

NEWTON WONDER

THE MAGAZINE & WEBSITE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF NEWTON ST CYRES

March 2026

£1.00

A photograph showing three rescue workers in waders and helmets (one red, two yellow) assisting an elderly person with white hair in floodwaters. The workers are wearing life jackets; one has 'DSRE' and 'RESCUE' on it. The scene is outdoors with a stone wall and a car in the background.

Rescued in
Cowley!

www.newtonwonder.net



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Please note, the Cheese Shop will be closed from Good Friday through to Easter Monday.

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Floods

Who'd've thought it? Rescued in the village? We are all used to feeling totally safe in the village, but on 27th January the Creedy produced a disastrous flood which caused real damage in the village as well as the flooding of homes and the need for rescue. Our cover picture, taken by Jilly Baker, shows the rescue of Ann Parkin by the Dartmoor Search and Rescue team.

Several villagers, including Liz Ouldrige, chair of the Parish Council and leader of the Village Resilience team, and Ann Quon Cordingley have written articles about the flooding in this edition.

In particular Liz Ouldrige praises the way in which the village reacted to the emergency and thanks the volunteers who were so effective. It is important to stress the very real need for these volunteers and more are always needed.

Volunteers

There is a serious need for volunteers in the village. We need more Parish Councillors. It is possible to co-opt councillors between elections. The village Hall needs volunteers. So, too, does the Newton Wonder. We need assistance with setting out. For fourteen years I have been on holiday with the computer in hand taking the magazine with me. I feel I could do with some help, or even a rest, or a holiday.

Website

There is a good deal of work to bring the website up to date. it is now possible to read back copies of the Newton Wonder dating from October 2012. However it is not possible to read the current edition without a subscription.

The website contains a great deal of information and should enable us to respond to local events much more quickly and accurately.

Correction

We would like to apologise for the fact that in the article about Redlands Primary Care we mis-spelt one of the partner's names. It should have been **Kirsty Conder**.

Parish Council ReportFebruary 2026

I've deliberately kept this report short, giving only the most important points, as I have also written two other articles, about the recent floods and the wildflower survey. So please forgive the bullet point approach.

- The Boniface Trail is one step closer. Devon County Council have endorsed a purpose-built path close to the A377 from Crediton railway station to Newton St Cyres, then along 'quiet lanes' from there to Langford. At Cowley, the route will then follow Cowley Bridge Road via two new bridges built over the rivers and railway. Funding is not yet assured.
- Devon County Council have told us that they intend to buy a new bus shelter to replace the wooden one at Half Moon in the next financial year. We are in discussion with the council about the bus stops at Langford.
- Parishioners expressed their frustration about the lack of school signage on Station Road. Both they and we hope to see some action.
- Another parishioner is compiling a petition asking for a traffic island at Tytheing Close.
- Mid Devon Council would like to remind us that batteries must be put in separate bags when recycling as they pose a fire risk.
- Mid Devon planning enforcement is actively monitoring the 'holiday home' development at Half Moon. Currently, no one is living there.
- Through the P3 footpath scheme, we are applying for the footbridge handrail at the start to the footpath along the Creedy to be repaired and for the installation of steps at the very steep start to the footpath at Sherwood.
- We are applying for grant funding from a community resilience fund to replace the three flood warning signs that were stolen in the recent flooding.
- Resilience issues and the wildflower survey were discussed – see the other reports.
- The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Parish Hall on **Thursday 5th March** at 7pm.

Liz Ouldrige
Chair,
Newton St Cyres Parish Council

Village Green Wildflower Survey

Many people may be aware that the environmental group, NEW, with permission from the Parish Council, have been cultivating wildflowers on parts of the Green. The Parish Council spent no council tax money on this project. Instead, NEW, a group of local residents, bore all the responsibility for the maintenance of the area. However, after four years, it was time to decide what happens next.

The Parish Council undertook a survey of parishioners before making any decisions. We received 65 responses, including six from residents who overlook the Green itself. 77% (50 respondents) wanted to keep the wildflower areas, including all six of the residents who overlook the Green. 23% (15 respondents) did not wish to keep the wildflower areas. However, this simple analysis overlooks the fact that many people wished to see some changes.

People appreciated the increased variety of plants on the Green and increased biodiversity, but at times it could be rather untidy, and many wanted to see more colourful flowers included in the scheme. The detailed responses can be seen on the Parish Council website.

The Council decided that it was worth continuing with the scheme and we have sent the detailed responses to NEW and we hope that the project can continue, taking into account some of the comments from the survey.

Liz Ouldrige

Chair

Newton St Cyres Parish Council

The Great Flood of January 2026!

While perhaps not deserving of the title 'Great', there was substantial flooding at the close of January around the areas of Sweetham, Camps Bridge, Langford and Half Moon. What I saw over this period was a remarkable display of community spirit.

I would like to thank all those who helped in some way. Thank you to the Flood Resilience volunteers who were out and about, monitoring the situation, putting up flood warning signs, clearing blocked drains, trying to spread the word across the community and liaising with Devon County Council. Thank you to the local farmers who cleared drains and mud slips and helped individuals in difficulty.

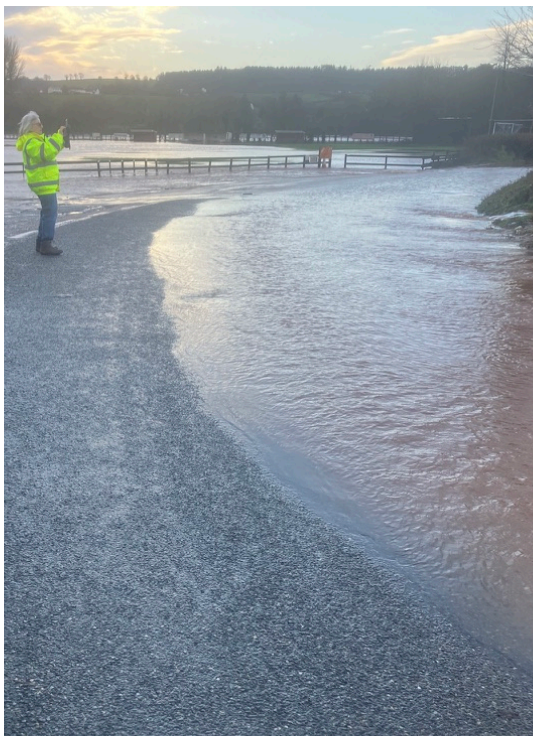
Thank you to Devon County Council, who acted quickly to make Station Road usable again – within 7 days! And thank you to all those members of the community who helped friends, relatives and neighbours in difficulty.

continued on next page

Of course, we could always do better! As leader of the Flood Resilience Network, I really felt that the lack of volunteers in Half Moon and Langford affected our ability to support those residents. Being a volunteer does not necessarily mean doing a lot of extra work, but it could keep you up to date with the situation. If you were affected by the flood water, or if you live in these areas and think you would like to know more, please contact me on lizouldridge@newtonscyres-pc.gov.uk or use the link on the Parish Council website to fill out a contact form.

If you are concerned about flooding in your home, Devon County Council have published an excellent leaflet called 'Flood Recovery' which can be accessed from e alternatively, The Parish Council has copies of this leaflet available at Coffee Mornings in the village hall.

A large number of potholes were either created or made worse by the flooding. You can help this situation either by going to this website: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/> and reporting the problem (do be aware that they don't need the problem reported more than once). Or you can contact us using the contact form on the Parish Council website. Our Road Wardens can deal with smaller potholes on the back roads. You could even consider if you could give up an afternoon every few weeks or so and become a member of this group, who do such great work. Again, use the contact form to express an interest.



Liz Ouldrige trying to decide whether it's a road or a river

Sadly, I have been told that a surprisingly large number of cars were damaged by being driven through flood water. Devon County Council strongly advises that you do not drive through flood water at all. Perhaps, before taking your car out in these conditions, you should consider if your insurance will cover expensive repairs due to flood water damage.

Do you know the depth of water that your car could successfully drive through? Be aware that most vehicles cannot drive through anything deeper than 150mm (6 inches) as the air intake for the engine is very low to the ground. And finally, when faced with a flood, could you accurately assess the depth of water? There may be hidden potholes, which will suddenly increase the depth, and the bow wave formed as you drive through will also

increase the depth.

I would like to warn pedestrians too. It's quite exciting when there's a flood and there's no harm in going to have a look. But please be aware that flood water can be contaminated by raw sewage or field run-off, that the cloudy water will disguise potholes and trip hazards and that the flow of water can be surprisingly strong. Please look after your children and dogs. It's not safe paddling!

However, well done, Newton St Cyres! the community spirit shone through when things got tough and you showed what an excellent place this is to live.

Liz Ouldrige

Chair,
Newton St Cyres Parish Council

VOLUNTEER URGENTLY REQUIRED

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

All Enquiries to
Peter Watts on

07534 830377

or email to

peterwatts369@btinternet.com

Newton St Cyres 200 Club

The winners for February 2026

No. 50	M Honebon	£50.00
No. 97	S Gee	£10.00
No. 226	H McFadzean	£10.00
No. 105	C Lee	£10.00
No. 23	L Bewick	£10.00

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

TIMBER! on Station Road

A number of unsafe trees have been cleared from the wall on Station Road due to concerns that they could topple onto the road and damage vehicles, block the road or damage power lines.

The trees – mostly elms, sycamore and ash – were either overhanging, diseased or dying.

“We were predominantly felling dead elms, which tend to fall over quite easily, and trees that are leaning heavily over the road,” said landowner John Quicke.

After 20 or so years, elms succumb to Dutch Elm disease and topple over, while ash trees are affected by dieback. Dead trees also attract pests such as termites and wood-boring insects, and can spread diseases to nearby healthy trees.

The felling was carried out by Bruce Kerry, an experienced arborist whose Western Treeworks team does similar work in the arboretum. He said he was careful to cut only dead or at-risk trees. “I strongly believe that in most cases, trees should be protected, so tree preservation orders are important,” he said. “Besides cutting down dead or diseased trees, we are also cutting small saplings that aren't ever going to grow into mature trees because of squirrel damage, and getting rid of the overcrowding and all that.”

It took Bruce and his team two days to undertake the work at the end of January, forcing the temporary closure of Station Road to traffic.



Felled trees being cleared from the road.

Ann Quon Cordingley

VILLAGE LUNCH

Thursday 19th March '26 12:30pm

BELLUNO

2 courses + Tea/Coffee... £15.00

MAIN COURSES:

BRANZINO, Sea Bass, with baby new potatoes & seasonal veg

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

LASAGNA, Oven cooked layered Lasagna pasta, with home-made
Beef ragu and bechamel tomato sauce, mozzarella and
Pecorino cheese

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

PICCANTE, (Pizza) Tomato, mozzarella, pepperoni, nduja and peppers

BEEF SCALOPINE, one minute flash steak served with chips and
Watercress salad

DESSERTS:

WHITE CHOCOLATE CRÈME BRULÉ,

CLASSIC TIRAMISU

COCONUT PANNA COTTA, Poached pear, coconut milk, blood orange

TORTA AI FORMAGGIO, Basque cheesecake, cream cheese,
Cream, vanilla, buttery biscuit base.

ICE CREAM/SORBET, two scoops (flavours of the day)

To book, please ring John or Chris Salter 851346
by Sunday 15th March with Names & Menu Choices

The day the floods came

It's been a month since the village seemed to disappear under a wall of water. There had been nothing like it, some said. As Ann Quon Cordingley reports, it came as a shock to many in the village, and left lasting thoughts about climate change and what may lie ahead for all of us.

Half Moon resident Rosemary Chambers woke up on Tuesday, 27th January to find her garden completely underwater after Storm Chandra dumped up to a month's worth of rain on the area. "The [Creedy] river overflowed the banks on both sides and water was flowing through the garden," she said.

Nearby, at least two families had to be rescued from their flooded homes, while others elsewhere were stranded, roads became unpassable or washed away, and schools and businesses were forced to close.

"Newton St Cyres was effectively cut off as the A377 was closed at both Half Moon and Ladds just outside of Crediton for most of the day," said local Parish Council Chair, Liz Ouldrige. "Those living in Sweetham and the surrounding area could only leave the area with difficulty. Langford was impassable as was Camps Bridge.

The most serious damage was to Station Road. The section by the Creedy bridge had to be closed as floodwater had swept away the underlying soil, wrecking the tarmac and causing severe damage. Rail services between Exeter and Okehampton and Barnstaple were cancelled due to damage to sections of the line.

With the village cut off from road and rail access, businesses in Sweetham were forced to close, including Curly's Groom Room, Daw Refrigeration and the ever-popular Beer Engine. "We were like an island where people just couldn't get here," says Beer Engine owner Will Maltby.

"We closed on the Tuesday and opened every other day but obviously nobody turned up," he said. "Staff couldn't get here, suppliers couldn't get here, brewers couldn't get here. No one could get here." Will estimates that during the week Station Road was closed, he lost 75% of his trade.

The Rec also suffered, with its car park disappearing under the floodwaters.

Emergency services worked overtime to rescue people who were stranded, with local volunteers and farmers with tractors all pitching in to clear mudslides and blockages and help those in need. One walker who fell on the footpath next to the Creedy had to be rescued by tractor.



The damage to Station Road

“The water just ran off all the fields and overwhelmed the drains,” says Nick Gillon, the village road warden responsible for filling manageable potholes and keeping drains and ditches clear. “We’ve been keeping them as clear as we could. But you get a bit of rain and then two hours later, it’s blocked again. So it’s very difficult to keep the countryside drains clear.”

With clean-up and emergency road repair operations underway in many areas, locals seem surprised at how Highways repaired Station Road and reopened it in just nine days.

“In fairness to the [county] council, they fixed that road incredibly quickly, and I was properly impressed,” says Will Maltby. “On the Tuesday, it was bad.

Wednesday and Thursday, people

could drive on it even though they weren’t supposed to. Then on the weekend, they started fixing it and by the following Wednesday, it was fixed.”

With road access cut off and the heavy rains continuing, many took to social media to stay informed. Will Maltby used social media to keep his customers updated on how to get to the pub using back lanes in the days after the storm.



Miraculously, DCC were quickly on the scene

"We have about 7,000 followers on all social media, and a good post for us would get 8,000 to 9,000 people viewing it," said Will. "From the five posts I did updating on progress, we got a quarter of a million views. That was huge. I don't know whether that had any bearing on [the road being fixed] and whether my posts got passed around. But I can't believe how quickly it was fixed."

The repairs to the road may have been an unexpected bonus for the Rec, which was able to use the discarded old asphalt from the newly repaired Station Road to repair its own damaged parking lot.

Farmer John Quicke said the impact on his land had been minimal. "The flooding of the fields is a fairly frequent occurrence, maybe every 4-5 years," he said. "I like to think of it as a positive giving the land a top dressing of soil from upstream."

However, John says the noticeably wetter winters are more of a concern. "We have to make sure we have enough indoor space and food for our animals to cope with these wetter winters, as they obviously can't go out to graze." He says philosophically: "A flood plain tends to flood!"

Indeed, Newton has a history of flooding, with significant parts of the village located on the floodplain of the Creedy River and around the Shuttern Brook. Particularly vulnerable to flooding are Station Road, West Town Road, Meadowlands and Pump Street.

Chris Southcott, 78, who has lived in the village most of his life, recalls: "Station Road has been impassible lots of times. In fact, we kept a count one winter. We couldn't pass for at least six occasions. We had six major floods in one winter, and we couldn't get past at all."

Experts says climate change made the flooding caused by Storm Chandra almost three times more likely to occur. So instead of such events happening every 150 years, they will happen every 60 years, according to a recent study by Mynooth University.

As the village got back to normal life, with passenger train services resumed and businesses operating again, the village showed how resilient it is. "What I saw over this period was substantial community spirit. I would like to thank all those who helped in some way," said Parish Council chair Liz Ouldrige.

Says the Beer Engine's Will Maltby: "We had a couple who came for lunch last week who told me: ' We saw on social media that you had been closed because of the road – so we thought we'd come to have some lunch and support you.' There were some really nice touches like that, that are really lovely, yeah."

So was this the Great Flood of 2026 or is there more to come? Says longtime resident Dave Phare: "Oh, there's definitely more to come. Whether it will be this year or next year, I don't know – but it will happen."

The floods – one person's story

Emma Parkin relates how her 94-year-old mother, Ann, woke up to the shock discovery that her home had been flooded by the storm. And she sends thanks to all those who responded so promptly to the danger.

My mother called me just after 8am on Tuesday 27th January to say that she could see ducks floating around in her garden below her window. That's when she realised that the downstairs of her house must have flooded, although she hadn't heard anything during the night. The power was off but, miraculously, she had taken her mobile phone upstairs with her.



Photo by Jilly Baker

Ann Parkin is evacuated by emergency services.

Thanks to the Newton St Cyres Resilience group WhatsApp messages, it became obvious that all routes in and out of the village were dangerously flooded, so I was unable to get to her. I phoned her neighbour, Jilly Baker, who kindly looked outside to confirm the situation and also reported that another couple had also been flooded out.

Not knowing what to do, but confident that Mum was unharmed and totally calm, I called the emergency services and asked for 'ambulance'. An hour later, Jilly reported that the Dartmoor Rescue team had arrived and that my mother had been safely carried out of her house and checked over by a paramedic. I was so relieved!

Eventually I was able to drive to her house via many back lanes and puddles, armed with my trusty Wellington boots. I was able to get into the house and rescue my mother's computer and some paperwork, but the mess and chaos was heartbreaking. From the marks on the wall, it

looks like the water had reached well over three

feet deep. Mum came back to my house in Sweetham to camp out for a few days while we decided what to do. She is now in Hillbrow House, Crediton, being looked after very well whilst the insurers evaluate the situation and instigate repairs. Less than 24 hours later all the water had vanished again leaving a light coating of silt.

I think what many of us in this parish and perhaps further up the Creedy valley find surprising is just how epic this overnight flood was and also how unexpected. We had no

warning (to my knowledge) that this was going to happen on such a wide scale. I know that the Parish Council, along with the Resilience team, are planning a meeting soon and NEW (Newton Environmental Wellbeing Group) have discussed what we, as a community, could do better not only to prevent some of the dangers of flooding but also what to do to protect vulnerable people and property.

Our thanks are due to the incredible Dartmoor Rescue team and to Mum's lovely neighbour, Jilly Baker, who took photos and housed Mum until I could fetch her.

Newton St Cyres Parish Council

NOTICE OF VACANCY for PARISH COUNCILLORS

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

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

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

parishclerk@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk

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during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date
is in the parish.***

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



Table Tennis

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

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

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RHS BRITAIN IN BLOOM

Now that we are an RHS Britain-in-Bloom GOLDEN village, the task ahead is to step up again this year and present our Village at its best. Judging will be mid to late July (to fit in with the School term). Judges will again be looking for good planting (flowers, trees, wilding), good environmental practice (water harvesting, composting, wilding) and, of course, community participation. Last year the judges were frankly amazed by the number of volunteers across all the different projects and clubs in the Village - a real tribute to the endeavours across the board. There will be an open meeting in April to finalise the Village entry and determine the judging route which will be published in May.'



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NEWTON RAMBLERS PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WALKS 2026

All walks may be subject to change, and are weather dependent. Most walks are circular, between 4 & 4.5 miles and we meet in the Parish Hall car park to arrange car sharing. Full details will be published in the Newton Wonder. There is the option, for those wishing to, to enjoy lunch together at the end of the walk.

(This must be booked, in advance, with Nicola on 01392 851985)

MONTH	DATE	WALK DETAILS	LEADER/S
February <i>Lunch</i>	8	Copplestone Circular <i>Three Little Pigs</i>	Nicola & Michael <i>Nicola</i>
March <i>Lunch</i>	8	Haldon <i>Nobody Inn</i>	Anne Rice <i>Nicola</i>
April <i>Lunch</i>	12	Budleigh & Otterton <i>Kings Arms</i>	Nigel & Rosemary <i>Nicola</i>
May <i>Lunch</i>	10	Exminster Marshes <i>Swan's Nest</i>	Ann Holland <i>Nicola</i>
June <i>Lunch</i>	14	3 Reservoirs Walk <i>Picnic</i>	Nicola & Michael <i>Nicola</i>
July <i>Lunch</i>	12	Sourton <i>TBC</i>	Nicola & Michael <i>Nicola</i>
August <i>Lunch</i>	9	Sandford/Upton Hellions <i>TBC</i>	Nigel & Rosemary <i>Nicola</i>
September <i>Lunch</i>	13	Clyst Hydon <i>TBC</i>	Nicola & Michael <i>Nicola</i>
October <i>Lunch</i>	11	Sidmouth <i>TBC Blue Ball or The Bowd</i>	Anne Rice <i>Nicola</i>
November <i>Lunch</i>	TBC	Exeter tbc <i>TBC</i>	Ian Maxted <i>TBC</i>
December	26	Boxing Day Walk	Nigel & Rosemary
CONTACT DETAILS		Nigel & Rosemary Nicola & Michael	01392 851400 01392 851985

Newton St Cyres Tennis Club

We were very impressed with how quickly the road to the Tennis Club and the Beer Engine was repaired. Luckily the floods did not reach the courts. They have been repainted and are looking amazing.

We play on between the showers, but various league matches had to be postponed. We hope to finish them before 1st April.



Congratulations to the Ladies, who collected their

We will have our AGM late March and then on 1st April the new membership year will start, ready for you to have a go at tennis. Do contact our membership secretary Laura Leigh on 01647 24259 or membership@newtonstcyrestenniscub.co.uk for details, and you will have an enjoyable year of tennis and banter and friendship.

The Rusty Racket Members' Group is thriving and playing a couple of times a week. Contact Sue Bloomfield at rustyrackets@newtonstcyrestenniscub.co.uk.

The Winner's Shield at the Exeter and District Lawn Tennis League.

Junior coaching is run by James Temple and is well attended. It takes place on Wednesdays after school during term time. If you would like your

child to enrol for the spring term, please email: juniors@newtonstcyrestenniscub.co.uk for further information and find out if there is room in the right age and correct level group.

Jon Wills, our coach, offers private 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 Wills via our website: coach@newtonstcyrestenniscub.co.uk.

The Tennis Club now has a super-duper ball machine, which means you can practise all by yourself. A number of members are now trained in using the machine so if you would like to have a go, please contact the Club at www.newtonstcyrestenniscub.co.uk.

Frederiek Maddock

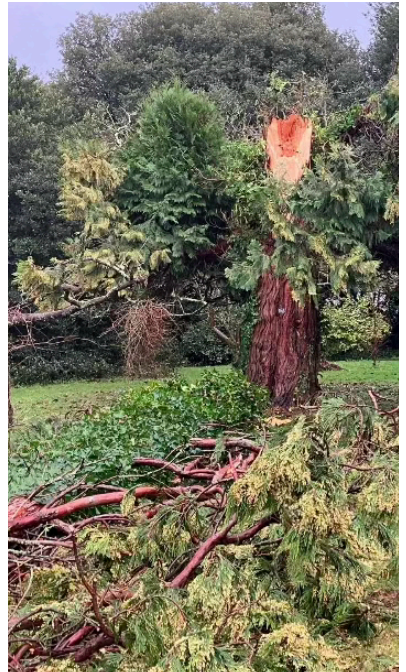


“Batman & Robin” Mike and Simon working on locating bird and bat boxes.

Greetings from the arboretum and what, I hope, will be the first of our monthly bulletins I intend to write to keep you all up to date with what is going on in the arboretum. The arboretum is one of Newton St Cyres’ unique selling points. It is open to all, every day, dawn to dusk. More and more people are using it – walking their dogs, playing with their children, exercising and meditating. Very rarely is it completely empty.

It is maintained wholly by volunteers and

voluntary subscription. We also hold events – coffee mornings, plays, music events, etc. to raise funds, but the majority of our regular income comes from our Friends – people who subscribe an annual amount and in return get a newsletter, an annual tour and access to logs when we have been doing treeworks. More about that later.



The fallen Incense Cedar.

This month, four of our volunteers are doing a chainsaw safety course. This will allow them to do the majority of the clearing-up after storms and means that we rely less on professional tree surgeons.

Our volunteers have also been putting up new bat boxes and refurbishing and rehangng bird boxes. Local wildlife groups have praised us for having an area with such mixed growth and lots of native species that encourages a real proliferation of wildlife. Bats, owls and other birds are the most obvious, but small mammals, invertebrates and insects abound if you go looking for them.

Sadly, we have lost two of our grand old trees over the past year. A lovely old Cherry came down at the end of last winter, but already some of its offspring are making their presence felt around the stump that remains. Nearby, the Incense Cedar, planted in 1955, snapped off at a point of weakness in the recent storms. It will be cleared up and may grow from the stump. There are three giant Redwood species: Coastal and Giant in the Western US and Dawn Redwoods in China. Incense Cedars are found in the US, along with the Redwoods and are sometimes mistaken as a Redwood. We have examples of all three Redwoods and an Incense Cedar in the arboretum.

We are part of the community, maintained by our community and giving something back. That makes it even more disheartening that we were recently the victims of a break-in. Somebody who knows the arboretum came equipped with a hacksaw and a screwdriver and broke into our store, making off with our petrol strimmer/multitool – paid for out of your subscriptions and fundraising. It will doubtless be flogged on for a pittance to fund some need or desire.

Which brings me back to money. Please consider joining the 130 or so Friends and make an annual subscription. We have asked that existing Friends might increase their subs from £10 (unchanged for 16 years) to £15 if they possibly can. Membership forms are available from Marcus Iles (friendsnewtonarboretum@gmail.com), the plastic box near the entrance gate and at all our events. Less than 30p a week for such a wonderful amenity.

Andrew Gee
Chair
Arboretum Committee

Bert Jewell writes Rhymes and Ways about Gardens and Gardening

March

March, and the daffodils are standing tall and proud,
Like a well tuned choir, just singing out loud,
While the crocus do their best to catch your eye,
Like a new born chick just learning to fly.

The Forsythia determined to brighten your day,
Before the wind and the rain wash it all away,
or maybe it's Camelias that make you think,
So many you can choose from ,like "Donation, double pink".

How about the Pansies that seem to smile when you pass,
In containers or the window box, it's surprising how they last,
Supported by some Poly's and Bellis Daisies too,
With tlc and weather fair, they'll always look like new.

Now Lily of the Valley is a dainty little thing,
Flowers look like tiny bells, alas they never ring,
Instead they give you fragrance, in a buttonhole maybe,
Or in a vase near where you sit to have your cup of tea.

With the garden full of flowers, some short, some rather tall,
Imagine they're an orchestra , your patch, the concert hall,
The daffs have got their trumpets, wallflowers by the door,
A seat out on the patio, you just couldn't ask for more.

Things to do in the garden

I think Spring is a lovely time of year, the days are getting longer and there is colour all around the garden. My father wouldn't grow any flowers, except for those on the flowering currant, I know we had no money, but a few daffs would have made all the difference.

My favourite type of daffodil is the "Cyclamineus". These usually Have one flower to a stem, The perianth, (petals) are usually swept back and the corona (trumpet) forms a narrow cylinder. There are eleven, what is known as Divisions, "Cyclamineus" is Division 6. I also like Division 11, which is known as "Split Corona". This is where the trumpet is split into four, each part is laid back against the petals. This division was created around 1950. You may find it in the catalogue as orchid flowering. Now the vase of daffs you have on the table may look good, but you may find the base of some of the stems are splitting and turning up, this is a sign that they are not taking up water. Recut them at an angle, giving a larger area to take up water.

When you are dead heading daffs, just cut off the top of the flower stem, leaving the rest of it to act as a leaf to help feed the bulb.

Now to the garden, if it isn't raining that is, if you didn't clear away old flower stems on perennials and cut down the dead foliage on grasses, like *Miscanthus* last month, do it now before new shoots start to appear. March is also a good time to prune *Buddleia*, *Willows*, *Dogwoods*, *Bush Roses* and *Climbing Roses*.

If you grow your own veg, then now is the time to start. I know that removing all the weeds and turning the soil is frowned upon these days, but I have been doing it that way for many years and my father before me, so I'll leave it up to you how you go about tending your veg patch. But if the soil is right, not too wet, (if my soil is wet, I tend to use short planks of wood to stand on, just a thought), you can plant Onion sets, Shallots and Brassica plants from seed sown in the Autumn. You can also sow seeds of Radish, Broad Beans, Parsnips and early varieties of Carrots and Peas. Birds have a habit of pulling out Onion sets before they are rooted, so cut off any dead or brown leaves before you plant them. If the ground is hard, loosen it up a little to stop the roots from pushing the set up out of the soil.

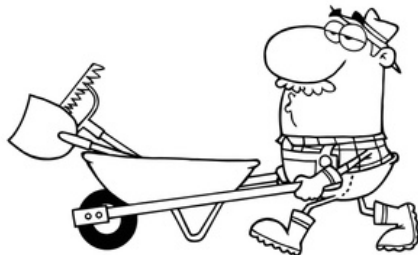
Parsnips can take a while to decide whether they're going to grow or not, always use new seed. I fill the cardboard centres from toilet rolls with compost and plant three seeds in each one, as soon as germination is spotted I plant the whole tube into a hole filled with compost, removing the two weakest seedlings when large enough to handle.

Plant of the month

"*Cornus Mas*"

Also known as Cornelian Cherry.

A small tree or shrub that we grew in our last garden. It has clumps of small yellow flowers on bare twigs at this time of the year. They've small red fruits that are edible, then in the Autumn the dark green leaves turn to a reddish purple. They grow to 10' – 15' high and like any reasonable soil in sun or shade.



Enjoy your gardening

March on the Farm

Cows and the people who make things happen

The farm comes to life after a wet winter. Green creeps over the landscape – every conceivable shade from larch’s pink, oak’s olive and wheat’s yellow to mid to deep green, depending on how damp it’s been over winter and how fertile the soil is. Tree leaves emerge as the days lengthen.

How does that origami work, the leaves made in the tight winter buds, ready to unfurl when the time is right? Hedgerows come alive with banks of primroses, lords and ladies, that dark rod wrapped in an elegant green cloak, and sticky goose grass. The winter flocks of farmland birds disperse from the overwintered arable stubbles. They immerse themselves in nest building and foraging for sitting mates and hatching families. The dawn chorus builds up, that glorious expression of “get off my land”.

On the farm, the team has kept busy over winter, keeping animals inside, fed and clean, hedges and ditches cleared, fences mended, and water mostly in the right place. Now they start the spring race: spreading manure, ploughing if needed, cultivating, seeding, weeding, tending and monitoring crops and pasture as soon as the ground is fit to travel on.

We have large tractors. The size of equipment and the loads we need to move around have got larger as wages have gone up and we can afford fewer people. The soil needs to be firmer to carry the extra weight, however fat the tyres are to spread the load. When the soil is dry enough to shatter, Malcolm, Martin and Tom, the tractor kings, will subsoil to break compaction. Better soil structure gets more life in the soil. We aid that by sowing clover and diverse seed mixes, adding manure and sowing grass breaks in crop rotations. Those, in turn, develop soil organic matter and a spongier, less compactable soil with good air and water flow.

The spring herd is now at the peak of calving. The team is on high alert in the calving shed at Hill Park, at the top of the hill, 24 hours a day. It’s best we don’t assist the cows when they calve, hands on or, even more perilous, hands in. It’s safest for cow and calf to let nature take its course. Jonathan, Sarah, Julian and Juan check that no cows, born or unborn calves, are in distress. During last spring’s calving, we assisted only one cow, a testament to the team getting the cows not too fat and not too thin before calving, and getting the mineral mix right that they drink daily in their water.

It also shows the excellent bull selection by Matthew, who has mastered all the intricacies of breeding the cows we need. He came to the farm when he was

three and, since that age has been passionately engaged in the cows' lives and their families, breeding always for welfare as well as health and the right milk for cheese. However robust our preparations, we must remain alert just in case.

And then there are the calves, up to 15 or so born each day at the peak four weeks. We take them from their mothers as soon as they have had a good fill of their mother's colostrum and have had their identifying necklace, made of cut-down inner tube. It's a sad moment, cow, calf and human alike distressed for a few hours. Then the cow is more interested in getting milked to relieve her udder, the calf has bonded with its nine herd mates in the calf pen, and the human has moved on to the next calves, always more until early May.



Jonathan Dickens, our Spring Herd Manager.

By the time they are 24 hours or so old, calves know that milk comes from people and will, for the rest of their lives, if we continue to retain their trust, come to the cow call. Leave cow and calf together for longer, and everyone gets tightly bonded, and the inevitable weaning gives days, if not weeks, of leaping over fences and desperate mooing all day and all night.

The team has prepared the calf shed over winter. They cleaned, sterilised and bedded it with wood chip that my brother John provides from the woods. The tractor men keep the pens clean, taking away soiled bedding to dung heaps to compost, ready to fertilise and nourish the soil to grow crops and grass in that

wonderful cycle of farming's perpetual motion machine.

The autumn herd, led by Matt and assisted by Mark and Sam, and the spring herd team milk the cows in two parlours, three hours or more at the peak twice a day, plus up to an hour walking the cows in from the pasture, and another hour cleaning the milking machine, the parlour and the yard, and getting the cows safe and sound into their new pasture. Milking takes extraordinary skill to keep all that comes out of the back end of a cow separate. Properly done, milk fresh out of a cow is as clean of bugs as pasteurised milk.

As the spring weeks unfold, the farm hums with activity, the calves grow strong, the pastures take shape, and the herd thrives. Behind every task is a dedicated team ensuring that the land, the animals, and the rhythms of the season all work in harmony. Next month, we will introduce you to the people who craft our cheese and butter, through to the office and shop team.

Mary Quicke

Nick Baker Local History Prizes

The organisers are delighted to announce that two prizes of £100 have been awarded in this year's Nick Baker Local History Essay Competition: the first to Isobel Hepworth and the second to Sue Attenburrow.

Both essays record the history of important local buildings — Isobel traces the history of Hayne Farm from the fifteenth century, and Sue considers the history of Langford Farm, believed to be the oldest extant house in the parish of Newton St Cyres.

It is intended that the essays will be published on the Newton Wonder Website, www.newtonwonder.net. Consideration is being given as to whether similar studies might be added to provide greater coverage of properties of interest in our area.

Many thanks to the judges: Jilly Baker, Peter Hawksley, Stuart Luxton, Andrew Saunders and Jean Wilkins.

The competition was set up in memory of Nick Baker of Cowley, an avid local historian. Prizes are funded by Nick's family and friends. Entries for this year are warmly invited from anyone in the parishes covered by Focus on Thorverton, Newton Wonder and Speke Up. Brief rules are available from

How well do you know your village?
Can you answer the following questions?:-

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

No 106



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

Newton St Cyres Gardening Club

Writing this in February, there are already Daffodils in flower in our gardens and when we are out and about. Did you manage to locate any of the specific varieties that the RHS and Plant Heritage were asking us to look out for last year? *Narcissus* Mrs R. O. Backhouse, *Narcissus* Mrs William Copeland and *Narcissus* Sussex Bonfire. The RHS are continuing their Daffodil Diaries, where you can log your sightings on their web site. www.rhs.org.uk/science/daffodil-diaries Even through all of the recent rain, the 'Tête-à-tête' that we planted down by the brook have pushed their way through. A walk around the arboretum and the churchyard provides many glorious views of the daffodils, which have followed on from the snowdrops, and will be joined by primroses and bluebells.

JOBS FOR MARCH

With longer days and warming soil, March is the time to prepare for the growing season, so here are just a few jobs to add to your already long list no doubt!

- If you planted green manure, now is the time to cut it down and allow the foliage to wilt before digging it in. Once you have done this, it is usually best to leave it to decay for around 2 weeks to get the maximum benefit for the growth of your new crops
- Woody herbs such as hyssop and sage can be pruned to within ½-1” of the previous year’s growth
- Snowdrops can be lifted, divided and replanted to increase ‘drifts’ for next year. Do this before the leaves yellow.
- Lift and divide summer-flowering perennials such as Michaelmas Daisies, Helenium and Rudbeckia to maintain healthy growth. Excess plants can be given away at plant swaps.
- Houseplants will also benefit from a health check and, if required, re-potting into a new pot one or two sizes larger with fresh compost such as Peat Free Houseplant Focus Repotting Mix. This is blended in the UK and includes a selection of sterilised soil, coir, composted fine bark, wood fibre, loam, vermiculite, maglime and nutrients.
- If you have a spare area in your garden, that you know will get the sun, direct sow hardy cornfield annuals such as Cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*) and Corn Marigold (*Glebionis segetum*) These will be good for pollinators

WHAT'S ON?

Sunday 1st & Sunday 8th March. East Worlington House, 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. Admission £6 adult, Children free. Open from 1.30pm-5pm with Cream teas served in the thatched Parish Hall next to the House.

Wednesday 4th March. Newton St Cyres Garden Club. Don't miss Saul Walker speaking about Orchids. We also hope to have orchids for sale on the evening. NSC Parish Hall 7.30pm start. Only £3.50 admission to include a hot drink and biscuits.

Saturday 7th March 2026. 10am-3pm Early Spring Plant Fair at Kennaway House Coburg Road, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 8NG The long-awaited return of the popular Sidmouth Daffodil Day, in an exciting new format. Kennaway House and Specialist Plant Fairs are pleased to be working together on a new look Spring Plant Fair on the lawn of the magnificent Grade 2 listed Regency mansion.

Some nurseries will be specialising in the rare, unusual, and exotic plants, while others focus on bees, pollinators, and wildlife. Niwaki will be there with their unique Japanese gardening tools, plus Mr Fox's lovely metal garden art, plant supports and sculptures. Allow time to visit the "Everything in the Garden" Art Exhibition in the impressive gallery Space. Refreshments available. **Beneficial charity from ticket donations – Kennaway House**

Sunday 8th March. Plant Heritage Plant Fair, South Molton Pannier Market EX36 3AB 10am-2pm "There will be a wide variety of rare and unusual trees, shrubs and perennials from local nurseries for sale. A must for all keen gardeners and plant collectors. The local **Plant Heritage** group will also be selling plants and sharing more information about their work. Everybody welcome. Catering available. At the time of writing there were 21 confirmed nurseries attending this event.

Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th March. Spring Flower Showcase, RHS Rosemoor. Admire beautiful spring blooms grown by competitors from the South West and beyond, focusing on daffodils, camellias, early magnolias and rhododendrons at RHS Rosemoor. There will be trade and advice stands, plus a superb range of early spring shrubs, bulbs and flowering plants available to buy in the Garden Centre. **Please note:** The Garden Room opens at 11.30am on Saturday for judging to take place. Sunday opening times 10am-4pm

Tuesday 24th March. Crediton Garden Club, History of Gardening by Stuart Raine
Crediton Library at 7pm

Future event for which you may wish to start planning.

Saturday 11th April. Upton Pyne spring flower show and plant sale. The schedule is available from Anne Roberts, 01392 851457.

NEWTON ST CYRES GARDENING CLUB

PROVISIONAL 2026 PROGRAMME

Newton St Cyres Gardening Club is an informal and friendly Club, who meet to hear interesting speakers, and to exchange ideas. Everyone is welcome at the Meetings or on the Outings.

You do not have to be a member, or have knowledge of gardening.

Our normal charge for an indoor meeting is £3.50 to include tea, coffee & biscuits

- **All outings may be subject to change, depending on circumstances. Pre- booking for all outings is essential.**
- **Further information, dates, times, costs etc. for each event will be included in editions of the Newton Wonder.**
- **Evening meetings are normally held in the Main Hall of the Parish Hall, on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm**

March : **Wednesday 4th March 7.30pm Talk from Saul Walker on Orchids**
There will also be plants available to purchase at this meeting

April : **Wednesday 29th April 7.30pm Talk TBC**

May : **Friday 1st & Saturday 2nd Toby's Garden Festival at Powderham Castle.** Reduced priced tickets, if pre-booked with **Nicola in person or on 01392 851985** and can be used on *either* day Please make your own travel arrangements.

June: **Wednesday 3rd June Car Share to Amelia's Flower Farm, Combeinteignhead .Guided**
Tour of the flower farm followed by self-pick flower selection to take home. Further details & to book call **Nicola 01392 851985**

June : **Saturday 13th June Fund Raising Coffee Morning 1030 – 12 noon** in the Parish Hall

July : **Visits - Car share to nearby NGS or Hospiscare Open Gardens. Dates & details to follow**

October: **Wednesday 7th October 7.30pm Talk by Todd Gray on The Art of the Devon Garden**

2026 PROGRAMME OF FUNDRAISING EVENT

Coffee Morning:

Saturday 13th June: In the Parish Hall (10.30 am to 12.00 noon.)

Raffle prizes, cakes and items for sale will be welcomed.

Stalls to include Plants, Books, Bric-a Brac,
Tombola

UPTON PYNE & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB 2026

Monday 16th March at 7.30pm

STEPHEN POWLES returns with an illustrated talk on
HORNETS including the **ASIAN HORNET**



Saturday 11th April @ 2.00pm SPRING FLOWER SHOW & PLANT SALE

Incl. photos, cookery, children's paintings

SAVE THE DATE!

UPTON PYNE OPEN GARDENS SATURDAY 9 MAY 2026



A special fundraising event

jointly organised by
UPTON PYNE & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB
and **THE FRIENDS OF UPTON PYNE**



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

NEWTON ST CYRES GARDENING CLUB

ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME BACK

SAUL WALKER

Speaking on **ORCHIDS**

Wednesday 4th March at 7.30pm
Newton St Cyres Parish Hall

£3.50 admission to include Tea/Coffee & Biscuits.
All Welcome - Do come and join us!

Saul is a most interesting speaker
with many years of experience & will
happily answer any questions that you may have.

Saul will also bring plants with him For Sale



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POST
OFFICE

Coming soon (for some) – high-speed Internet

There's good news and bad for Newton residents fed up with the slow and unreliable internet service. Openreach, the UK's largest broadband and telephone network, has confirmed that Newton St Cyres is to get full fibre broadband.



The good news: Openreach wasn't able to commit to a firm start-up date, but said it expected residents will be able to place an order for the new service by the end of April this year. But a spokesperson cautioned: "It's a complex job and sometimes plans have to change."

The bad news: Openreach says there are no plans at the moment to wire up the Sweetham end of the village. Residents there who have no alternative service will

Early work at Woodlands.

have to continue to rely on the snail-pace copper feed.

Preparatory work on the new cable service began in January in Woodlands, followed by Godolphin Close, with Dare Utilities Reinstatement Services workers digging up roads to install the fibre optic cables.

Woodlands residents were surprised they weren't informed in advance. "We weren't told a thing and had to ask what was going on," said Jen Holt of Woodlands. Residents of Godolphin Close were equally in the dark. "I found out when they first started the work," said Alan Pearce.



Openreach busy near the Crediton bus stop.

One reason could be the pace at which Openreach is working. Its target is to have reached up to five million more homes and businesses nationwide by the end of this month. The long-term target is to make full-fibre broadband available for up to 25 million premises by the end of 2026, and reach 30 million by 2030.

The new network is known as fibre to the premises (FTTP), which is ultrafast, full fibre broadband. Under the upgraded network, residents can get speeds of up to 1,000Mb (megabits per second). That's around 30 times faster than standard fibre. It can also handle multiple devices and higher data demands.

Sweetham residents will no doubt feel short-changed. Openreach cannot say when it will get around to binning the copper feed in use there and replacing it with a fibre service. "Our planned build doesn't currently cover Sweetham, but residents can also enter their postcode at www.openreach.com and click 'Keep me updated' to be notified when full fibre is available," said the Openreach spokesperson.

Says one disgruntled Sweetham resident who asked not to be named: "This is typical. They promise and promise and promise. But nothing. Still nothing."

Village residents who are content with their current Internet speed can continue without changes.

So, the big question: How much will the new service cost? "I don't really know," says Alan Pearce of Godolphin Close. "They don't tell you anything, that's the problem. But I'm sure we will [sign up]." Jen Holt says: "I am interested but it will depend on how much more it will cost. We'll have to wait and see."

One thing is certain, says Carl Thompson, Safety Lead for Openreach, when we met him on Woodlands: "Full fibre will eventually replace what's already in existence. If people are happy with what they have, then it's fine. But there will come a point in the distant future where everything will be put over to fibre and the copper network will be dismantled and become a thing of the past."

Those interested in the new service, and to check whether their address is included in the rollout, should register their postcode at www.openreach.com.

For information about Project Gigabit: [Project Gigabit - GOV.UK](http://ProjectGigabit-GOV.UK). Project Gigabit is a £5 billion government infrastructure scheme aimed at delivering fast, gigabit-capable broadband to hard-to-reach homes and businesses in areas not covered by commercial suppliers.

Words and pictures by Ann Quon Cordingley



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Barnstaple: 01271 861624

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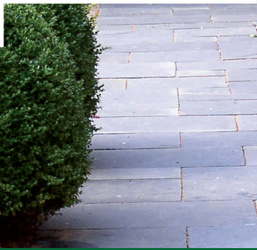
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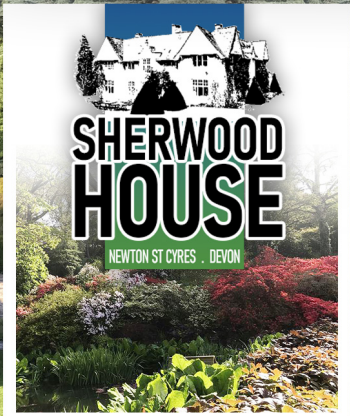
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NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP



Newton St Cyres –a pawn in the Game of Thrones

Norman and Angevin England 1086 to 1189

(Part 2)

Constance Mauduit and the House of Mauduit

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

Constance Mauduit was born to Robert Mauduit and an unknown mother on or before 1118. After the Norman conquest, Robert's father, William Mauduit, had received the constablership of Portchester Castle, as well as a royal chamberlainship, from William the Conqueror. The constablership of a castle was highly prestigious and valuable position and Portchester was no different. This important coastal port and fort had been established by the Romans in the third century, and guarded a strategic gateway to the South Coast and its major ports.

After William Mauduit's death around 1100, his son Robert inherited these estates and offices. Robert also succeeded to most of his father's lands in England, including large estates in Hampshire. Unhappily Robert Mauduit was drowned in the so-called White Ship disaster in 1120 which, importantly for our story and the history of England, also killed King Henry's only son and intended successor, William Adelin.

Constance – a ward of the king

It is unclear how old Constance was at that time of her father's death. She could have been little older than a toddler at her father's death and maybe as young as 2. Constance inherited the Mauduit family's English lands as Robert's only heir. Given that her father and grandfather had both been in the favour of the king and had benefitted from his generosity, her inheritance could well have included the Manor of Newton St Cyres, gifted by the king to one of her forebears, either by William or Robert Mauduit. Unfortunately we have no record of such a gift.

As a wealthy and valuable orphan, Constance came under the direct protection of King Henry, who duly exercised his duties as Ward of Constance to his strategic and pecuniary advantage

Constance purchased and married

Constance's offices, including Portchester Castle, and her estates remained in the king's hands as her ward until 1130, at which point William de Pont' de l'Arche, one of Henry's "new men", purchased the position of the constableness of Portchester and the "offices of Constance Mauduit" from King Henry at the price of 1,000 marks or £666, This was a prince's ransom worth millions in today's currency.

William soon married Constance, apparently following an additional payment of an undisclosed sum to the royal exchequer. Constance was probably 12 years old at the time of her enforced betrothal to a man three times her age. Twelve years was the minimum age at which a woman could be legally married off, although younger brides were well known. Constance bore William at least two children: Emma and Robert

William De Pont De l'Arche

William de Pont de l'Arche was born sometime around 1085. At the time of his acquisition of Constance and her estates, he was middle aged and very wealthy. As one of Henry's "new men", he was trusted and favoured member of the royal administrative circles. We have a record of 108 manors being gifted to William by King Henry. It is not known if Newton was among these. Further research is required.

William was sheriff of Hampshire probably by 1103, and also appointed as sheriff both of Wiltshire (by 1110) and of Berkshire (1129). These three counties were the three of the richest counties for the crown. De Pont' de l'Arche was also part of the royal team who carried out the Winton Domesday survey in 1110 on behalf of King Henry.

Around 1133, William and Constance founded an Augustinian priory within the walls of Portchester Castle. Constance gave approval of a gift of some of her inherited lands in Hampshire to Portchester (later Southwick) Priory. It was her inheritance from her father that allowed this gift.

The Augustinians were a new order within England at this time and were favoured in royal circles. William de Pont' de l'Arche had previously donated generously to the Augustinian priory at Southwark, London.

William Warelwast Bishop of Exeter

William Warelwast rose from being a royal clerk under William the Conqueror to being a key royal advisor and counsellor under Henry I.

He may well have been with the hunting party on 2 August 1100 in which King William

Rufus was killed, as he was one of the witnesses to the letter sent on 5 August 1100 to Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, recalling him to England to greet his newly crowned king.

King Henry used Warelwast as personal ambassador, sending him to Rome and France on a number of important diplomatic missions. Henry even reserved the episcopal see of Exeter for Warelwast at the death of e4 in 1103. He was formally elected Bishop of Exeter and consecrated on 11 August 1107.

Bishop Warelwast began and completed the major part of the then-new Norman Cathedral in Exeter. We owe the two beautiful transept towers to him, now some 900 years old and still magnificent against the city skyline. Importantly for the history of Newton St Cyres Warelwast also founded the Augustinian Priory at Plympton .

Initially an Anglo-Saxon minster, Plympton Priory was re-founded as an Augustinian house by Warelwast in 1121. Warelwast had apparently been scandalised by the loose living of the existing canons of Plympton. He closed the house and banished the canons together with their wives and concubines . He then re-founded the Priory with brethren from other religious establishments.

The Priory was granted extensive landholdings in Devon by the king and local high-ranking families. As we shall see, the Manor of Newton was numbered among these gifts. Following the gift, the Manor of Newton was held by the Priory for nearly 400 years until its dissolution by Henry VIII in 1539. It grew to be an important religious establishment. It was the richest monastic house in Devon, and the fourth wealthiest Augustinian house in England and Wales.

Warelwast was given his last rites on 26 September 1137. The dying bishop was made a member of the collegiate church at Plympton. He was buried at the Priory .

King Henry's succession – the best laid plans of mice and men

King Henry's only son William Adelin drowned in the *White Ship* disaster of 1120, throwing the King's plans for his succession into disarray. Henry took a second wife, 4444444, in the hope of having another son, but their marriage was childless.

In response to this, he declared his daughter the Empress Matilda as his heir and married her to the powerful Geoffrey Plantagenet, Count of Anjou. Matilda had gained the impressive title of Empress from her previous marriage to the Holy Roman Emperor.

Henry died suddenly on 1 December 1135 after a week of illness following what, at the time, was famously identified as “a surfeit of Lampreys” but was probably food poisoning.

Despite his plans for Matilda, the King was succeeded by his nephew Stephen of Blois, who usurped the throne with the support of Norman Barons opposed to the prospect of a female on the throne of England. The Empress Matilda was however to prove to be a formidable adversary . Thus began the infamous 20-year period of civil war known as the Anarchy.

Episode Two to follow: The Anarchy 1135 to the death of Henry II 1189

Including:

- Baldwin de Reviers (Redvers) 1st Earl of Devon and the Siege of Exeter
- The Treachery of William de Pont de L 'Arche
- The rape of Constance Mauduit
- Emma Pont De L' Arche betrothal to Richard de Reviers, future 3rd Earl of Devon
- Emma promises the Manor of Newton to the Priory of Plympton. A promise that is not delivered
- King Henry makes Robert de Pont de L 'Arche an offer he can't refuse
- The Manor of Newton is finally given to the Priory of Plympton

Graeme Barnell

NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP

WEDNESDAY MARCH 11TH HOLIDAYS IN DEVON IN THE 1920S

SPEAKER: Paul CLEAVE

This is the last talk for the winter of 2025-6 and, sadly, the last talk to be arranged by the current committee. Due to the retirement of Jean and Roger Wilkins the group committee is now too small to run events with any level of reliability.

If you would like to see the group continue please register your interest by emailing Midge Kelly (midge.kelly333@gmail.com) with your contact details before the end of March. She will set up an initial 'no pressure' meeting probably in April.

This is an opportunity to help reshape the group, to modernise, to introduce new and better IT, to change the activities, perhaps fewer talks and more outings, maybe a research group working together or separately. There is interest around the village in the history of the various old houses and we have begun to collect information on them thinking of a booklet in the future. The group still holds five ISBN numbers. Our booklets have these numbers which help to insure their survival in the national library system. If you have a new house how about researching the history of the land it is built on. This is particularly rewarding for those in Kingfisher Close. The group holds material on the history of the village in files and some on line, also many photographs and maps and display boards. The Church now offers a display area.

continued on next page

So, lots of scope for different talents and interests. To put on a talk, secretarial skills are needed to contact and keep in touch with the speaker, advertising skills in the form of posters to go around the village, a bit of furniture removing, tea making and the clearing up and washing up. Nothing difficult there! For the booklets we need to appeal for someone with editorial skill and someone to collect and inspire contributions. Are you good with a camera?

Jean Wilkins

A THANK YOU FROM JEAN AND ROGER WILKINS

We have enjoyed working with the group very much. There have been some hairy moments with speakers arriving at the very last moment, the IT equipment playing up and the day we broke down (the car was a write off) on the way to an outing to Moretonhampstead. The rest of the group had arrived and were waiting for their lunch in the Pub. We have had a wonderful committee who have helped us recover and who are now good friends. At our meeting last month we were able to thank Tony Gale from Crediton who spoke on the Prayerbook Rebellion and Mike Brett from Sandford Heritage Group who comes every month to make a video recording which helps greatly with the report for the Newton Wonder. Most villages have their local history groups and we have helped each other out at times.

Our meetings have been warm and friendly and we do hope they may continue in some form.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **Newton St Cyres & the A377 (£5)**

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

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

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

UK Censuses on Newton St Cyres (1841-1911)

Newton St Cyres Tithe Map of 1843

Copies can be purchased by contacting

Jean Wilkins 01392 851337 jeanwilkins1@btinternet.com

Newton Ramblers

Our planned walking route for February had to be changed, due to the amount of rain that had fallen since the New Year! Instead of the original route (which, when we did the reccy, was flooded in parts and extremely muddy everywhere else), we opted to walk on country lanes which, fortunately, were **not** flooded. We shared cars from the Parish Hall car park to Copplestone where we started the circular route up Bewsley Hill and past the current primary school. We were so fortunate that it was a dry day, with clear skies, to provide wonderful views. As we progressed up the hill, we had views of the northern hills of Dartmoor, Cosden Beacon and the church tower of Morchard Bishop. The route took us past Elston Cross and on to the hamlet of New Buildings, where 200+ years ago, the main road ran from Exeter & Crediton to Barnstaple.



The group photo (taken by Mark Phillips) shows from L-R Anne, John, Nigel, Elaine, Sue, Nicola, Graeme, Michael, Clive & Martin

We then took the narrow, very windy lane which passes Higher Woolsgrove Farm, and descended on this lane past Woolsgrove Farm. Again, we had some excellent views of the rolling Devon countryside. As we emerged from this lane, we saw the warning sign stating it was unsuitable for long vehicles, which came as no surprise. On reaching Brandirons Corner, we walked past Elston Barton, which is a rare L shaped longhouse with massive buttresses supporting the east wall, and a front door which is reached through a courtyard on the north side of the property. If you take a right turn here, this lane would lead you back to Elston

Cross. However, we continued our walk past Higher Elston to bring us out at the junction with the A377 with the old Copplestone school on our left. We then walked back to the car park and were truly thankful that we had had a dry walk! The walk was followed by a lovely Sunday Roast at The Three Little Pigs in Crediton.

Newton Ramblers

Sunday 8th March

Our walk in March will be along the paths of Haldon Forest Park. The walk is approximately a 3 mile easy walk, with no steep hills.



We will meet at Newton St Cyres Parish Hall Car Park at 10.00am, to arrange car sharing.

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

All are welcome to join our monthly walks.

This walk will be led by Anne Rice and she has kindly invited those who wish to, to have tea or coffee at her house after lunch with the opportunity to stroll around her garden.

For those wishing to meet at Haldon Forest Car Park we aim to set off from there around 11.00am. **Sat Nav Postcode:** EX6 7XR Bullers Hill, Kennford, Exeter
What3Words chuck.kicks.ruffling

Car Parking charges apply to all spaces 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
Up to 2 hours £5.50 Up to 4 hours £7.00

NB Card payments accepted Pay with Ringo **No Cash payments**

Lunch has been booked at the Nobody Inn. Please contact Nicola (01392 851985) by Thursday 5th March, if you wish to join us for lunch.

Dogs are welcome at the Forest Park but their Dog Code asks that you keep your dog close and in sight, use a lead if they don't always return when called and prevent your dog from going up to (or chasing) people or animals. Follow signs to avoid injury and protect forest wildlife and farm animals, and take care around other visitors, bikes and horses.

Further details from Nicola on 01392 851985



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

Counterfeit goods – what are our rights?

A scam by another name in other words! However, fake goods can be dangerous. Take toys for instance; if they don't meet safety standards, they may pose a choking risk if poor manufacturing mean small parts are easily detachable. It's not just toys and games though. Clothing, footwear, e-cigarettes, perfumes and media devices are among the many ranges of goods that can be faked. Sometimes it is easy to spot but not always.

Watch out for suspiciously low prices on well-known brands and signs of poor quality. Spelling mistakes in the advert, or on packaging' are also warning signs. Compare photographs from official sellers and always try to buy from reputable sellers only.

If you do buy fake goods, you are entitled to a refund within 30 days of purchase. If it's been over 30 days but less than 6 months since your purchase, the seller can offer to provide you with a genuine item but if they can't they are legally obliged to refund in full. If it's more than 6 months since the purchase, they are only required to provide a partial refund depending on how long it is since the purchase and how much the item has been used.

A seller may argue that the item was obviously not genuine as it was sold so cheaply, but they have still broken the law and the consumer's legal rights still apply. If this happens and you paid by debit card, contact your bank and ask to use the 'chargeback scheme.' This also applies if a credit card was used and it cost less than £100.

If the purchase was made by credit card and was for between £100 and £30,000 you can contact the credit card company and ask for a 'section 75' claim to get your money back.

To report counterfeit goods or get help getting your money back contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service (citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/if-you-need-more-help-about-a-consumer-issue/). You can also report the seller to Trading Standards who investigate criminal activity. (citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/report-to-trading-standards/)

This is just one example of the problems that people ask us for help with. We are a volunteer led charity and demand for our services continues to grow. If you are interested in joining us at CA TNMWD as a volunteer, please contact recruitment@citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk. Full training and ongoing support provided!

Rosanna Teale

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The Shuttern Brook

I am following the Shuttern from its source to the River Creedy so please read this article with that in mind as I take you along the route. I am also mentioning wildlife encountered in the vicinity of the stream on its journey to the river. This is also the journey of my life from a child to the present day and where I honed my love of nature.

The meaning of Shuttern probably originates from an enclosure, a gate or barrier or a farmstead.

Look at an Ordnance Survey map and you will find the source of the Shuttern Brook begins in a patch of woodland just over Newton St Cyres parish boundary in Whitestone. It may be easier to spot it in Google Maps.

The Shuttern continues along the edge of Hundred Acre Copse, Whiptail Wood, Northridge Copse and Whitestone Wood. During its journey spring water and rainwater off the land finds its way into irregularities in the ground over time to form little watercourses travelling through Whitestone fields and into the woods. These watercourses join at various points within the woods and the lifeblood of the Shuttern Brook grows.

The Shuttern can be seen next to the pillared driveway of Sherwood House where Marsh Marigolds or King Cups flourish but these native plants in time may be overcome by the invasive American Skunk Cabbage *Lysichiton americanus* here and is also seen a little further upstream. As far as I know there are very few places in Newton where wild Marsh Marigolds grow. There is a small clump growing in one of the tiny streamlets just inside Whiptail Wood where it borders a Whitestone field along with primroses and not far away Bog Beacon fungus growing from submerged rotten wood.

The stream then flows beneath the road down to Ashford. Above Ashford, those of us who walk the woods will be familiar with the barrier there to prevent unofficial vehicles entering the woodland at this point. Behind the barrier is an open area where paths split left and right. Slightly off the right hand path are the remains of charcoal burners used many years ago. This clearing is one of my favourite and sacred places to see butterflies, dragonflies and other insects and in particular the Silver-washed Fritillary. This was the only place in the woods I could find White Admirals but this very fragile colony seems to have disappeared within the last four years or so as I've certainly not recorded any sightings since at least 2019. The Silver-washed Fritillary doesn't seem to be as numerous here either. My daughter Rowena and I were fortunate to see a Pearl-bordered Fritillary here

on 16th May 2020. We have also seen Scarlet Tiger Moth here on a hot afternoon a few years ago. The Scarlet Tiger moth has a habit of appearing on warm



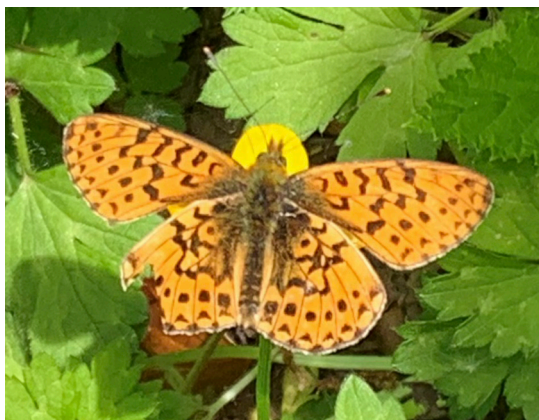
Four-spotted Footman moth larva & a Wood Ant

afternoons in June and July. Also on the edge of the path near the charcoal burner we came across a Four-spotted Footman moth larva in very close proximity to a wood ant. This larva as with other members of Footman moths feed on lichen. A short way up the left hand permissive path you may find more Bog Beacon in the ditch and Bastard Balm grew hereabouts but that seems to have disappeared as well. This path now has a private sign.

I have a gripe to tell about the commercial dog walkers who use this area (and other areas of the woodland and fields). My sister Angie and I have witnessed a transit van arrive with at least two walkers with six dogs each. Do they pick up the poo? We have got to

the point of trying to avoid these people.

In this area one of the larger streams converges with another and this in turn merges with the Shuttern at Ashford. At the ford you will often see a pair of Grey Wagtail. On the water surface Pond Skaters dart about and even seen to sunbathe on an half submerged stone. In June 2020 Rowena and I found toad tadpoles here, most unusual. We reckon they may have been washed down from perhaps the Marsh Marigold patch during a storm of very heavy rain.



Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly

Jenny Garne

to be continued in April.

Jenny was born and grew up in the village, where she gained her love of nature and the countryside.

Prostate cancer – to know or not to know

A friend asked me recently why the NHS doesn't simply offer a PSA test for prostate cancer to every man over 50. It sounds like a straightforward question. Cancer screening sits firmly in the category of "good things" in the public imagination. Surely it is always better to know.

And yet prostate cancer is one of those awkward areas of medicine where that instinctive logic begins to fall apart.

The issue has been in the public eye recently because several well-known figures have spoken openly about their diagnoses. Ben Stiller has described how a PSA test helped detect his cancer. Sir Chris Hoy has spoken publicly about his own diagnosis. Their honesty has helped reduce stigma and made it easier for men to talk about their health.

It is also completely understandable to hear these stories and think: if screening helped them, why wouldn't we offer it to everyone?

Individual stories, however sincere and compelling, do not always show us what works best when decisions affect millions of people.

One of the reasons screening feels so convincing is that it appears to improve survival statistics. Five-year survival rates look better when cancers are found earlier. But this can be misleading. Detecting a cancer sooner automatically increases the length of time someone is known to be living with that diagnosis, even if the date of death is unchanged.

This is known as lead-time bias. A useful way to think about it is getting on a train one stop earlier. You spend longer on the train, but you do not arrive any later.

There is another, less comfortable issue too. Prostate cancer is unusual in that many tumours grow so slowly they would never cause symptoms or shorten life. Screening is particularly good at finding these slow-growing cancers.

Once a person is told they have cancer, it is very hard not to act. That often leads to biopsies, repeated tests, or treatment. All of these carry risks. Treatments for prostate cancer can cause urinary incontinence, sexual dysfunction, and other long-term side effects. Detecting and treating cancers that would never have caused harm is known as overdiagnosis.

Some men who go through treatment later die of completely unrelated causes, such as heart disease or stroke. In those cases, treatment did not extend their life, but it may have made it worse.

When researchers look at large international trials of PSA screening, the picture is mixed. Some studies show a small reduction in deaths from prostate cancer. Others show no clear benefit at all. What they consistently show is a large increase in diagnosis and treatment, with many men experiencing harm as a result.

This is why the NHS does not offer routine prostate cancer screening. Men over 50 can request a PSA test from their GP, but there is no national screening programme because the balance between benefit and harm does not currently justify one.

None of this is an argument for ignoring symptoms or avoiding medical advice. Difficulty passing urine, blood in the urine, unexplained weight loss, or bone pain should always prompt a conversation with a GP. Nor am I making an argument against PSA testing altogether. For some men, particularly those at higher risk, testing can be appropriate and helpful.

The distinction is between an informed personal choice and an automatic programme applied to everyone.

Public figures who speak openly about prostate cancer have done something valuable. They have made it easier for men to seek help when they need it and for families to talk more honestly about risk.

But awareness and screening are not the same thing. It is possible to support openness, research, and better treatments while also accepting that blanket screening may cause more harm than good.

I am not sure I answered my friend particularly well that day. The truth is medicine is not always as straightforward as we would like. Prostate screening forces us to confront trade-offs: the possibility of saving lives, and the risk of harming others who might never have been troubled by their diagnosis. That is not an easy balance.

Adam Smith

Adam Smith is an Advanced Critical Care Practitioner in Intensive Care at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

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5m³	3.75m³
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<i>loose tipped</i>	<i>loose tipped</i>	<i>loose tipped</i>	<i>loose tipped</i>	

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Film - God's Own Country
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Saturday 28th - 7.30 PM
Opera - Carmen
£13/£11 Bar

Saturday 7th - 7.30 PM
Music - Holly Clarke



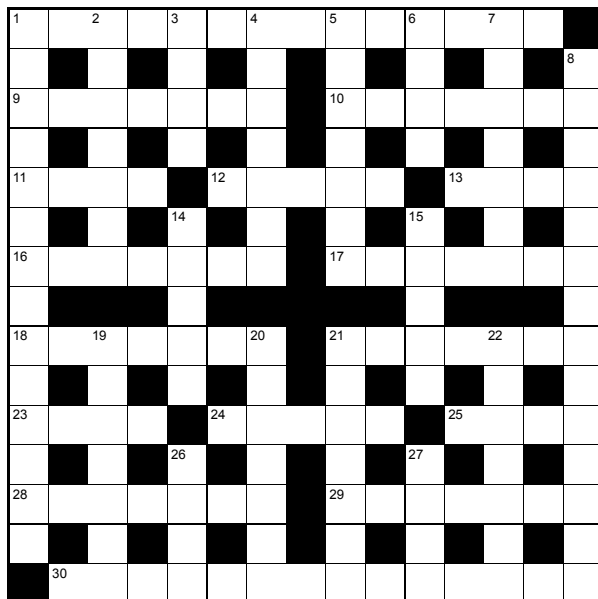
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Cryptic Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 March off before obnoxious display of attractive offers (5,9)
- 9 Decried fighting in third game of best of three? (7)
- 10 Hopin' to find something for the pain (7)
- 11 Some polypropylene is substandard (4)
- 12 Fund for young Tom (5)
- 13 Little child needs strength, it's said (4)
- 16 Force one may chiefly associate with Heartbeat (7)
- 17 Study with class and fit in (7)
- 18 Forestall Anne Boleyn's fate? (4,3)
- 21 Vicar, is it? Call again (7)
- 23 Old boy wants old pound coin from the past (4)
- 24 It enables you to visit several stations (5)
- 25 Present the woman with accolade finally (4)
- 28 One curtailed diction strangely – that's stupid (7)
- 29 English supporter is first to tackle poet (7)
- 30 They will take on big guns at start of bestselling book (3,5,6)

DOWN

- 1 Novel – old, weird Christie novel (5,4,5)
- 2 Drink with a trainee policeman before work (7)
- 3 Manufactured cheese turns up (4)
- 4 Rich trifle excited oriental (7)
- 5 Elected leader finally in charge is able to keep in shape (7)
- 6 Drinks up on board ship (4)
- 7 Mounting fear? (7)
- 8 From time to time bury glove by telly, oddly (14)
- 14 Friend acquires ring of bronze perhaps (5)
- 15 Rogue found in part of church when speaking (5)
- 19 To get rid of a slob, I changed hospital (7)
- 20 Intended to provide funds, lacking new opening for enterprise (7)
- 21 Tire man out making clothing (7)
- 22 Kind that is wearing glasses (7)
- 26 Small label for men only (4)
- 27 Bishop meets one Greek character or another (4)

Set by Alberich

Sudoku

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

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

© Web Sudoku 2026 - www.websudoku.com

Solution to February 2026 Cryptic Crossword

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

The Parish Church of St Cyr and St Julitta



Rain, rain, go away.

It is now the 41st consecutive day of rain in most (if not all) of Devon. The grey skies and continual rain can be very depressing. January is always a difficult month to contend with: its short days and lack of sunlight summed up in this parody by Brian Bilston of the well-known rhyme:

Thirty days hath September,
April, June and November.
Unless a leap year is its fate,
February hath twenty-eight.
All the rest hath three days more,
excepting January,
which hath six thousand,
one hundred and eighty-four.

We long for spring. It's not that we wish our lives away, but we look forward to longer days and brighter weather. Light awakens our minds and bodies. It is how humans are designed – to be awake in the light and sleep when it's dark.

Wednesday 18th February begins the period of Lent in the Christian calendar – traditionally a time of self-denial. It coincides with what is a bleak time of year in

our part of the world. Giving up a favourite treat when the rain is pouring down outside seems counter-productive to our well-being.

Yet this is exactly the reason for Jesus spending time in the wilderness. He wanted to focus on his relationship with God and to remind himself that the things that might bring him short-term pleasure or prosperity even in those tough times, would not help him in the long run.

The rain may be adding to our sense of gloom as we can find little comfort in the news. It is easy to feel dragged down by much of what goes on in the world: by the lack of goodness that one person, that one country, gives to another.

Looking forward to the celebration of Easter, the clocks springing forward and the opportunity of the lengthening days before us reminds us that we have a future; we can reflect that we are blessed to live in this county, and when it stops raining, we will be able to marvel, once again, at its beauty.

The celebration of Easter is one of hopefulness: the rising of Jesus from the grave. With God our failures and those we see in the world are not the last word. God offers us forgiveness and a fresh start each day however the previous day has panned out; however much it rained.

Laura Ford

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

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

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

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

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SERVICES & INFORMATION MARCH 2026

The Netherexe Parishes - A community of Anglican churches in Devon

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

Sunday 1 March

10:00 am	Communion	Stoke Canon
11:15am	Service	Cadbury

Wednesday 4 March

09:30 am	Mid-week Holy Communion	Thorverton [Exe Valley Farm Shop]
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Sunday 8 March

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

Sunday 15 March [Mothering Sunday]

09:30 am	Communion	Brampford Speke
09:30 am	Bubble Church	Thorverton
10:00 am	Family Service/Messy Church	Stoke Canon
10:00 am	Family Service	Upton Pyne
10:00 am	Service	Newton St Cyres
11:15 am	Family Communion	Cadbury
11:15 am	Service	Huxham
11:15 am	Mothering Service	Rewe

Sunday 22 March

09:30 am	Communion	Newton St Cyres
09:30 am	Morning Prayer	Thorverton
10:00 am	Coffee & Chat	Stoke Canon
11:15 am	Communion	Rewe

Sunday 29 March [Palm Sunday]

10:00 am	Mission Community Service & Communion	Stoke Canon
[Palm Sunday Service starting at Rewe [10am] with a palm procession to Stoke Canon]		

Monday 30 March

06:00 pm	Evening Prayer	Thorverton
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Tuesday 31 March

06:00 pm	Evening Prayer	Thorverton
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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.

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Wondrous Women! ***Celebrating Inspirational Lives in the Netherexe*** ***Parishes*** ***An Update***

Those with a keen eye will have spotted the subtle change in the title of the project. The focus doesn't change, but following some discussions, we have changed the title. And this – ***Wondrous Women!*** – is what you will see in all our publicity and promotional materials for the events that are coming up. The most immediate of these events is our launch:

4pm Sunday 8th March

Thorverton Memorial Hall

with

Prosecco and Cake!

(other refreshing drinks will be available)

You are very cordially invited to join us as we let you know about some of the exciting events and celebrations that we have got planned for the next year! For those who have been following the updates over the last few months, you will know something of the community collage, the drama: *Wire in the Garden*, the flower festival, and *Authentic Voices*. Come along on the 8th to get more details and to find out about some of the other events that are in the pipeline. And there will definitely be a surprise or two during the afternoon, as we shine a light on inspirational women in and across our parishes.

All blessings

Revd Tim Collins

Rector, Netherexe Mission Community

07449 111663/ tim.collins@netherexe.org

PARISH HALL HIRE CHARGES

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

MAIN HALL

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

CLUB ROOM

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

Neighbourhood Watch Deputies

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

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

A WEEK IN NEWTON St CYRES PARISH HALL

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

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

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WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

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

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

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

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

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

Please add your address(abbreviated if necessary) as the reference
if you move away the magazine can be posted for £32.00(inc. postage)

The Newton Wonder is also available online at an annual charge of £5

Please contact editor@newtonwonder.net

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 £10

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

Printed by Parish Magazine Printing, Northmoor, Whitstone, Holsworthy, EX22 6TD.

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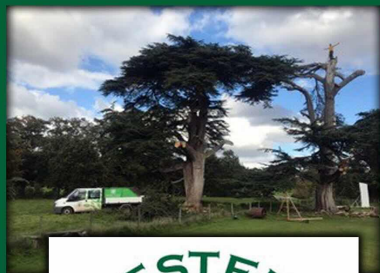
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We are looking for volunteers/young people doing their DSV, Tintors or looking for community experience for their CV, before attending university. We also would appreciate anyone that is free on a Tuesday or Wednesday from 11 to 3pm to help with our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



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