used, but other surfaces can be experimented with, and she advised against using expensive brushes. She brought along examples of her work, including miniature paintings on wood, and cards made by cutting out templates to make a collage.

The acrylic inks are intense and vibrant, excellent for strengthening lights and darks. Brusho is a powder which can be sprinkled or dabbed onto a wet surface towards the end of the painting process, and then left to blossom and meander around the painting.

A gentle re-introduction to creativity!

Jenny Hallam

Newton St Cyres 200 Club

Welcome to the start of the new 2021-22 year for the 200 Club!

Thank you to all the Collectors (Nicola Baker, Daphne Clague, Jane Hole, Di Jenner, Tony Lane, Chris Lee, Margaret Snow and James Walters) for all your efforts.

Thank you and welcome to all our existing and new members for your support and membership.

We are very close to achieving our target for the sale of 250 tickets this year resulting in more and bigger prizes (63 prizes in total ranging from £10 to £100).

Please contact Jane Hole if you want one of the last remaining tickets!

Tony Lane has kindly offered to construct a 'barrel' for future draws. Our thanks to him for this contribution.

The June 2021 draw (the first for this year) has taken place. The winners are:

No.	180	P Burt	£10
No.	34	D Finning	£10
No.	128	R Chambers	£10
No.	244	A Graham	£10
No.	146	M Slade	£10

[Please note, Brian Please is leaving the village shortly. If anyone would be willing to help Jane with the management of the 200 Club going forward, please let her know.]

Jane Hole email: janehole@gmx.co.uk, Phone: 01392 851148

*Registered through Mid Devon District Council Licensing Department
as a
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NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The story of grief, hardship and a little excitement for those living in the village almost 400 years ago during the English Civil War supported by coloured photos and maps.

Would you have been a Roundhead or a Cavalier?

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

- Births, Deaths and Marriages in Newton St Cyres (16th–18th century)
- UK Censuses on Newton St Cyres (1841-1911)
- Newton St Cyres Tithe Map of 1843

Copies can be purchased by contacting

Jean Wilkins (01392 851337), jeanwilkins1@btinternet.com

Bert Jewell writes Rhymes and Ways about Gardens and Gardening

July

Listening each morning as the days slowly wake,
Listening to the sounds that each day can make,
Like the postman rattling the catch on the gate
the same time each morning, it's seldom he's late.

As the letterbox opens, there's post on the floor,
There could be a parcel with the tap on the door,
Now the kettle is boiling, there's no time to think
as we open the post whilst we have our first drink.

Then a noise in the street, are the boxes outside
together with the refuse, the sack neatly tied,
When the boxes are emptied with a clattering sound,
they're then quickly dropped with a thud on the ground.

It's then to the shops for things that we need,
like milk for our porridge and wild bird seed.
Then home to the garden, to a quieter sound,
like that of the blackbird when a worm it has found.

Like the leaves on the bushes being stirred by the breeze,
Or the woodpecker tapping in the nearby trees,
So spend time in the garden, relax and unwind,
You'll feel better for it in the fullness of time.

Things to do in the July garden

Firstly, good news, the work on our bungalow is due to start in three or four weeks, so fingers crossed it will get going in July and be watertight by the Autumn.

Now let's start with the lawn. This is the time of year when the lawn can really suffer, long hot days with very little rain, will put the grass under a lot of stress and you could end up with it looking brown. There are things you can do to help it stay healthy. Raise the cutting height of the mower so that the longer blades of grass will create shadows, this in turn will help keep the soil cool. Cut it less often and maybe leave off the grass box once in a while so

that the cuttings can act as a mulch. If the lawn does go brown, don't water it, leave it until it rains and it will green up in no time.

I very rarely write about growing things under cover, like in the greenhouse. At the time of writing this, the daytime temp outside is 22" to 23" degrees , in my greenhouse the temp can reach 42" degrees. This is far too hot and with direct sunlight plants will get scorched. Make sure the greenhouse is well ventilated so that air can move through. Put up shading to prevent scorching and damp down the floor with a watering can fitted with a rose.

If as most people these days do, you use a multipurpose compost, any nutrients in that compost will be used up within four weeks, six at the most. So what ever plants you are growing in pots or containers, they will need feeding. I use a soluble feed of either high potash, balanced or low nitrogen, depending on what plants I am growing. I add a little to each 2 gallon of water, 1 strength, so I am feeding the plants every time I water. Full strength feed should only be used once per week.

Another thing with the greenhouse is the whitefly, and if you grow tomatoes inside you will no doubt have them on the plants. There is no pesticide available for the amateur gardener that will control this pest, but there are things that will help. Biological methods are available, but I have no knowledge of cost or how to use them. I do use sticky yellow cards which hang from the glazing bars and spraying the plants with a weak solution of soapy water will also help.

Try to water tomatoes at roughly the same time each day and with the same amount of water. This will help prevent blossom end rot and the fruit from splitting.

Plant of the month

Penstemons.

They may be called old fashioned or cottage garden plants, but for me they will also look good in any modern day planting. Amongst grasses or foliage plants or in drifts in the flower borders. Take cuttings and overwinter in a cold frame, in case of winter losses. Dead head to keep the plants flowering all summer.

The bees and pollinating insects love them.

Enjoy your gardening



NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP

Devon in the 1920s

Dr Julia Neville is an honorary research fellow at the University of Exeter, Department of History. She is currently project manager for a research collaboration on 'Devon in the 1920s', and it was in this capacity that she talked to us on Friday 14th May via Zoom. The project is based on shared memories and the aim is to present the results in 2025 with an exhibition and events based on people's family histories, all rooted in the lives of people at the time.



Julia pointed out that the 1920s are often overlooked – unlike the First World War and the Thirties and the Second World War. The aim of the project she leads is to look at this decade of transition, which includes the General Strike, the 1924 Empire Exhibition at Wembley, and the marriage of Elizabeth Bowes Lyon and Prince Albert, Duke of York. Using photos that have been shared by families and individuals, and the stories that accompany them, she gave us an overview of the many changes that happened during the 1920s.

The shadow of the Great War lingered on. Many villages were erecting their war memorials to those who did not return, but many of those that did were wounded and in pain, and did not live long. Children symbolised the hope for the future and the rebuilding of lives.

Julia showed us a map of the places in the county from where she has had contributions. They tend to cluster on the South Coast, Plymouth and Exeter, but in time there will be more information from Central and North West Devon, with rural Devon a strong theme. Already, motor vehicles were arriving, bringing change from the old ways to the modern world, but daily life in the village cottages was still basic.

A contribution from West Devon described a gamekeeper's cottage, with one brass tap over a small stone sink in the pantry and a kitchen with a table and benches to the side, the grandparents' chairs at either end. There was a black range cleaned laboriously by the mother with stove black, and a large kitchen dresser with all her crockery.

Another account from High Bickington describes the stone flags in the kitchen, bare because the men came in and out in their hobnailed boots and so you had to be able to scrub it clean. The oven was in the side of the fireplace and you had to heat it and plan your cooking, with the roast first, then the pastry, and then cakes. Efforts were made to get landlords to upgrade the cottages at the local government level. As time progressed, kitchens were supplied with piped water, and an electric supply improved heating and cooking.

All this made a big difference to the lives of women especially, because housework became less arduous and time consuming. For instance, it was possible to plug an iron into the central light if the bulb was removed, which was much easier than continually heating irons on the stove.

A contribution from Plymstock is about market gardening, and a smallholding on the rich red Devon soil producing crops such as cauliflowers, potatoes, peas, beans, onions and also anemones. Flower growing was a crop as well. However, Devon is a strongly pastoral area and Calf Clubs, the forerunner of the Young Farmers Club, were initiated. Each young person had a calf to rear and there was a lot of work done by the Clean Milk Movement to get rid of tuberculosis from cows and milk, which is a different kind from the airborne one spread by coughing and sneezing. Many soldiers came home from the Great War with pulmonary tuberculosis.

Village life centred on the church or chapel and the school. After service on a Sunday, young people could socialise on walks with their families. An account from Petrockstowe says how important the annual Revel was in June, with skittles, maypole dancing and stalls, and that the annual summer outing was a highlight. These were red letter days as mostly people stayed in the villages.

Charabanc trips for a day at the seaside could be arranged for a special treat and Devon was becoming popular for holidays. The south coast resorts would have dances, town bands and other entertainments. Hotels and guest houses started up in response and the numbers of these increased rapidly. The railway network was well developed along the south coast and east up to Barnstaple. The use of a wireless set reduced the isolation of the villages, and the BBC began in 1922.

Urban life was changing as well. In Exeter there had been horse-drawn trams from the 1880s, and electric ones from 1905. Photos of the High Street from the 1920s show how shopping was becoming a leisure activity, with the added enjoyment of tea and cake at a café or tea shop. Julia said, though, that a horse and cart would still be used to go to the shops or to a dance or the cinema in rural areas. The cinema was very popular, as colour films came along and the talkies.

There was increasing travel from the villages to the nearest town and the motor bus system was developing. Not everyone approved. A Diocesan Committee Meeting for the Rescue of Girls considered that dances or the cinema and the type of dancing and emotions generated a bad effect on morals.

Motorcycles were common after the First World War, because they had been used at the Front and people were familiar with them. A side car could be added for passengers, and goods or luggage could be strapped on at the back.

Car ownership was increasing, with cheaper models from Henry Ford in America and William Morris at Cowley. You could buy a car from a garage, take a couple of turns around with the mechanic and then drive home. No other training or documentation was required. Not surprisingly, motor accidents became very concerning and put a strain on country doctors, who were not used to so many accidents. As a result, roads were widened and straightened where possible.

On the fringes of the towns, plots of land could be sold off for building without the need for planning or any other permissions, as long as there was road access and a water supply. New housing went up, and bungalows were a popular type of house on these sites. Also, many people retired from jobs all over the Empire to live in Devon. The outskirts of Exmouth and Budleigh Salterton were popular and Budleigh had an excellent golf course!

However, there was still plenty of unimproved housing in the town centres. There is a description from Paignton of a flat with steps up to the first floor, a rough passage and a door on either side leading to two flats. The resident lady had an oil lamp, with an open fire to cook and for heat. Coal was delivered once per annum and she kept it in a shed she called her 'linney'. There was one tap at the foot of the steps for water. There was a fire in June 1927, but her flat was unhurt except for some water damage. Fires were quite common in the 1920s, started by sparks from open fires and unswept chimneys.

Education was being extended, but it was a common situation for promising pupils to leave aged 12, despite getting a scholarship for secondary education. This would be because there was not enough money in the household to pay for travel, uniform and books.

In all aspects of life, social change and technical progress were shaping the course of the century.

Our thanks go to Julia for giving us her time and knowledge. The details of the contributions gave a personal slant to the history that she based on them. This project is supported by South West Heritage Trust, Devon History Society, Devon Family History

Isobel Hepworth

NEXT HISTORY GROUP MEETING

Wednesday July 14th at 7pm

SOME OBSERVATIONS FROM THE GRAVEYARD

Due to Covid problems our advertised talks have had to be postponed so we hope, instead, to gather outside the Church for our meeting (weather permitting). There are many interesting features outside the Church, from the building itself, the cross, the gravestones and the line of paths around the churchyard.

If you have a lightweight chair or stool please bring this along and have available some clothing warm enough for sitting for a while. Comfortable shoes will also be necessary for walking around later.

This will probably be Brian Please's last meeting as he hopes to be moving to a village near to Hereford. Our loss will be their gain as he has been a very active and productive member of our group. He is now an authority on our Church and graveyard and will give us the benefit of this knowledge.

Please note the earlier start of 7pm for Wednesday July 14th and we look forward to meeting up again carefully. Please bring masks.

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 9:30-11:30am. The price includes a drink and a snack.

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



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Anna Bonnett

07930403375

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or see our facebook page

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



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.

The Church takes a lead in Wildlife Conservation

If you have a moment, take a look and explore at the churchyard. You will be delighted by what you see.

Churches around the country, including ours, are taking part in “the Churches Count on Nature” movement. Churchyards are often one of the few remaining havens for old fashioned wild flower meadowland. So it is in Newton St Cyres.

“Love your Burial Ground” began with “No Mow May”. This allowed the natural flora to grow, bloom and seed undisturbed on this ancient site. We have been able to understand much more about what a treasure we’ve got.



The tall ox-eye daisy is a real show. It’s so good to see them in such abundance following on from the drifts of snowdrops and primroses that adorn the churchyard earlier in the Spring, but there are over 30 other species and a variety of grasses, some becoming rare. As the seasons progress, more species will flower. In time insects, animals and birds will re-establish and slowly we will rebuild a diverse and busy habitat.

It is planned to manage the area, whilst encouraging flora and fauna.

At the moment, we’re involving the County Council ecologists to help us survey the churchyard and tell us what we’ve got and how best to look after it. We hope they will tell us when is the best time to mow the grass to protect and improve its diversity. It’s important to explain that this change only applies to the more ancient areas of the churchyard. The areas that contain recent graves and memorials will be mowed as usual.



In future, we hope to involve the school and our children in helping to improve the diversity of plants and wildlife, including the gradual inclusion of wildlife residences. We also want a place that’s restorative, pleasant to visit, with more benches and planting – gradual management that befits an ancient churchyard and gives nature some respite and a home.

Pita Burt
Secretary Parochial Church Council



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Summer Drama in the Arboretum

The Merry Wives of Windsor: Sat 10 July at 3 pm



The photo features Christy Thurlow as Anne Page (L) and Beth Robson as Mistress Page (R). Christy is a NSC resident, as is Tracey Wills who plays Mistress Ford.

The rogue knight Falstaff is in love...with two women! Or is he? Perhaps he is just, once again, looking out for the main chance, on the make, tricking and conning his way to someone else's wealth and property? Shakespeare's only comedy set in England, this clever and funny play is one of his cleverest, with elements of farce, intrigue, revenge, fairy magic and a hint of tragic sentimentalism mixed in. The characters are amongst the best-drawn in the canon - Falstaff's lazy rascalion followers Bardolph, Nym and Pistol; the two husbands, jealous and suspicious Frank Ford contrasting with faithful and trusting George Page; the faded gentry of Shallow and Slender; the mischievous Host of the Garter Inn; the thwarted young lovers Anne and Fenton; gentle Mistress Quickly, who wants to help everyone; the cartoonish Welsh priest Evans and outlandish Frenchman Dr Caius, each mangling the English language in their own unique way; the Merry Wives, Alice and Meg, sister tricksters in mind and soul; and Sir John Falstaff, the con-man conned, the hunter turned prey, his come-uppance all the sweeter for his knavish arrogance.

On Saturday 10 July at 3.00pm in Newton St Cyres Arboretum, Crediton Arts Centre present their adaptation of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, set in the 1920s with an Art Deco set and period costume and music, with a cast of fifteen plus two musicians. Tickets are available online from the www.ticketsource.co.uk/creditonartscentre and from the Arboretum Committee on 01392 851337. Tickets are £5 per head, with children under 12 free. Audience are encouraged to bring picnic blankets (and picnics), folding chairs etc. Social distancing should be observed where appropriate. Park in the Parish Hall Car Park for short walk to the Arboretum.

(As we go to press we learn that this event is sold out! - Ed.)

Also on Saturday 21st August 2021 in the Arboretum at 3pm

Paddleboat Theatre present

RUSTLE

Imagine that you're far from home,
Playing in the woods all on your own
And all is still and calm and clear
But what's that rustle you can hear?
Is it the wind blowing through the trees?
Is it the sound of falling leaves?
Or is the rustle that you hear
The sound of something drawing near...

PaddleBoat Theatre Company invites you to set up camp so that they can tell the greatest campfire story ever told: where sleeping bags evolve into monsters, rucksacks become friends and torches highlight the forest's closest secrets.

Be part of this interactive family adventure, jam-packed with puppets, songs and outdoor surprises.

Running time: 45-50mins, no interval

Suitable for children aged 4 + with adults, and for adults!

Additional Information:

You will be seated on the grass, so please bring your own picnic blankets, camping chairs, and cushions to sit on. You can also bring your own food and drink.

In order to ensure that this return to live events takes place safely, we ask for your co-operation with any additional guidelines that may be in place at the time of the event. Please note that these may change, in line with any government announcements.

Tickets can be purchased on 01392 851985 or online at:-

<https://villagesinaction.co.uk/events/>

Individual ticket price £4.00-£8.00 (Pay What You Can)

Group/Family ticket price (for 4 with a maximum of 2 Adults) £20.00 or online prices as above + booking fee

We look forward to seeing you at this family event. Paddleboat previously performed 'Clare Hollingworth and the Scoop of the Century' at the Newton St Cyres Parish Hall, which was extremely enjoyable and interactive

In the event of wet weather, the performance will take place in the Parish Hall if government guidelines at the time permit.

Newton St Cyres Gardening Club

On Friday 11th June, we went to Toby Buckland's Garden Festival at Powderham. The 2020 Festival was cancelled due to Covid, so there was great anticipation of this year's event. We weren't disappointed.

The layout had changed, allowing for social distancing, with lots of seating (and hand sanitising stations), the talk tent was outside seating only, and there was still a great selection of plants from various nurseries, together with local food and drink suppliers. I attended the talks by Toby and Jim Butress (RHS judge and TV personality).



Iris Langport Wren

Needless to say, I come home with a couple of new plants. One was Iris Langport Wren, a clump-forming, perennial with strap-like, grey-green leaves and upright stems bearing deep purple-red flowers with dark purple-black veins and brown beards from late spring to early summer. The second was Tiarella Pink Skyrocket, with deeply-divided green leaves with red veins. Above these, are the delicate spikes of large, soft pink flowers which appear in late spring. It prefers a moist, well-drained soil in partial or full shade, and is ideal as ground cover or in shady borders with hardy ferns and hostas.

June will have seen us enjoying freshly picked strawberries, and in July we look forward to harvesting and eating redcurrants. The quickest way of picking them is to snip the strings of the beautiful jewel-like fruits in one go. Redcurrants are easy to

grow as they are pretty tolerant of shade, wet, cold and almost any soil conditions. They are an essential part of Summer Pudding and make an attractive 'decoration' to any dish. However, I always ensure that some are left for the birds to enjoy!

Plants that have been flowering well will benefit from regular dead-heading. Although some people find this a tedious task, I actually find it very therapeutic. I use a small pair of



Redcurrants

snips which are light and easy to keep with me. It gives the opportunity to look closely at your plants, to check for any pests, and will also encourage the plants to continue to flower for longer, as each will still want to produce seed. When deadheading roses, snip back to a leaf bud using secateurs, or simply pinch off the old heads with your fingers, remembering to leave some at the end of the flowering season to give a good display of rosehips.



Tiarella

If you grow lavender, you may want to dry some. The best way, is to pick stems that only have a few of the buds open as these will keep their colour and scent better than those that are fully open. Select those with long stems and trim the ends evenly. Tie them into small bunches, and hang them upside down in an airy room to dry. They will take a few weeks to dry completely, during which time you should check them regularly. They can then be used as dried scented bunches or the flower buds can be removed to use in sachets or in cooking.

We experienced some very hot days during June and once again we need to do all we can to conserve and make best use of water. Beds and borders with added garden compost dug in and a mulch laid on damp soil with help reduce evaporation. I am sure most readers will already have water butts to save rain water, and these can be obtained at a reduced price from South West Water. On average, one water butt holds the same amount of water as around 25 watering cans, and most plants prefer rainwater. Other ideas include sinking a flower pot or length of pipe into the ground next to your plants so that then when you water, it goes straight to the roots. Also, ensure that you don't water bare soil when watering rows of young plants, as it will only encourage weed growth.

I have received the following which I wanted to pass on to readers of the Newton Wonder. "A resident had found a hedgehog tightly curled up on the road beyond Coleford on the way to Copplestone in June. He noticed some blood on its nose and carried it back home for further examination. Sadly, it turned out that it had been severely wounded, very probably by a strimmer. It had to be put down by a vet the next day.

Could everyone please be super careful when strimming. Every year many hedgehogs get killed or injured, sometimes even unbeknownst to the strimmer. If you vet the area you are planning to strim by walking through it slowly and checking whether there are any hogs hiding in the long grass/weeds/undergrowth, you might save a precious life. Hedgehogs are now on the IUCN Red List of threatened species."

Whats On?

Throughout July, the National Garden Scheme has details of local gardens open to the public, as do Hospiscare. Visit their websites for more information.



Toby & Jim Powderham

RHS Rosemoor

“Join us for our summer-night late opening between 6pm and 9pm at RHS Garden Rosemoor, where you'll be able to enjoy the garden in all its splendour after hours, along with live acoustic music by the Courtyard Cafe. Late openings are taking place 2nd & 16th July. The last entry to the garden is one hour before closing time. Pre-booking is required”

Big Butterfly Count

Between Friday 16th July and Sunday 8th August, choose a place where you can see butterflies and moths. Watch for 15 minutes and then record which species you see. More details can be found at bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org

Moth Night. 8th-10th July

Moths are often thought of as butterflies' less-beautiful cousins. However, they are very beautiful in their own right. Scientists estimate there are at minimum 150,000 moth species, and some believe that there could be over 500,000! Moths have been found that are small as a pinhead and as large as an adult-human's hand. But it is the incredibly complicated wing colours and patterns that make them especially dazzling. Further information at www.mothnight.info

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Nicola Baker



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Farmyard and wedding bells!

Last week Robert was working in the orchard when he met an old friend of mine from ‘Toddler Group’ days. On chatting, it turned out she didn’t know our Harefield Barn existed! This is obviously a shocking state of affairs as far as my marketing abilities are concerned, so I thought it was about time I spoke up a little more about ourselves.

Many of you will possibly know that the Ayre family have been farming at Shute for many years. In fact, this year it will be 80! So much has altered in agriculture since that time, of course, and, as with all businesses, you have to learn to change and adapt to survive. A few years ago, the family took the decision to divide the land between the two remaining farming brothers, with each developing his own farm to take it in his own direction.



Celebrating the big day

At this point, Robert and I had already started on a new venture to create a bespoke building, specialising in hosting weddings, and this gave us the impetus we needed to take Harefield Barn forward with renewed excitement and enthusiasm.

In May 2013 we had the pleasure of hosting our own daughter’s wedding on the farm. Rather than having a marquee, she

and her partner used an existing modern steel framed barn, so we set about transforming it for the purpose. The week before the wedding we were basking in hot spring sunshine in our shorts and t-shirts, but on the day itself, the temperature plummeted, and, by gum!, it was chilly! This proved to be the inspiration for our new business – a multi-purpose venue with stunning views where you can make the most of the outdoors when the weather is fine, yet be cosy and warm inside when the weather is not so great.

Having spent some years as a Registration Officer, which included officiating at weddings at some of the lovely venues Devon has to offer, I was able to use that experience to design a building suitable for weddings and events. At the same time, of course, I was creating for myself a pretty special job. Who wouldn’t want to be helping couples plan the day of their dreams!

Unsurprisingly, the process was not quick, but with our son-in-law Paul Vigurs (former resident of New Estate!) at the helm, and an amazing team of builders and suppliers, everything was finished (well almost) in the nick of time, for the first wedding, which took place on 1st December 2018; and what a fabulous family affair it was, as it was for our second daughter!

Our first season in 2019 was a huge success, and with double the number of weddings booked for 2020, we were all set for a very exciting and busy year. Sadly, we all know what happened next; a certain virus appeared and the whole industry was closed down with less than 24 hours' notice. We're delighted to say that we were able to find suitable postponement dates for virtually all those weddings, and, all being well, Harefield Barn will once again be ringing with the joy and laughter of happy couples celebrating with their friends and families.

So here we are! Robert, who has been farming for very nearly 60 years, now finds himself the proprietor of a beautiful wedding venue; although that sounds rather grand though, as he says, it entails mostly looking after the grounds, furniture moving, and late-night glass washing at events! And me? Well, I have a dream job – often exciting, sometimes stressful, but ultimately hugely rewarding. It will never stop being a privilege for me to be part of someone's special day, from that first show-round, to the last guest who leaves on the night. I just can't stop smiling!

Farming and family are still at the root of all we do, but running events at Harefield Barn has given us a whole new level of challenge and pleasure in being able to share this

beautiful corner of Devon with so many appreciative people, and we look forward to welcoming many of you to weddings here this summer.



Deborah and Robert Ayre

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Summer fruit compote

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500g (1 lb) mixed summer berries eg strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, loganberries, blackcurrants
Squeeze of lemon juice
75g (3oz) granulated sugar
! teaspoonful cornflour mixed to a thin paste with water

Place fruit, sugar, and lemon juice in a saucepan and gently bring to the boil, stirring frequently. Simmer for 2 - 3 minutes then stir in cornflour paste. Bring back to the boil, then remove from the heat and pour into a basin. Allow to cool and store in the fridge until needed.

Paul Cleave

The Holmes Family of Newton St. Cyres

On 19th May this year the following message was received through the contact form on the Newton Wonder website from Robert Marsden of Illinois.

"This website is a wonderful resource for amateur genealogists like me. I live in the US but my Holmes family originated in Newton St Cyres and Upton Pyne in the late 1500s. Lucky enough to have visited your church two years ago and saw the grave markers for some of my relatives. We also met Mary Quicke at the church and saw the bell that my 7th great grandfather bought for the church in 1733. I was wondering if there are any Holmes folks living in town still."



Robert Marsden is pictured viewing the Holmes bell.

Below with Mary Quicke atop the Church Tower in 2019.



The editor forwarded the message to the History Group and it appears that the house which appears to have been known as Holmes is now Newcombes and has been the subject of some research by a couple of the group members.

Jean Wilkins contacted Robert Marsden who has now sent a very full and detailed account of his family's relationship to the village. This is available on the History Group page of the Newton Wonder website: - www.newtonwonder.net

July on the Farm



NATURE

July. Almost as soon as the sun hits the solstice, the plants take on a different phase. No longer is everything growing at full pelt. It was almost triffid-like the way plants shot up. After that standstill of a cold dry April and a cold wet May, a warm wet start to June sent everything into overdrive. Hedgerows exploded with flowers. Now, it's quieter.

The greens merge into the mid green of high summer. Birds sneak in another family: never sure if these ones will make it through the winter. Young adults try out their new wings. Is it teenage high spirits that has clouds of house martins zoom around, seeming to chase each other, scything across the sky? You can hear the rustle of wind in their tiny feathers as they fly overhead.

In the pond, the thousands of newt eggs have become tens of teenage newts, still in the water, feeding on all the wriggling things till they are big enough to venture onto the pond side.

I'm so happy to see the wildflowers in the churchyard again. There are some quite unusual flowers, such as 'Fox and Cubs', a russet coloured, dandelion-shaped flower. I remember seeing the flowers there when I was a child, walking to school, before the monthly mowing started. It's amazing how the plants have survived close mowing for so long. For me, it seems a wonderful celebration, and honours my predecessors buried in such a rich haven of the natural world.

ARABLE

At the beginning of the month, wheat and oats crops look splendid with heavy green flowers that rustle against you, the promise of great plenty. By the end of the month, the ears start to fill. Then comes the reckoning: is there enough moisture to swell the grain, are the roots deep enough to harvest it?

GRASS

On the pastures, spring famine turned to feast. Did we cut too much? Have we left enough for our bountiful cows? It all depends on those heavy showers of rain. When others say, “Miserable weather”, I inwardly cheer (and not always inwardly); the rain is reaching roots, visibly making leaf.

COWS

In July the autumn calving cows are full of calf. They are in a blissful late-pregnancy dream, friendly and curious if you come to meet them, and so not bothered. They are all on their summer holidays, no milking, just eating more stalky grass and resting, flanks and heavy bellies warm in the sun.

For play, I visit the young heifers. Their pastures are in hidden valleys on the farm, and they don't see many people. They will gather round, curious and dash joyfully from one end of the field to the other.

DAIRY

It's hot in the cheese dairy. The job of forking cheese after salting is popular, in front of the fans that cool curd (and people). Turning cheese, in the cool of the cheese store, suddenly becomes the place to be, heavy though it is to turn the young 27kg cheese.

RECIPE

I love the way Italians turn homely delicious treats into delicacies. Bruschetta is how to retrieve bread that's going stale and give it a second and more glamorous life. We've made some more Lady Prue, our cow and goats mixed-milk cheese, in honour of my mother, who built our cheese dairy.

Slice and lightly toast some elderly sourdough fairly thickly (ideally the sort made with no added yeast). Rub with some fresh garlic and some tasty olive oil. Top with chopped fresh tomatoes and basil. Lightly and finely grate some Lady Prue, finish with sea salt and pepper. The cheese gives a delicate umami base to the flavour, and the cheese has a lovely melt in the mouth.

Mary Quicke

Crediton u3a: A Man for Four Seasons

Crediton u3a runs a series of monthly talks that are open to members and non-members alike. At present, they are running on Zoom and are free of charge.

In June, Professor Peter Edwards returned to give us an excellent talk on Vivaldi, a Man for Four Seasons. He told us how Antonio Vivaldi, was born in 1678 in Venice to Giovanni Battista Vivaldi and Camilla Calicchio. He was baptised at birth because it was feared he may not survive. He suffered from poor health throughout his life, and sometimes it was wondered if this may have been because he was a sickly baby or perhaps it was due to an earthquake that happened on his day of birth.

By age 15, Vivaldi had entered training for the priesthood and at 25 he became ordained, although he never really practised as a priest. For most of his active musical life, he had an association with the Ospedale della Pietà, an orphanage in Venice, now the Metropole Hotel. The orphanage provided musical training for young women, and they had a renowned choir and orchestra.

Besides sacred music and many, many concertos, Vivaldi wrote operas, but these were his downfall. At first, they were successful, but as his style of music went out of fashion, he spent much of his money moving round the country promoting his work.

Broke, he moved to Vienna to work under the patronage of Charles VI. However, Charles soon died and left Vivaldi without any source of income. Vivaldi died not long after in 1741 and was buried in a pauper's grave in Vienna.

For the next 200 years, Vivaldi's work was almost unknown. It's not hard to see why. Vivaldi wrote in the Baroque style. Think anything with a harpsichord and you're probably thinking Baroque. Baroque music is characterised by extravagant trills and turns, but follows very specific rules that can be very repetitive. Listen to the summer movement of the 'Four Seasons' and you can hear them all - long flowing passages, rhythmic precision, quiet repeats that sound like an echo, a harpsichord continuo and virtuoso solos.

In fact, Stravinsky once said that Vivaldi did not write 500 concertos, but wrote one concerto 500 times.

Vivaldi only really became popular again in the mid-20th century. In 1952, there were only two recordings of the 'Four Seasons'; by 2011, there were more than 1,000. Today, he is more popular than ever.

Who has not stood in a lift or waited on a telephone line, and been subjected to a poor-quality recording of the 'Four Seasons'? And yet there's much more to him than this one piece.

Thank you, Peter, for widening our knowledge.

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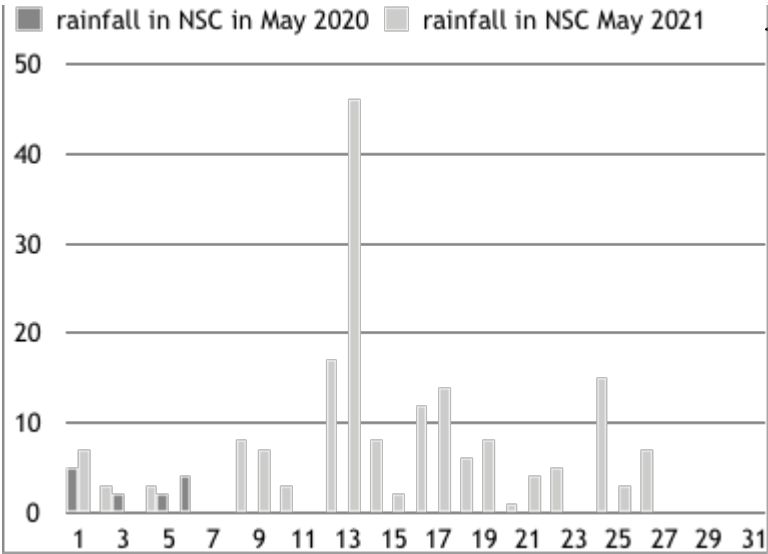
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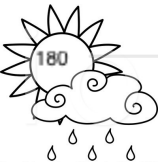
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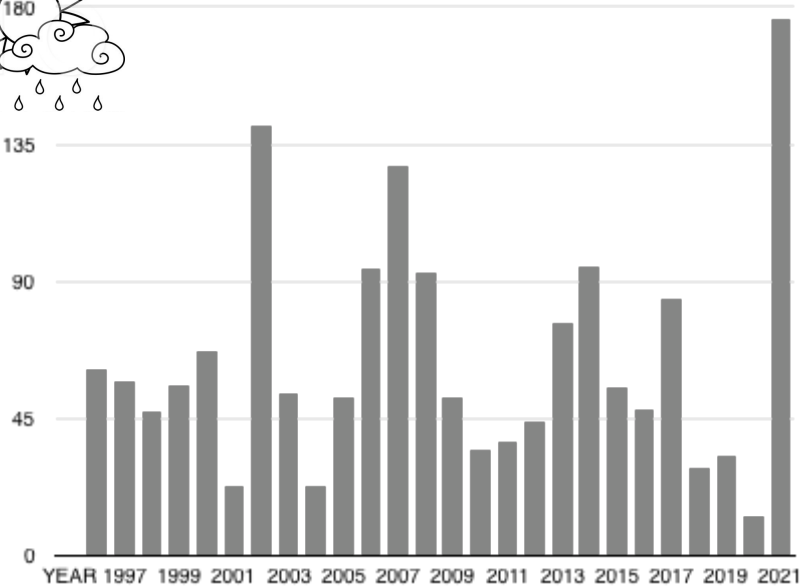
in Newton St Cyres



We are grateful to James Walters and his family, especially his granddaughter Alice for providing us with regular details of the rainfall in Newton St Cyres.



Monthly rainfall in May in NSC since 1996



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News from Moon Ridge Farm

An explosion of life is probably the only way to describe it. After what seemed a long winter, followed by a cold, dry April, the rain returned for May and the heat for June. From being short of grass, we find ourselves swamped and the garden is a sea of green. Everything is behind, everything is late - and yet it will catch up. Last year we ate our first broad beans in the first week of May, and this year it was the second week of June! And our strawberries are way behind. It's looking like a race between them and the cherries!

Nature is great at levelling things up. We have seen a gradual increase in wildlife ever since we came here in 2004. The planting of trees and the addition of wildlife areas and ponds have helped enormously. But this year beyond all others has seen an explosion. Four years ago we welcomed our first pair of house martins. By last year, they had increased to three nests, and this year we already have 11 active nests. They tirelessly make the journey to one of the swales that we dug in our deer paddock, returning with a mouthful of mud to stick on the wall and make their beautiful rounded 'mud house' nests.

Old nests, in turn, have been taken over. A wren nested in one last year and used it all winter as a warm dry roost, and a pied wagtail used another. We have fledglings out of many species - blue tits, wrens, wagtails, dunnocks that nested in the gooseberry bush, less than three feet away from the mallard that nested underneath and only a few yards from the blackbird that nested in our Taunton Deane kale. The list this year goes on and on.

A first this year to visit with any regularity are swifts, they seem to be scouting for a nest site and as I write have been visiting repeatedly for over a week now, sometimes two and sometimes four. It was enough for us to get excited and climb a ladder to drill 3ins holes in the soffit boards to allow them a nest site. Fingers crossed.

On the farm business side, we have been busy. The opening of restaurants and the tourism industry have seen our quail eggs in great demand, higher than ever before, which is great. We are still hatching and rearing as fast as we can, and now finally seem to be catching up. We have good numbers of bantams and ducks coming through now.

This year, back garden ducks are in demand. I've a feeling that the chicken craze last year pre-lock down has now extended to ducks. Poultry keeping is addictive! The couriers have restarted nationwide deliveries, which has helped with sales. Our birds travel as far as Perth in the north and occasionally over to Jersey as well. We have even sent some to the Lundy isles.

The deer are calving now and, barring early trouble with marauding ravens (hence the scarecrow and the 'bangers' in the deer paddock), they are looking well.

The sheep have now been shorn and the lambs are growing well. We only keep a small number, Black Welsh Mountain ewes, that we cross with a Blue Texel ram. This year has been exceptional, with over 183% in rear so far, way beyond my expectations of a native

hill breed and better than most lowland breeds. After working as a shepherd with more commercial breeds for some time, I am rather pleased!

The pigs and the pygmy goats should all be pregnant for August and are looking as 'fat' as butter on the fresh grass growth. The rheas, both white and grey, are now sitting tightly on clutches of eggs and the young Joey wallabies are becoming ever braver, venturing away from their mothers - always the most endearing time to watch them. It seems incredible how such large 'gangly' youngsters are able at the slightest scare to run and dive headlong into their mothers' pouches, leaving only the tell-tale foot or tail tip on show.

Our first-laid rheas' eggs were infertile, so Megan has blown them, and they are now for sale in the shop. Last year they all sold to an artist who made some incredible ornaments with them.

We have recruited a new team member who will focus on livestock and the hatchery, starting in July, and have two new volunteers. Now we are much busier, all our new recruits are very welcome! With the garden flourishing and the public now back visiting the farm, there never seems to be enough hours in the day.

Our website still allows for click and collect and we are welcoming walk-ins again. As soon as our team is settled, we will be increasing our opening days.

Merv and Kate Anstey

JOSH KENSHOLE



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Do you need any help in these times?

You are not alone

**For any type of help contact Damien Hodge
on 851111 or email
damienhodge@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk or
contact your neighbourhood watch
deputy. They are here for you.**

Neighbourhood Watch Deputies

Tim Sedgwick	Godolphin Close	2	851223	twsedgwick1@supanet.com
Sue Gee	Church Area	Glebe House	851164	asgee@btinternet.com
Tom Dowle	Court Orchard	24	851704	tomdowle@live.co.uk
Chris Lee	Langford Road	Greenlands	851280	
Mike Kersey	Half Moon	12	851603	
Sandy Fleming	Newton House	12	851646	afleming12@btinternet.com
Wayne Meeton	Norton	Glenacre Sweetham	851954	wayne@wvmstudio.com
Derrick Rhydderch-Evans	Pump Street	Old Beams	851443	derrickrevans369@btinternet.com
David Vallance	Sand Down Lane	Manesty	851266	davidvallance2@icloud.com
Jacqui Ward	Smallbrook	2 Broadgate Cottage	851918	Jacquiward30@yahoo.co.uk
Jill Hawksley	Sweetham	Station Cottage	851269	peterbrew@aol.com
Clive Wootton	West Town	4 Meadowlands	851428	hollywallydoda@outlook.com
Alan Hancock	Woodlands		851744	
Damien Hodge	Tytheing Close	2	851111	damienhodge@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk
Geoffrey Jackson	"The Village"	Shaplands Cottage	851551	megalops@btinternet.com

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

Newton St Cyres Parish Hall

Tues 09.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. & Thursdays 12.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.



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**July 21st Lynne Carroll Characters and Creatures at
Lanyon: a look behind the scenes at a historic
Australian settlers' Homestead**

Meetings are usually on the third Wednesday of the month, at the Boniface Centre in Crediton, but we have been forced to go “virtual” during these challenging times. Monthly presentations are via zoom and a link is sent out shortly beforehand.

There are also remote quiz challenges.

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The Parish Church of St Cyr and St Julitta



Private Prayer at Newton St Cyres Church.

The Church is open for

Private Prayer

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Planning Application for new car park at the Church

The Newton Wonder is aware that the planning application for a car park in the Vicarage Garden is subject to objections. We take no view on the application. However, In order to clarify the position of the Church we have been asked to publish this letter from the Director of Property for the Diocese.

Dear Brian
Newton St Cyres Church
9 June 2021

Further to our recent discussions in relation to Newton St Cyres Church and the proposed car park, I write to set out the views of the Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance Limited. As you know, we are wanting to sell the Vicarage but have offered to the PCC on a peppercorn rent basis the lower portion of the garden for the purposes of creating a car park to serve the church. This lower section of garden would, subject to planning approval being forthcoming for the car park, be therefore excluded from the house sale.

The rationale for the Board making this offer to the PCC was primarily in acknowledgement that this presents a one-off opportunity for improved car parking for users of the church and should disposal of the house happen without this provision then there will permanently be very limited parking available immediately adjacent to the church. We are aware that there is a public car park within Newton St Cyres however we understand that this is often full, is located a little distant from the church and provides no pavement connectivity.

The wider context for the Board is the fact that within the Diocese of Exeter there are in excess of 600 churches, the majority of which are Listed Buildings of Grade I or 2* status. Newton St Cyres Church is a Grade I Listed Building. Such buildings place significant responsibilities on the custodians and with an ageing and declining membership across many churches in the diocese the future of a significant tranche of these churches is increasingly becoming more vulnerable. Indeed, we are at present sadly receiving a number of requests from PCC's elsewhere in the diocese to close and deem redundant their church building.

We are working hard to support churches, and have obtained exceptional grant funding from the Church Commissioners for a project known as Growing the Rural Church which aims to support rural churches and make them sustainable. This project, is aligned with the recommendations in the government's Taylor Report, in seeking to extend the use of churches to maximise the community benefit and opportunities. I am aware that your church is seeking to do likewise which is an essential for the ongoing sustainability and viability of our churches. In addition to ensuring the availability of the building for the wider community, such an approach, from a heritage conservation perspective, also has the added benefit of retaining the original and very long-standing use of the building which is naturally the most effective means of ensuring the preservation of the historic building.

We consider that the provision of a car park will enable the development of further community uses of the church building, thereby helping to support the sustainability of the church into the future, thus helping to maintain the church as a community asset, as well as helping to make your highly important historic building sustainable into the future.

I have discussed this with the Archdeacon of Exeter throughout who has been entirely supportive of the need for the car park and has encouraged the parish to further explore how the church can be adapted to enhance the facilities it offers to the wider community. The danger for some of our rural churches is that they are seen as sitting comfortably hidden away in the corner of the community and only used for services such as weddings and funerals, or festivals at Easter and Christmas. The creative use of church building brings them back to the idea they become places of engagement, encounter, hospitality, and welcome not just on Sundays but every day.

Yours sincerely ,

Graham Davies DipBldgCons(RICS), BSC MRICS

Director of Property

Exeter Diocesan Parsonages Committee Secretary: Graham Davies Exeter Diocesan

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Newton St Cyres

Newton St Cyres Church

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Brian Please: 851507**

A Time of Change...?

In the past 18 months, life has changed for everyone in ways we could never have imagined. We have seen adjustments in the way we communicate with one another; in the way our children have received their education; in the way we work, shop, and socially interact, and in dozens of the little things which make up our daily lives.

For example, at the start of this strange and difficult time, some of us were timid about technology. It was new to many of us, and unfamiliar. However, our knowledge and understanding has developed at a pace, since it proved to be the only way to make contact with family and friends, and to stay in touch. It also proved to be a good way for children to interact with their teachers and to be involved with their learning and, for many adults working from home, became a viable and productive way of doing their jobs. Many of us learned something new, became familiar with these new skills and absorbed them into our daily lives.

A welcome development in our community in Stoke Canon was the way in which different groups within the village swung into action from the beginning. The Parish Council drew up a list of volunteers to call on as needed; the village shop offered a food delivery; church members divided among themselves names of villagers who had attended weekly lunches and undertook to contact them regularly. They sent out booklets of prayers, and craft packages to Messy Church families; and the community pub cooked take-away meals and delivered some to the more vulnerable folk. People really came together to help and support their neighbours.

For some of us it meant reconnecting more closely with our families and spending precious time with them. In many ways we have changed, and maybe learned valuable lessons in the way we understand each other and our relationships.

We have been so fortunate here in the South West, and particularly in these villages in the Exe Valley, to have seen very low infection rates of Covid-19 in our communities. Perhaps times of being locked-down have caused us to appreciate what we have – good neighbours, daily walks in clean, fresh air, wonderful hedgerows and countryside, our gardens, birdsong. The list is endless! And, with so many of us fully vaccinated, this is to be celebrated!

However, we are all acutely aware of the suffering brought to so many through the pandemic, the loss, grief and pain for those whose lives will have changed dramatically and for whom “normal” will never be the same again. Tragically, so many lost loved ones, through Covid and non-Covid-related deaths, and so many families were unable to say their goodbyes in ways they would have wished.

The pandemic has brought to our attention aspects of our society which should shock us. For example, more than half of the people who died from Covid last year had a disability, and we now know that people from ethnic backgrounds, many of them working for the NHS, have been disproportionately affected. In terms of health, equality, and employment, it will be the poorest who will suffer the most. So, what are the changes needed in our society? Do we just build back, or should we be thinking of “building back better”?

Change is often resisted, but Covid has taught us that we *can* cope with, and sometimes benefit from, changes in our lives. Can we keep the best of the past, add in some lessons learnt today and work towards a better tomorrow? In a world of frequent change, it is reassuring to know that God’s love is the one constant we can rely on.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday. today and for ever.” Hebrews 13 v 8

Angela Richards

Newton St Cyres Arboretum

Crediton Arts Centre present their adaptation of

The Merry Wives of Windsor

by William Shakespeare

Saturday 10 July at 3.00pm

Set in the 1920s with an Art Deco set and period costume and music, with a cast of fifteen plus two musicians.

Tickets are available online from the www.ticketsource.co.uk/creditonartscentre and from the Arboretum Committee on 01392 851337.

Tickets are £5 per head, with children under 12 free. Audience are encouraged to bring picnic blankets (and picnics), folding chairs etc. Social distancing should be observed where appropriate. Park in the Parish Hall Car Park for short walk to the Arboretum.

SERVICES & INFORMATION JULY 2021

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

Please note these services are proposed for July 2021 and may change due to Government Restrictions and COVID-19 tiering.

Please check for current information by visiting our website at www.netherexe.org

Sunday 4 July Trinity 5

09:30 am	Holy Communion [CW]	Thorverton	JH & LF
10:00 am	St Peter's Week Service	Brampford Speke	GC
10:00 am	Informal Service	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
11:15 am	Informal Service	Cadbury	Lay Led

Sunday 11 July Trinity 6

11:15 am	Informal Service	Rewe	Lay Led
11:15 am	Holy Communion [CW]	Upton Pyne	GC

Sunday 18 July Trinity 7

09:30 am	Open Door	Zoom/Telephone Service*	LF
09:30 am	Holy Communion [CW]	Brampford Speke	
KR			
11:15 am	Holy Communion [CW]	Cadbury	JH
05:00 pm	Holy Communion [CW]	Stoke Canon	MSS

Sunday 25 July Trinity 8

09:30 am	Holy Communion [CW]	Newton St Cyres	TL
11:15 am	Holy Communion [CW]	Rewe	JH

Abbreviations: CW = Common Worship

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

If you wish to attend a church service, you must book in advance by contacting:

Cadbury	Libby Price	01392 860257	libby@prices7.com
Newton St Cyres	Sue Browne	01392 851460	suecbrowne@gmail.com
Rewe	Sheila Newton	01392 860082	rewenativity@gmail.com
Stoke Canon	Valerie Mills	01392 841659	valeriehandfordmills@gmail.com
Thorverton	Royston Kershaw	01392 860419	thorvertoncw@gmail.com
Upton Pyne	Christine Cotter	01392 841025	cotterchriessie@gmail.com

Places at services are strictly limited. If you turn up at a church without booking, you may be turned away.

*Open Door: <https://zoom.us/j/92093317053?pwd=bjhzcGRrSTQ2TW9sODFWU2dLU204QT09>

To join by telephone: **Ring 0203 901 7895** **Meeting ID: 920 9331 7053**

Passcode: 117621

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

Who's Who in the Church.....? Abbreviations Key

JH	Revd Julia Hocking	Curate
LF	Mrs Laura Ford	Reader
TL	Revd Tony Lane	
KR	Revd Preb Kathy Roberts	
GC	Revd Preb Graham Cotter	
MSS	Revd's Michael & Sharon Simpson	
TBC	To be confirmed.	

07928 813333

julia.hocking@netherexe.org

07741 491946

laura.ford@netherexe.org

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

Mrs Margaret Lowe [Administrator]
Tuesday & Thursday [09:30 – 15:30]
Tel: 07594 714590
Email: margaret.lowe@netherexe.org

Mr Peter Shepherd [Administrator]
Monday & Wednesday [09:30 – 13:30]
Tel: 07551 844321
Email: peter.shepherd@netherexe.org

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



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10.30 - 12.00**



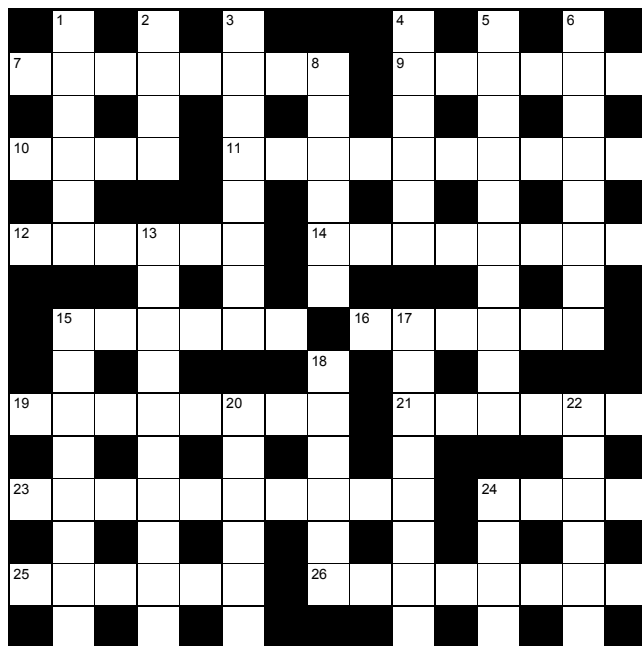
**PARISH HALL
Newton St Cyres**

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stall and raffle.**

All funds in aid of the Church.



Cryptic Crossword



ACROSS

- 7 Suitable colour scheme given to interior of house (8)
- 9 One having a peep at attractive woman (6)
- 10 Some admit Chris is an irritation (4)
- 11 Some larks give rise to great delight (10)
- 12 Havng superior quality, exude largess initially when working (2,4)
- 14 Eccentric partner keeps one marine reptile (8)
- 15 I pay a rent, originally designed to get place for workers (6)
- 16 Old fellows given one church duty (6)
- 19 Orwell's pig is a 25 Across (8)
- 21 Earth is scattered around new part of plant (6)
- 23 Spurs team's struggling to appear adequate (4,6)
- 24 Headgear to go with oriental garment (4)
- 25 Informer finds tin with 10 Across (6)
- 26 Sounds like meal's untouched in Warwickshire town (8)

DOWN

- 1 Item of furniture needs fixed support (6)
- 2 Boy rejected hot food (4)
- 3 Refrain from taking Ecstasy with older family member (8)
- 4 Changing rules takes time in Irish province (6)
- 5 Deny Diana is involved in agreement (10)
- 6 Note pay increase and learn it by heart (8)
- 8 It may be sung in humble dwelling (6)
- 13 Almost the whole of creation goes to city, we hear – Oxford perhaps (10)
- 15 Familiarise Bill with unusual antique out East (8)
- 17 Outrageous tirade about the Union Jack? (8)
- 18 Idiot caught with mixture of nitre (6)
- 20 Shows amusement when lass endlessly conceals disgusted expression (6)
- 22 Use stratagem to pursue half of them (6)
- 24 Bit of paper from African country (4)

Set by Alberich

Sudoku

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

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

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Solution to the June 2021 Cryptic Crossword

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

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

Priest-in-Charge	To be appointed	
Church Wardens	Sue Browne, 1 Glebelands, Sand Down Lane	01392 851460
PCC Hon Secretary	Pita Burt pitaburt@gmail.com	01392 851410
PCC Hon Treasurer	Vacancy	
Electoral Roll Officer	Jen Holt, 21 Woodlands	01392 851521
Tower Captain	Mary Quicke - mary@quickes.co.uk	07729 844945
<u>DOCTORS (Crediton)</u>	New Valley Surgery , - Drs Hall, Saunders, Harris, Ziegler, Nicholls, Davies and Spriggs	01363 772263
	Chiddenbrook Surgery - Drs Twomey, Braddick, Griffiths, Kirwan and Parker	01363 772227
<u>NEWTON WONDER MAGAZINE & WEBSITE</u>	Editor – Peter Hawksley Email: editor@newtonwonder.net	01392 851269
<u>PARISH COUNCIL</u>	Chairman - Jim Enright Clerk - Jane Hole	01392 851859 01392 851148
<u>PARISH HALL</u>	Chairman – Roger Wilkins Booking Sect - Mary Long, - maryglong@btinternet.com Caretaker - Chris Barlow	01392 851337 01392 851624 01392 851125
<u>PRIMARY SCHOOL</u>	Head of Teaching – James Akhurst Administrator - Maxine Pople	01392 851267 01392 851267
Newton Nippers Pre-School	Contact the school	01392 851267
Newton Nappies Toddler Group	Emily Rickard	01392 851899
<u>RECREATION CLUB</u>	Chairman - Tony Lewis, 80 Wrefords Lane, Exeter Booking Secretary - Mrs Wendy Lewis, 80 Wrefords Lane, Exeter	01392 432287 01392 432287
Newton Revels	Chairman - Eric Fee - ericwfee@hotmail.com	01392 851595
Art Group	Jenny Hallam, jennyhallam6@gmail.com	7787383658
Neighbourhood Watch	Damien Hodge, 2 Tytheing Close damien.hodge@centraxgt.com	01392 851111
Footpath Warden	Steve Parker	01392 851505
Cancer Research UK	Jean Wilkins, Coldharbour, Sand Down Lane	01392 851337

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

The **NEWTON WONDER** is delivered within the Parish at a charge of only **£5.00** per year.

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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 Richard Nicholls at richnick@outlook.com. Tel: 01392 851877. Please include your business name, address, ad-size required and number of insertions. **Payment in advance:** cheques made payable to **Newton Wonder Community Magazine** and sent to Richard Nicholls, Landown, Sand Down Lane, Newton St Cyres, EX5 5DE.

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

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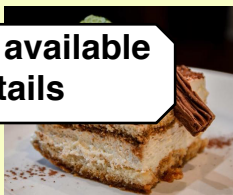
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