

NEWTON WONDER

THE MAGAZINE & WEBSITE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF NEWTON ST CYRES

80p

May 2024



Picture: Nicola Baker

The Newton Ramblers explore Haldon
see page 25.

www.newtonwonder.net

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Your news

Our readers are interested in you. They would love to hear about your stories, significant life events: births, marriages and deaths. We would like to establish a regular column so that people would have this vital information. Please send your notices as soon as possible and we will print them at the first opportunity.

Parish Meeting

Put the date in your diary! The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th May in the Parish Hall. At this meeting the progress of the neighbourhood planning process will be explained and discussed, as well as other important village matters.

Last Month

We are always asking you, our readers to let us know about your views, your experiences and anything you want to share with us. Indeed the magazine is written by you, our readers. As long as it is legal and we have space we will print your articles. If there is no space one month we will try to put it in next time. Last month's issue of the Newton Wonder generated a couple of responses which we welcome. They are printed below with my answers, which I hope explain, and put into context the editorial policy which we follow.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor

What a pity the village magazine has for some months contained comments which are either political or criticising something. We hear enough gloomy and bad news on the T.V.

On a brighter note, as an idea, when we hear the bells ringing to inform us if it was a wedding and who etc. This would be village news about a happy event. I happen to know that there was a three peal a few months ago when one of the visiting teams someone born in the village and learnt under Reg Bray. That person now lives in another part of Devon and has retained his ringing skill over the years.

Hoping in future to read more about the village or surrounding area instead of national topics.

Eileen James.

Dear Eileen

Thank you very much for your letter which raises some very important issues. I fully agree with you that the magazine is about the village and village people.

We provide a community magazine which is for and by the community. We include items which are submitted to us about events and discussions going on as well reports and notices of what is going to be offered the community. We are dependent on people informing us of what is going on. We would have been delighted to publish a report about the recent bell ringing event to which you refer but had no information about it, either before or after.

By far the bulk of the magazine is made up of reports about village people and events that we know about and have reported to us. The last issue included pictures and a report on the village lunch, a full report on the deliberations of the parish council, reports from local clubs and societies including the gardening club, the history group and the tennis club. There were reports of concerts and other events at the Parish Hall. Each month's magazine is packed with stories about village events from the Platinum Jubilee to the Music festival held last year. There have been articles about the Heritage days at the church and about the aspirations of the Newton Environmental Welfare group and many others. In addition there is a lot of information about coming events in the village.

We are very fortunate that Ann Quon Cordingley, who has retired from a high powered professional career in journalism, takes the time to follow up on many local issues, from Parish Council deliberations to the people running the Arboretum. She has produced some fascinating in-depth interviews with local leaders and workers, District, County and Parish Councillors as well as the people providing the local NHS primary care at Redlands, the people running the Rec Club, and the Adonai kitchen.

It has always seemed to me that if anyone in the village wants to write to share an event or an opinion then, as long as it is not libellous, they should have the freedom to do so. Any private thoughts which we publish do not constitute the policy of the magazine. However, we hope that informed and constructive debate can be stimulated within the community.

The aim and purpose of the magazine is and always has been to support the community of Newton St Cyres by promoting their events and publishing their reports of what is happening in the village. We always encourage people to contribute in whatever way they want. I hope that you are reassured that what we are attempting is to provide an interesting and stimulating magazine for all the village. All contributions from throughout the community are always welcome.

Peter Hawksley

To the editor

Whilst reading Mr Cordingley's recent article in the April edition of the Newton Wonder, I thought I heard the very faint echo of the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party Angela Rayner's infamous comment that 'Conservatives are scum' - I must get my hearing aids checked!

The article made reference to the recent scandal involving postmasters and postmistresses, many, if not all, wrongly accused of serious crimes that had terrible consequences for many of them.

Sadly, I did not hear a faint echo of any apology from Sir Ed Davey or Sir Keir Starmer, Minister responsible for the Post Office and the Head of the prosecution service, the CPS, respectively, within the time period of the scandal - their stances seem to have been to keep heads down and adopt a "nothing to do with us, guv!" approach.

Their names, for some unaccountable reason, did not appear in the article. But then, with a general election looming perhaps that is for the best.

Clive Lawrence

Dear Clive

I have looked at your letter and again at the article written by Peter Cordingley. I do not agree that at any point the article reflects the infamous opinion of Angela Rayner. There is no mention of particular people in the article, rather a general dismay that our government seems to have lost its grip, a view Peter shares with the Daily Telegraph.

Government is more than the party in power. It includes the civil service, local government and the public companies that run our utilities and much of our infrastructure. Indeed, when we look at the Post Office scandal, all the political parties were involved. Tony Blair and Gordon Brown were living in Downing Street between 1997 and 2010. The Horizon project started in 1999 and there were several hundred prosecutions by 2010. Ed Davey was minister responsible for the Post Office in the coalition government.

The article was published in an attempt to show that there are different models by which a Post Office can be run, and the comparison with the French system was, I thought, particularly interesting. I thought that our readers might well refer back to the days when Theresa was our post lady, providing a very valuable communication system which is being followed up by our current "postie", Jamie.

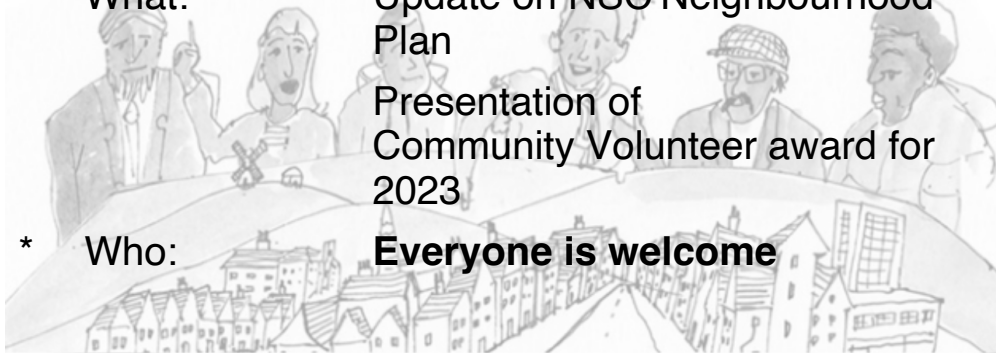
I do not want us to become entangled in party political matters. The article is not suggesting political solutions, or where they may come from.

Peter is a very experienced journalist whose independence is not in doubt. He has worked for many of the world's most respected newspapers, including as Asia correspondent for the New York Times, and was spokesman for the World Health Organisation. Several of our younger readers have told us that they look forward to Peter Cordingley's article each month.

Peter Hawksley

Newton St Cyres Parish Council

- * **Event:** **Annual Parish Meeting**
- * **Date:** **Wednesday 29th May 2024**
- * **Where:** **NSC Parish Hall**
- * **What:** **Update on NSC Neighbourhood Plan**
Presentation of Community Volunteer award for 2023
- * **Who:** **Everyone is welcome**



NEWTON ARBORETUM

Advance Notice of AGM and Tours Wed 12th June 7 pm

The AGM of the Friends of Newton Arboretum will be held in the Parish Hall. This short formal meeting will be followed by tea and biscuits and then tours in the Arboretum led by Bruce Kerry and Andrew Gee.

All welcome

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.

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



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT 4th April 2024

The meeting, held on Thursday 4th April 2024, was attended by five Councillors, the Parish Clerk, and four members of the public.

Issues raised by the public:

- A parishioner raised an issue on the slips of soil in the village due to the poor state of hedgerows. In response, the PC rearranged the agenda and have suggested open conversations with landowners to promote the planting of hedgerows/saplings to reduce soil erosion. The heavy rain has also been attributed as a contributing factor.
- Cllr Staite has resigned as a parish councillor. Should anyone be interested in her position, he or she should enquire with the parish clerk.

Other Parish Council matters:

Development and Planning – Cllr Barnell

24/00237/HOUSE - Erection of single storey rear extension and front porch following demolition of existing conservatory and porch at Winscombe, Sand Down Lane, Newton St Cyres. Grant permission.

- The Clerk will circulate the notes from the MDDC State of the District as Cllr Barnell was unable to attend.
- Two Tree Preservation Order applications have been made and approved by the parish.

Report from County Councillor on issues relevant to the Parish

- An issue has been raised regarding the state of the road at Winscott Barton which presents a hazard to users, particularly cyclists, and this will be raised with Cllr M Squires.
- Cllr Harris has suggested that the Parish also raise the issue of blocked drains in the village.

Other Parish matters:

- The councillors voted on the Community Volunteer of the Year Award with the winner to be announced at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- Update on meetings held with the Church, Parish Hall and Rec Ground re provision of grants:
- Initial meetings had taken place with all three organisations and follow-up

meetings had been arranged. Grants would be not paid until service agreements had been agreed.

- To consider any other nominations for assets of community value.

Cllr Barnell proposed nominations for consideration and would draft an email to the owners.

- The frequency of grass cutting on the village green and other areas will be adjusted to promote biodiversity of lawns and banks (e.g. Church Lane) with Cllr Harris proposing the following grass cutting schedule:

Village Green: to be cut once in March, twice in April, June, July and August, once in September with no mowing taking place in May or between October to March.

The area around the Parish Hall and Woodlands entrance: to be cut once a month between March and September (not in May).

The land for the new churchyard to be cut once in late summer only.

Norton Cross, entrance to water works and Half Moon layby to remain unchanged.

- The concerns of the parishioner regarding the hedgerows and recent slip falls were addressed with main areas of concern identified as:

The maintenance of hedgerows, renewal and re-planting – some hedgerows had been heavily flailed with the tops and sides of the banks destroyed so there were fewer roots to protect and hold the banks together. There were gaps in some hedges due to dying vegetation, and these gaps had not been re-planted. Some hedges were not maintained on a regular basis.

Large farm vehicles driven by contractors were damaging the hedgerows.

The weather had contributed greatly to collapsing banks, which were completely saturated at the present time. Given climate change, it was likely that extreme weather would be a continuing feature so solutions would be required.

- Some government schemes have been identified which might provide assistance to landowners in relation to hedge maintenance. The parish have agreed to work with landowners to find solutions with Cllr Harris leading the conversation with landowners and contractors.

Crediton Cluster Meeting:

- Cllr Ouldrige raised concern about DCCs proposal to devolve some highways maintenance responsibility onto the council without proper consultation. There were also additional concerns regarding the development of the school and the resulting impact on roads and health provisions. DCC Neighbourhood Highways Manager had been invited to the next meeting to discuss the

proposals. There would be a recruitment drive to encourage parishes around Crediton to join the group so that the group could be truly representative. Other items identified for future Cluster meeting agendas included housing development in and around Crediton and plans for QE School and community health services at both Redlands and the Community Hospital.

- As requested by the Cluster Group, a meeting had been arranged for 11th April with DCC to discuss progress on the Boniface Trail.

Emergency and Resilience – Cllr Stephenson & Cllr Ouldrige

- The Report from the Flood Group meeting held on 14 March 2024.
The flood group will be devising a plan to address the flood risk from the Shutterbrook in light of the flood in West Town in February that was caused by a blockage under Meadowlands bridge.
- Cllr Browne will also be initiating a conversation with landowners around Camps Bridge floods.
- Cllr Ouldrige had a contact at the Environment Agency who had offered to provide plans showing the flow of the river around Camps Bridge and will also distribute a “Living with Water” pamphlet to those living adjacent the Shutterbrook to raise awareness of riparian rights and the importance of keeping the brook clear.

Quarterly Report: Footpaths – Cllr Staite

- The report was deferred until a suitable replacement for Cllr Staite is found. The Footpath Warden (Steve Parker) had informed the Clerk that the landowner of the old school path was responsible for renewing the fencing along the field side of the path and had recently instructed a contractor to carry out the work. It was noted that dogs should not be walked on the path.

Quarterly Report: Travel and Road Safety – Cllrs Dean and Staite

- Cllr Dean reported that the Speed Watch Group had eight volunteers. New equipment and training would be delivered at a meeting with the police next week. Cllr Dean had proposed three sites, two of which the Police had accepted (Station Road and Half Moon). The third site (outside the old post office) had been rejected and this would be challenged.
- Cllr Dean reported that no progress had been made regarding other areas of concern (Tytheing Close, Smallbrook and school signage) as our Neighbourhood Highways Officer was not replying to emails.

- Cllr Barnell will email our Neighbourhood Highways Manager and C/Cllr Squires to request a meeting to discuss outstanding issues
- Cllr Dean noted that the remedial work has been completed at Newcombes Lane, and discussed the Illegal and dangerous parking at Sand Down lane, where cars were blocking access to a farmer's field. The Clerk will draft notes and attach them to the cars should they reoffend.

Date of next Parish Council meeting: Thursday 9th May 2024 at 7pm in the Club Room

Jenna Brown



St Cyres Coffee Morning

May 11th
Newton Parish Hall
10-12
Stalls and Raffle

Provided by theChurch



**Sustainable
Crediton**

Prune compote

Prunes are an often-neglected fruit but they make an excellent compote when stewed with orange juice and muscovado sugar.

250g (8oz) pitted prunes, finely grated zest, and juice of one large orange, 50g (2oz) muscovado sugar.

Place the prunes, orange juice and zest in a basin with just enough hot water to cover the prunes. Cover and leave overnight to soften. To cook the prunes, add the sugar and stew gently until tender on the stove top, or in a casserole in a moderate oven. These are good with yogurt or ice cream.

Paul Cleave

Newton Nappies

A message from the volunteer leaders

At the end of this school year both Karys and I will be stepping down as volunteer leaders for the group due to new commitments. We both hope to be around to help out where possible, but we are looking for new volunteers to run the group.

The group runs on a Wednesday morning in the school hall from 9:15 until 11:15. If anyone is interested at all or would like to know more information you can contact me on 07890313010 or find us on Facebook or Instagram. We look forward to hearing from you!

Kelly Berry

VILLAGE LUNCH

This month, will be at

HANLONS

Thursday 16th May, 12:30 pm

2 courses + tea/coffee £14

MAIN COURSES:

FISH & CHIPS

Yellow Hammer Battered Fresh Haddock - Fries - Malt Vinegar Alioli

CHICKEN CAESAR SALAD

Chargrilled Chicken Breast - Cos Lettuce - Garlic Croutons - Smoked Streaky Bacon - Caesar Dressing - Anchovies - Parmesan Shavings

CHEESE BURGER & FRIES

SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN BURGER, CHEESE & FRIES

VEGGIE BURGER & FRIES

DESSERTS:

BFK CHOCOLATE BROWNIE With Double Cream

SALCOMBE DAIRY ICE CREAM POT (choose from)

Salted Caramel - Rich Belgian Chocolate - Madagascan Vanilla - Strawberries & Clotted Cream - Peppermint Chocolate Flake - Rainforest Nectar (Vegan)

All Salcombe Dairy Ice Cream Is Egg, Gluten & Nut Free

To book, please ring **JOHN or CHRIS SALTER, 851 346**

by Sunday 12th please, with Names & Menu Choices

NEWTON RAMBLERS

Sunday 19th May

The walk this month will be led by Anne Holland and is a circular walk of about three and a half miles starting from Powderham Castle, Kenton.

Meet at the Newton St Cyres car park to share cars at 9.45am or at the Powderham Castle car park where the Cafe and Farm Shop is situated, at 10.30 am.

We will start from the car park, across meadows onto a road, which is beside the river with the Castle and deer park on the left. After passing Powderham Church, we will head up onto a track which will take us back to Kenton, taking in lovely views. Mainly flat, but there is a gentle incline.

All are welcome. For more information please ring Anne Holland on 07545 259983
Please note that anyone joining us on these walks obviously does so at their own risk.



Newton St Cyres 200 Club

April 2024

No. 22	M Baker	£100.00
No. 182	R Nicholls	£10.00
No. 148	G Meldrum	£10.00
No. 58	J Bailey	£10.00
No. 47	R Crane	£10.00

Subscriptions are due from 1 May – collectors will be contacting you shortly

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

Jane

01392 851148

Newton St Cyres Tennis Club

After our well attended Murder Mystery party in January, our Sunday afternoon club sessions have become very popular. Rusty Rackets has a regular session going, so please contact Sue Bloomfield (sueblmfd03@gmail.com) for further information. Other club sessions during the week are also very well attended and often followed by drinks and chips in a pub. So not only are you getting great exercise when you join the tennis club, you are also getting a very sociable experience with friendly people of all ages.



Membership year has just started so now is a great time to be joining, and remember you can have a couple of free sessions before you commit to anything. Just contact our membership secretary, Laura Leigh, on 01647 24259.

Junior coaching, run by our club coach Jon Wills takes place on Wednesdays after school during term time, and there might be a few places available in some of the groups for the 12-week summer term, which starts on Wednesday 17th April. Please email juniors@newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk for further information and to check availability. Jon also offers adult coaching both individually and for small groups, so if you feel you need to brush up your skills just get in touch via our website

www.newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk.

Frederiek Maddock

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This year, Newton St Cyres opens its calendar 2025 to budding photographers across the community of Newton St Cyres to submit their best shots from around the community.

We want to see a snapshot of village life and beauty. The theme of the calendar is **"Life in the Village"**.

We want people to buy the calendar and have the whole experience of life within the community and need you to take pictures of our landscapes, wildlife, people working on the land, businesses and more.

Pictures can be posted to <https://www.facebook.com/thenewtonwonder/> or <https://www.instagram.com/thenewtonwonder/>

CALENDAR 2025



Newton St Cyres Calendar 2025



**GOOD FOOD
GOOD DRINK
GOOD COMPANY**

**THE
BEER ENGINE**
BREWERY PUB • NEWTON ST CYRES EX5 5AX

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday
Pub: 16:00-20:00 Kitchen CLOSED
Thursday/Friday/Saturday Pub: 12:00-23:00
Kitchen: 12:00-15:00 and 17:00-21:00
Sunday_Pub: 16:00-21:00 Kitchen CLOSED



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01392 851282

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**MONDAY-FRIDAY
10AM-4PM
AND SATURDAY
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Thursday 2 May 7.00pm
Jazz on the Green
presents



ROGER BEAUJOLAIS

More live jazz from vibraphone legend Roger Beaujolais, with delicious Sri Lankan food as an accompaniment.

Tickets: £25 . BAR

Check out Jazz on the Green on www.srilankan-authentic.co.uk/ for tickets for this event

Friday 10 May 7.30pm
East Street Films
present

"I'M NOT THERE"

Todd Haynes' weird and wonderful take on the life, myth and music of Bob Dylan.

Tickets: £5 . BAR



Friday 17 May 7.30pm
Townsend Productions
present

BEHOLD YE RAMBLERS

Performed in their usual vibrant and engaging style, with liberal use of folk songs and poetry,

Tickets: £12/£10 . BAR



**Saturday 25 May -
Sunday 2 June**
Crediton Arts Centre
presents

SUMMER ART SHOW

For the first time at the Arts Centre this show is part of our ongoing visual arts programme and is an opportunity to see local artists work in both two and three dimensional media. The exhibition will be open daily throughout the week from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

**The final session will
run from 10.00 - 2.00
on Sunday 2 June.**

**FREE ENTRY,
DONATIONS WELCOME**

www.creditonartscentre.org
info@creditonartscentre.org

Bert Jewell writes Rhymes and Ways about Gardens and Gardening

May

The garden shed, what a wonderful place,
Somewhere to escape from life's fast-moving pace,
To sit in the corner with a paper to read,
Listening to the birds on the table to feed.

There are trays and pots of all different kinds,
and of course the essentials like the garden line,
There's tools that will suit all gardening needs,
from turning the soil to lifting the weeds.

A nice new mower, primed and ready to go,
The lawn not ready for its first mow,
But the sun will come out, the ground will dry,
That'll be the best time to give it a try.

The weather is changing , the lawn is now dry,
Let's see if the mower is up for a try,
As it stands there waiting with an arrogant look,
How does it start? Where is the book?

It all now makes sense, the cord we pull,
It isn't that long till the grass box is full,
To the compost heap where we tip all the grass,
Hey, this new mower is really fast.

With the mower all clean and back in the shed,
Now where's that paper that I haven't yet read,
There's a tap on the window, "telephone dear"
I pretend that I didn't hear.

It's no use hiding says the wife with a grin,
The person on the phone wants to know if we're in,
You just can't get away from life's fast-moving pace,
But I still think the shed is a wonderful place.

Things to do in the garden

May is that time of year when the spring flowers have finished, and the bedding and herbaceous plants are not quite there yet. The ideal time to spring clean your garden shed. We have three, the one near the bungalow was built along with the extension, it has a flat roof and a double-glazed door and window, but it isn't that big. The walls are one block thick (about 4"), so the

rendering included a water-proofing agent. This meant that the shelving had to be free standing. This is where we keep our tools, outside chairs and other bits and pieces that come in handy. This was an ideal time to offload things that we didn't need.

The shed at the bottom of the garden is what we call the potting shed, a wooden shed, shelved out to store the pots and trays that we regularly use. Once emptied, they are washed and put back on the shelf, ready for the next time. We also keep all our compost in this shed. Compost manufacturers recommend that the bags are stored in dry conditions, (as each bag has hundreds of tiny holes, stacked outside in all the rain we've had, you get the picture). Only one garden centre that I know has their compost in the dry.

Our third shed is on our allotment. A small wooden shed big enough to take a wheelbarrow, a few tools like a fork and spade and the odd bag of farmyard manure, processed of course. I have also fitted up some guttering and a water butt.

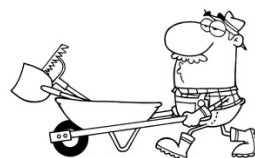
Now back to that gap in the flowering period. May to June is the peak season for Azaleas and Rhododendrons, but you will need acid soil, maybe a dwarf variety in a container filled with ericaceous compost on the patio.

Other plants include Clematis, "Nelly Moser", and Wisteria. Lonicera "Belgica" an early Dutch Honeysuckle related to the wild woodbine that grows in hedgerows and Euphorbia. All varieties have a sap that is an irritant. And, of course, "Mrs J Bradshaw", a Geum with brick red flowers, which may not live too long so always collect the seed.

Plant of the month

"Incarvillea Oelavayi"

This perennial has flowers that look like those of the Gloxinia, a greenhouse or conservatory plant. Incarvillea is completely hardy, but dies down very quickly after it has flowered. Leave a marker in the ground so you know where it is.



Enjoy your gardening!

A date for your diary

Bert and Margaret's garden will be open on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th June, 2pm-5pm both days. This is a fundraising event for Hospiscare @ 4 Golden Joy, Crediton. 07485516641

Newton St Cyres Parish Council

NOTICE OF VACANCY for PARISH COUNCILLOR

Due to Steve Parker's retirement and Alison Staite's resignation there are two vacancies for Parish Councillor

Eligible candidates must appear on the current register of the Voters List; or the applicant should during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date have resided in or within three miles of the parish; or the applicant's only place of work during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date is in the parish.

Co-option will take place at the Parish Council meeting on Thursday 9 May, 7pm in the Club Room at the Parish Hall

Candidates will have the opportunity to explain briefly why they wish to be co-opted

For an informal discussion about the role of a Parish Councillor, please contact Graeme Barnell, Chair (07564 541572) or Liz Ouldrige, Vice Chair (01392 851621)

To apply, please email the Clerk for a co-option form, which must be returned before noon on Friday 3 May

parishclerk@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk

For more information about council activities please visit the council website at <https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/newtonstcyres>

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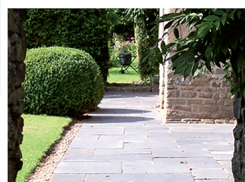
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In a class of their own

Fundraisers at the village school are geniuses at supporting the school in a host of ways, but they are also working to make the school a more integral part of the Newton St Cyres community, says Ann Quon Cordingley

Were you one of the many people who dropped a blue token into the box at Tesco in Crediton, earmarking the money for the Newton St Cyres primary school? If so, the school would like to thank you.

Partly as a result of that initiative, Tesco have awarded the school £1,500 to help pay for a new outdoor learning area. The structure is just an artist's impression at the moment, but once up and running it will represent another landmark achievement in the school's remarkable fundraising history. Among other institutions helping the school reach the target of £11,000 are the Angela Gallagher Memorial Fund,



Artist's impression of the proposed outdoor learning area

which contributed £1,000, and Devon County Council (£500).

It's one of many fundraising initiatives spearheaded by the school's parent-led group, FANS (Friends of Newton St Cyres Primary School), which has worked tirelessly over the years to raise tens of thousands of pounds in support of the school's aextracurricular activities and, in the process, helping to create lasting memories for the children.

"We do that via the experiences we provide, such as helping with the school fair, attending events with parents, or treats of cakes and sweets in the playground after school on Friday," says parent Suzanne Pearman, who along with Chair Anna Bonnett



Fundraiser Suzanne Pearman points to where the outdoor learning centre will stand.

and Treasurer Elizabeth (Lizzi) Ransom, make up the small but dedicated FANS committee. They in turn are supported by an army of parents and friends of the school who volunteer their time, energy, cooking and baking skills and whatever else is required to support fund raising.

Besides providing refreshments at school functions and events throughout the school year, money raised by FANS has funded a wide range of school activities, including coaches for school trips, gifts at Christmas from Father Christmas, and eggs at Easter for each child, leaver hoodies for Year 6 students, new outdoor tables, a climbing frame and much, much more.

And instead of just sticking to tried and tested activities, FANS does its best to come up with novel ideas to generate buzz among pupils. For example, this year, for World Book Day, FANS devised a scheme called Wonky Bars, where tickets hidden in bars of chocolate had prizes such as a free cake at the next bake sale or a hot chocolate with the head teacher and some friends, or extra playtime for the whole class. "These little things mean a lot at that age and cost very little," says Suzanne.

To support these activities, FANS holds a number of fundraising events through the year, including school discos, film nights, Christmas and Summer fairs, Harvest festivals, and raffles, and a village relay run. One of its biggest and most successful events is the November fireworks at the Rec, which last year attracted families, young and old alike, and raised over £3,000.

Readers without children at the school may be wondering, what does all this have to do with them? FANS is the first to acknowledge that it would not be able to carry out fundraising without community support and involvement. That's why bonding the school and the village are so important.

Besides community support, Suzanne Pearman says it would not be possible without sponsorship from local businesses such as the Beer Engine, Paint Pots of Devon, Daw Refrigeration, Ablou Facilities, Trade Motor Brokers and Harris Timber. "Other businesses such as Hanlons, Baobab Cafe and Planet Play also support us when we need them," she says.

That said, FANS is always on the lookout for more sponsors to support its fundraising activities. "Sponsors for this year's fireworks or raffle prizes for the summer fair would be appreciated," she says.

Besides sponsors, it's the support from the community that FANS welcomes, whether in the form of sponsorships or donations of time or money. "We have even had community support with one person walking into school and leaving a cheque to FANS in reception following an article in the Newton Wonder. We are amazingly grateful for unexpected generosity like this!" she says.

Not bad for a village school of 130 pupils, led by the indefatigable head of school, James Durward-Akhurst, and his team of 25 dedicated teachers and staff who, up until a few years ago were operating out of outdated premises on the edge of the village on the busy A377.

Today, the new school premises on Station Road offer first-class facilities, bright colours, open spaces and some very unusual ideas, such as the Fun Friday after-school feast where students can buy sweets, cakes, cookies, doughnuts, ice lollies and even leftovers from previous cake sales – all for a good cause. “It creates a lovely buzz in the playground,” says Suzanne.

Besides the plethora of fundraising activities, there is usually at least one major big-ticket project that FANS sets its sights on. When the school moved to its new location in 2018, FANS raised more than £13,500 to install a Trim Trail for the school outdoor play area. FANS also raised more than £10,000 for an outdoor classroom named the "Hobby Hut" in memory of a teacher who lost her battle with cancer in May 2022.

“Lisa Hobson was a much-loved member of the school community,” says Suzanne. “We agreed it was a fitting memorial for those who remember her, but not too over the top for the future students who will have no memory of her.”

The next big project will be the outdoor learning area. “Last term, we raised £5,300 towards our target of £11,000 and are hoping we can reach the total as soon as possible,” says Anna Bonnett. And that is where FANS is hoping for the continued support of the village community in the form of sponsorship, and donations of time or money.

Besides providing a much-needed outdoor facility for the school, the initiative would be a critical step towards the greater and critical goal of further integrating the school into the life of the village.

You can help FANS’s fundraising efforts by making a direct donation at <https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QAH7QE2F>

You can contact FANS at fans@exevalleyfederation.org.uk



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Newton St Cyres Ramblers

Our walk on 24th March, led by Anne Rice, started from the main car park at Haldon Forest Park. The Park was launched in 2006 and has grown to become one of Devon's most-loved outdoor destinations. The forest itself covers almost 1,500 hectares across the Haldon Hills, contains around half a million trees and a large part is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The Visitor Centre and trails are part of a working forest managed to International standards of sustainability. In addition to the growing of timber, it provides places for people to connect with nature and for wildlife to thrive.

Our walk followed the Butterfly trail, which, at 4 miles, is the longest of the three trails. The others are the Discovery (1.5 miles) and the Raptor (3 miles). The Butterfly trail shares the start with the Discovery trail before turning off at the waymark to the right. The trails are all clearly marked and maps are available, but as some sections are shared with cyclists, runners and dogs, care is needed. The number of cars parked up would have made you think it would be full, but once dispersed along the different trails/areas it was a very peaceful and enjoyable walk. The trails are mixed terrain and all of the recent rainfall had made some parts muddy.

The first half of the walk was mostly flat with wonderful views out over the Estuary. The second half was a mix of downhill followed by a steep climb back up to the car park, where we all enjoyed well-earned refreshments from The Ridge café!

Although our walk did not coincide with sightings of butterflies, it was easy to see how the habitat was perfect for many butterfly species. Over 30 species sightings have been recorded, including the Pearl-bordered fritillary which is one of Britain's rarest.

Visitors with reduced mobility can also explore the Butterfly trail by hiring a Trampler, an off-road mobility vehicle, via the Countryside Mobility scheme. Those looking for additional activities at the Forest Park can enjoy Nordic Walking, Tai-Chi, Couch to 5K and Go-Ape with high ropes and zip wires.

All are welcome to join our walks and details are published in the Newton Wonder each month.

Nicola Baker



*Looking across Exeter from Haldon
picture by Nicola Baker*

Thoughts for May from Peter Cordingley

Do you rely on Redlands and Boots for your monthly repeat prescriptions? If you do, I've got bad news for you. Boots is abandoning that service, and it will be up to you to order your own drugs. The best way, they say, is to go online to the pharmacy's app, itemize your repeat meds and then send it to them.

That raises more issues than I can count, but first among them is the fact that not everybody will be able to do this. Some folk, and not necessarily just old people who struggle with the Internet, are going to have problems. What about those people in locations where the Internet is slow to nearly dead (the Sweetham part of the village comes to mind). How are they going to manage?

I receive six or so drugs each month, made available at different dates because the prescriptions were delivered at different times. That means three trips to Crediton each month, but at least the system is neat and reliable. I spoke to the folk in the Redlands dispensary, and they told me that lots of people on their books are in the same situation as me. That may be problem No. 2 – is everybody expected to remember delivery dates and give Boots enough time to process everything? A kindly lady at the Boots counter in Crediton told me that, because of logistics, the process may take up to 10 days from start to finish.

But I'm going too fast. Let's start at somewhere close to the beginning. When is it going to start? Answer: It already has in Crediton, though you may not have noticed it yet. But you will, as it will be fully rolled out over the summer.

Why are they doing this? That's trickier. I spoke to the people in the national pharmacy at Boots HQ and was astonished to be told they had not heard of it. A lady suggested that I speak to their team in Leicester, which handles home deliveries. That's not the service I use, but she suggested I try it anyway. But when she attempted to transfer me, the line was cut!

So I asked the lady in Boots Crediton why there had been no warning to the public. Her answer was that they had been told to expect information sheets that they were to hand out to customers. But they hadn't arrived – at least not at the time of my writing this.

Over to Boots in Exeter. Was this a nationwide policy or were individual pharmacies, such as Crediton, being left to their own devices, I asked? Oh, it was nationwide, he said, but he didn't know the timing, except to say it was also already underway in Exeter.

Boots' mission statement states: "Customers and patients are at the heart of our business, and we are committed to providing the best of care to them as their first choice for health and beauty."

You be the judge.

None of the pharmacies in Crediton offer a repeat service. But all is not lost!

Ask the dispensary at Redlands to make one prescription which will synchronise all the drugs and then ask them to organise your future prescriptions for you.

It's very easy on the NHS App - Ed.

Nikki and Mark Chambers would like to invite you to come and walk around our beautiful 25 acre gardens.
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Newton Environmental Wellbeing Group

Many of you will already know about N.E.W. and the activities that we have been taking part in over the last couple of years since we were established. Despite the deluges, Spring is here and we thought it a great opportunity to tell everyone about our projects.

N.E.W. was established back in 2021 following a gathering interest and concern of local people to improve and protect our natural environment around Newton St. Cyres. How we treat our environment has a profound effect on our own lives now and into the future, and N.E.W. wants to be an effective and essential part of our thriving community.

To begin, here is an Astonishment!

A 2022 study in Devon found that nearly a third of black bin waste is food waste, 79% of which is avoidable. It was found that 35% of all discarded food is still in its packaging! (from Devon County Council website 22 February 2024).

Come on us, we can do better!

So what have we been doing over the past year....

2023 was a busy year for the community allotment with fantastic results and an abundance of produce to share with local people and namely the Adonai Kitchen. Come and get involved!



Produce from the community allotment

In the Spring of 2023 wildflower areas were established on the village green and a new orchard and wildflower area was created in Court Orchard for the community. These areas are now managed by N.E.W. and we hope for many apples and pears in coming years! Despite some unwanted mowing by the council in the last few weeks, we are hoping the wildflowers will bounce back!



Wild flowers on the village green

Talking of apples, in the autumn we held an apple pressing day at the Parish Hall, which was well attended with contributions of apples and apple presses from local people and from Moonridge Farm who also helped us with the pressing on the day. We lost count of how many bottles were made!

Following correspondence and a request from the Quicke's Estate, N.E.W. began coppicing an area of Hazel woodland to open up some areas to the light, which will help the plants on the woodland floor to grow, the Hazel to regenerate and increase biodiversity. Members have been learning new skills and this will be continued in the Autumn. A larger article about coppicing will follow later in the year letting you know how to come and have a go.



N.E.W. members coppicing

N.E.W. members worked with Kingfisher Close earlier this year to mulch the trees that had been planted in the piece of land next to the school. Residents kindly made a donation to our projects in return.

We also continue to promote wildlife interests at the Parish Council meetings and campaign for the care of our Parish environment.

We meet every other month, usually in the Beer Engine, and anyone can come along to find out more and contribute ideas.

Wildlife Gardens - A wildlife project for all ... Are you up for the challenge?

Did you know that the land area given over to gardens is more than four and a half times larger than that of national nature reserves? (The i paper 12th April 2024)

So it is fitting that Devon Wildlife Trust has launched the Wildlife Garden Award to encourage

everyone to make their gardens more wildlife friendly no matter how big or small. They are giving awards to anyone who can show that their garden is friendly to wildlife and earlier this month Newton St. Cyres got its first Wildlife Garden Award.

N.E.W. would like to set a challenge to local people to see if our Parish can get 20 awards this year. Are you up for it?



continued on next page

It's dead easy to apply. All you have to do is go to the Wilder Gardens website <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/wildlife-garden-award> and fill out a form telling them what you have been doing in your garden for wildlife.

N.E.W. and the Devon Wildlife Trust can offer advice and help to anyone who would like to get involved and make their garden a wildlife friendly place.

Here are some tips on easy things you can do no matter how big your garden:

1. Do 'No Mow May' – easy! Just don't mow your lawn in May and watch the biodiversity increase.

2. Put up a bird feeder – you don't have to spend lots of money as you can put out apples for black birds, make seed feeders from loo rolls or even make some bird food treats. Here is a website with lots of ideas <https://www.rspb.org.uk/helping-nature/what-you-can-do/activities/feed-the-birds>

3. Put a saucer of water on the ground for hedgehogs and birds.

4. Make a small wildlife pond in an old container with some rocks inside so that creatures can climb out and some oxygenating plants. Here's a good how to guide: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-create-mini-pond>

5. Make a twig and dead wood pile in a corner for insects and small mammals to hide in.

6. Plant some insect friendly flowers in a container or a patch in your garden. Now's a good time to do this from seed which is far cheaper.

7. Make a 13 x 13cm hole in the bottom of your fence for hedgehogs to pass from one garden to the other. Visit Devon Wildlife to find out how to do this <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/actions/how-create-hedgehog-hole>

Let us know how you get on with your application.

We'd love new members to the N.E.W. family, so if you would like to get involved or find out more then please email newnewgroup@protonmail.com and we'll let you know about our next meeting and how you can get involved.

Gill Melling on behalf of N.E.W.



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NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP

Devon's Tucking Mills



During the Middle Ages, the woollen textile industry was one of the main sources of wealth in Devon, and it employed many people in the production of cloth. Waterpower was vital for this process.

Martin Watts has spent his working life repairing and researching water mills and their use in grinding corn and has written and lectured on the subject as well as having enormous practical experience of their engineering. He spoke to us on this subject six years ago, but at our meeting on 13th March, he concentrated on tucking mills, which were used in cloth making. He researched this topic for an article included in The Exeter Cloth Dispatch Book, by Todd Gray, which is recommended for anyone who is interested.

Making garments from sheep fleeces was a labour-intensive process. Long woolled sheep have fleece which is combed and spun into a long strong fibre which was used to make the warp section of a cloth, and shorter staple fleeces were carded into fibres which were also spun and used as the weft. Dyeing could be done at the yarn stage, or a finished piece of cloth could be dyed whole.

Whatever type of cloth was made – and there were many types and thicknesses of cloth – it needed to be washed clean of oils and lanolin, and then if it was woollen and not worsted, pounded to matt the fibres and shrink the fabric, which was then sheared to a flat smooth finish. It was this pounding process that was known as tucking, or fulling.

Martin explained that originally, this washing and pounding process was done by treading the cloth in tubs or working the cloth by hand. In Scotland and Ireland it was known as 'waulking' the cloth. It took many hours and days, and the workers, often but not always women, would sing as they worked to set a rhythm to get through the hours of boring hard labour. The washing agent was often urine, widely available and full of ammonia which acted to scour the dirt and oils out of the cloth as it was pounded.

Mechanising the fulling process did not happen, Martin thought, until the late 11th century and was introduced into England in the late 12th century, when new carpentry skills were also developed for use in church building. It is at this time that the first references to windmills are seen.

A tucking mill had a pair of 'stocks' or large wooden hammers that were powered by a waterwheel, and a set of cams to trip the hammers up, ready to fall by gravity onto the cloth, which would be held in a trough. The hammers were usually made

of oak and the troughs often of alder. In Devon there was certainly a fulling mill in Exeter by 1200, which was powered by the leat system on the Exe. A tucking mill could still take two to three days to full a piece of cloth, and the shrinkage would be 18% - 20%.

It was an industrial process and the noise, smell and pollution caused would have been considerable. Because of the capital cost of building the mill, they would usually be leased out. For instance, Exeter's City Chamber let stocks out to merchants who then sublet them to the artisans who worked them.

Martin showed us some wonderful representations of the tools of the cloth trade and hammer stocks from a variety of sources including the Lane Aisle at Cullompton, where there is a roof boss with the stocks between two angels, and a coloured wood carving in Tucker's Hall, Exeter, which shows a tucking mill in action.

The earliest illustration of a tucking mill is in an book from the 13th century from Beaulieu Abbey. When the cloth came out of the tucking mill it had to be stretched out and dried, held in place on racks with tenterhooks. Martin showed us illustrations of this and explained how many place names containing the word 'rack' have derived from this practice. Bad weather was a problem because most racks were in the open air, but there was a Dry House in Exeter, which was a large, covered building on two floors, where the cloth could be stretched and dried. It is a rare survival, now converted into the Exe Centre at Cricklepit Mills.

Tucking Mills, Martin said, rarely survive because most of them were ramshackle buildings, made as cheaply as possible to house the machinery. Occasionally they worked in the open air, as shown in an illustration by Paul Sandby, of 'A watermill on the Exe' in the late 18th century. However, the surname 'Tucker' is widespread in Devon and is an indication of how common the occupation was.

As the textile industry grew in the north of England, the manufacture of woollen cloth in Devon declined, the mills either fell into disuse or were repurposed as paper mills, leather works or for any other industrial process which needed power. Purpose built woollen mills took over the whole process of textile making, from fleece to cloth, and a visit to the Coldharbour Mill at Uffculme is a very interesting day out and demonstrates all the stages of production.

We do not know how much textile work went on here in Newton St Cyres. A fulling mill was mentioned in 1407/08 in the rental of the Priory of Plympton, which then owned the village. There is another mention of one in 1556/58 in a legal dispute. We do not know where it was, but the 1843 Tithe Map names a meadow Tucking Mill Marsh, and it is next to the Creedy below the present Newton House.

Our thanks go to Martin Watts for a most interesting and well-illustrated talk drawn from his great knowledge of the milling industry and its history and archaeology.

Isobel Hepworth

NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP

The Old School Site



Just as I was wondering if I had anything to contribute this month, a wonderful email arrived. It contains seven pages of beautifully written notes from 1916 as attachments. They are the work of a student teacher training at St Luke's College in Exeter who was on teaching practice in Newton St Cyres. She was taking lessons on Feudalism and the Manorial System and was hoping to get her students to imagine life in the village before William the Conqueror.

This email was a timely reminder of the building that was recently demolished to make way for new housing at the top of the hill on the Exeter side of the village. It was with relief that the village school removed to their new site in Station Road and their brand-new building. However, in 1916 Annette Sercombe's great grandmother thought both the old site and the building to be ideal.

The site was open and breezy with lots of clean, fresh air and the school was well ventilated although not all the windows opened in the infant's classroom. She still considered the building new although it must have been about 30 years old. It had three classrooms, one large and two smaller ones. The headmaster took the three top classes in the large room. The three standards of infants were in one of the smaller classrooms and standards 4 and 5 in the other. Oil Lamps were used in the winter for lighting together with stoves for heating. She did not consider the playgrounds satisfactory as they were covered in gravel and in the winter became very muddy.

From other information we know that Mr Frank Bellman was the head teacher and that he had a cane. He was head teacher for over 30 years and survived into late old age. He must have been a very stern disciplinarian. Not only did he run the day school but conducted an evening school in the same building for teenagers after they had left to go to work during the day.

MEETINGS

We have now finished the evening lectures for winter 2023/2024 and do not start next year's until 9th October when we will welcome John Salvatore, who knows lots about when the Romans were in Exeter. However we will be playing a big part in the Heritage Open Days in September. These will be held on Wednesday the 11th and Saturday the 14th and will be centred around the church.

We are always looking out for new speakers and would be very happy to have any recommendations.

Jean Wilkins

EMIGRATION FROM NEWTON ST CYRES

A History Group Project

We are contacted from time to time by people in Australia, New Zealand, Canada or USA whose families emigrated from Newton St Cyres, sometimes several generations ago. One of these contacts was from the descendent of a transported convict!

This has stimulated us to carry out a more comprehensive study.

We need your help!

Do you know anything of individuals or families who emigrated from Newton St Cyres?

If so, please contact Roger Wilkins (01392 851337; rogerwilkins1@btinternet.com).

We want to put a picture together including information, where available, on:

Who emigrated?

When did they emigrate?

Where did they go to?

Why did they leave Newton St Cyres?

What then happened?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Roger Wilkins

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NEWTON ST CYRES CHURCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Tony's Mad May Challenge – The *Camino de Santiago* Not a walk in the park....

Despite being the wrong side of 80, I am setting myself a challenge! Walking 115km on the final stage of the 'Camino de Santiago' in northern Spain. It's hilly, hot and dusty! So definitely not a walk in the park.

Why, you ask, am I putting my body through this ordeal? Well, I am working with other local residents on a process of modernising the inside of Newton St Cyres Church. We want it to be able to offer a wide range of different activities – both church and social events such as concerts, art exhibitions, theatre productions, family events, etc. But, to complete the work will require something approaching £75,000. While some of this, we hope, will be met by grants and national funds - to secure that funding, we must self-fund at least half this figure.

And so, my reason for this little spiel - please be kind enough to help by sponsoring me on this mad walk in May. I appreciate it is a big ask, but if we don't invest in this project the church will seriously struggle to survive. Any contribution will be gratefully received and you can do this by linking to my 'Just Giving' page here: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/anthony-lane>

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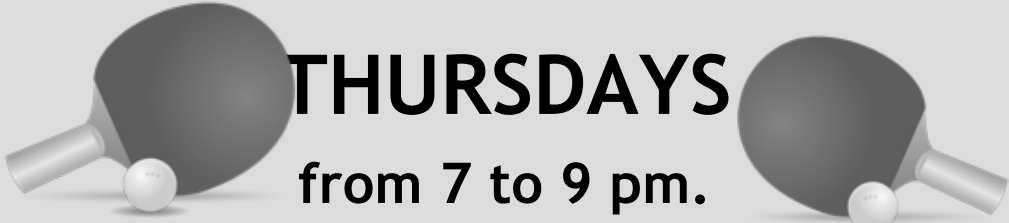
free parking and free camping - - - Fun starts around 1.p.m.

Table Tennis at

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from 7 to 9 pm.

Two table tennis paddles and a ball are positioned on either side of the word 'THURSDAYS'.

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

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

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It is great family fun.

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

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



Kelly Berry

07890313010

or see our facebook page
Newton Nappies

Newton St Cyres Gardening Club

The Club was pleased to welcome Stephen Powles to our March meeting, where he gave a wonderful and informative talk about Tawny Owls. Stephen lives in the Dart Valley near Tiverton and until Covid he was a vet. Retirement has meant that he is now able to spend more time watching, photographing and filming wildlife.

Tawny Owls are often heard but rarely seen, but Stephen explained how, over many years, he has been able to be a part of the owl's routine and was rewarded with some amazing photographs. The following summary is taken from notes that I made at the talk.

The Tawny Owl species has an extensive range across much of Europe, parts of Asia and the very north of Africa, but there are none in Ireland. They are reluctant to fly any distance over water, with nonringed in mainland Europe being recorded in the UK, and no UK ringed Tawnies being recorded overseas. They are a woodland bird, where they will perch on a tree and then drop onto the food. The size of the territory varies depending on the food supply.

The male Tawny Owl is lighter and a little smaller than the female. Their brown and grey streaked plumage provides good camouflage during the day when they do not wish small birds to mob them. They have large ears and the disc shaped face helps them to focus on a sound. Binocular vision enables them to judge distance. A large lens and cornea, together with the short distance from lens to retina, enables them to see in low light.

Approximately 70% of the skull is taken up by the eyes, compared with 5% in humans and 50% in most birds. They are unable to rotate their eyes so they rotate their necks 270 degrees. Stephen showed us an amazing video of one doing this. This is possible because they have twice as many vertebrae in the neck as humans. These are specially adapted so that blood supply to the brain is not affected.

Their short, broad flat wings make them very manoeuvrable. The feathers are very soft and the leading edge of the flight feathers allows the air to move over the feathers with minimum turbulence. This makes their flight very quiet, preventing prey from hearing the approaching owl, but enabling the owl to hear its prey. Tawny Owls have four toes, which are razor sharp, as are their beaks, so extreme care should always be taken if you are in a situation where you need to handle one.

Most Tawny Owls first breed when they are two years old, but a few breed at one year. Eggs are normally laid at the end of February and they usually nest in a hole of an ancient tree or make use of a Tawny or Barn Owl nest box. They normally lay two to four eggs which take around one month to incubate. They are very protective of their nest site.

While the female is incubating, the food is provided by the male, with the female just taking brief breaks at dusk and dawn (poo and pellet run). As incubation starts when the first egg is laid, there is a noticeable size difference between the oldest and youngest chick. They fledge after 28 to 37 days, initially clambering out onto a branch. If a chick falls to the ground the female normally keeps guard and with their strong legs and claws they can usually scramble to safety.

From April onwards it is possible to hear the chicks calling for food. By mid-June they will have more feathers and by July they will have lost their down. Leaving the nest is normally completed by late July/early August. Adults may live up to 20 years, and they eat a wide range of prey, including wood mice, short-tailed field voles, shrews, frogs and cockchafer (May bugs). They will also take a range of small birds, including Robins and feed on roadkill, e.g. pheasants. Some will even catch fish in shallow water and they will take earthworms in heavy rain.

Throughout his talk, Stephen was able to show the superb photos he had taken while working with his local Tawny Owls, including one in particular that followed a predictable flightpath and invariably perched in the same place. Using day old chicks as food, the owl found this new source of food within a week and then by setting up light beams to trigger his camera, Stephen was able to take a range of photographs as the owl approached the food. His goal was to capture what would be a vole's eye view of becoming prey. He succeeded! A book that Stephen suggested as additional reading was 'An Eye for a Bird' by Eric Hosking.

We hope to be able to ask Stephen to return with another of his talks next year.

Some Jobs for May

With the arrival of some sunshine, we are all aware that there is so much to do in the garden. However there can still be a chance of frost, so keep an eye on the weather forecasts.

- * Sow biennials for next year in nursery rows. These include Wallflowers and Sweet Williams. These can then be lifted and planted out in the autumn ready to flower early next year.
- * Plant late-flowering clematis. Plant them a little deeper than the pot in which they were purchased, sprinkle a little blood fish and bone in the hole first, then gently firm the soil once planted. It is advisable to place some broken paving over the soil to prevent it drying out too quickly. Clematis like their roots to be cool but the flowers love the sun. Water in well and tie in the stems with soft twine.

continued on next page

- * Plant up hanging baskets. There are lots of young bedding plants in the garden centres so you can 'design' your own with your favourite plants and colours. As hanging baskets tend to dry out quickly in the sun and wind, you can add some water retaining granules to your potting compost. Have a selection of upright and trailing plants, to give the optimum effect, and ensure all of the roots are covered with no gaps in between the plants. Flowering plants that work well include trailing Petunias, Bacopa, Bidsens, Ivy-leaved Geraniums, Fuschia and Verbena. To these you can also add foliage plants such as Nepeta, Variegated Ivy and Creeping Jenny.
- * Parsley can be sown direct into the soil, preferably in a sunny south-facing spot, though it will tolerate shade. Sow sparingly and then, when ready, thin out the young plants to around 15cm apart.
- * If you have gaps in your borders, you can still direct sow Cornflowers, Californian Poppies and Toadflax (Linaria). Use the back of your rake to form shallow straight drills ready for sowing these.

Shabby Chic Florals and Wabi-Sabi Style

Peter Hawksley, editor of the Newton Wonder, passed the following to me which you may also find of interest. 'Reflected in the constantly growing trend for upcycling, retro and vintage-looking interiors and garden styling, the traditional Japanese aesthetic concept of wabi-sabi has also taken root on UK shores.

It shows how plants and unwanted furniture, tools etc. can be used in garden design. This is promoted by 'Pelargonium for Europe', a marketing initiative founded in 2016 with the aim of promoting and securing geranium sales in Europe in the long term. The campaign now runs in 22 countries, including the United Kingdom. Further details can be found at <https://hornbygeorgepr-newsroom.prgloo.com/news/shabby-chic-florals-and-wabi-sabi-style>



Wildlife Garden Award

Join hundreds of people gardening for Wildlife in Devon. Devon Wildlife Trust have recently introduced a new scheme to encourage people to think about how they can garden and benefit wildlife at the same time. "There are 15 million gardens in the UK, totalling an area greater than all our National Nature Reserves put together, so what you do in your garden matters. Whether you have a large garden or a small balcony, our outside spaces can provide vital stepping stones across the landscape. Your space can be part of the patchwork of wildlife-friendly areas linking towns and the countryside.

Get your garden buzzing with wildlife and you could qualify for their free plaque to display in your garden. Several Newton St Cyres residents have already received their award, so we encourage you to check out the website and see if you can meet the criteria.

How to qualify for the wildlife gardening award. To attract wildlife to your garden, you need to provide opportunities for wildlife to get food, water and shelter. You may also need to manage your garden a little differently. To enter the scheme you must have at least 10 of the features required, with at least two from each area (food, water, shelter, management and connectivity).

Full details can be found at <https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/wildlife-garden-award> and also on the N.E.W report in this magazine.

What's On in May?

* **International Dawn Chorus Day. Sunday 5th May.** From a small event in Birmingham in the 1980s, this event has grown to a global annual celebration enjoyed in over 80 countries. So why not be among those celebrating birdsong this year? Set the alarm for around 5am, open your window & listen!

* **Chelsea Flower Show 21-25 May.** All the main garden categories are returning in 2024. As well as the Show Gardens along Main Avenue, Sanctuary and Feature Gardens explore themes through horticulture, while the 'All About Plants' area in the Floral Marquee focuses on planting. The Chelsea Show manager explains, "This year we are working closely with all our garden designers to bring the most sustainable gardens we can to the show. They are using eco- techniques, low-carbon materials and processes that are not only reducing their impact on the environment, but also reducing our waste at the end of the show".

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/Shows-Events/RHS-Chelsea-Flower-Show/Plan-your-visit>

RHS Members get reduced-price tickets

Local Events/Talks include

* **Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th May. Toby Buckland's Garden Festival at Powderham Castle.** 10am-5pm both days. A limited number of discounted tickets are available at only £10 per ticket, which can be used on either day (Regular Advance £13.50, on the gate £15.00) If you wish to purchase discounted tickets, please contact Nicola 01392 851985

- * **Either 4th or 18th May** (date to be confirmed). **Crediton Garden Club** will be holding their **annual plant sale** at the library. 10am-1pm
- * **Saturday 4th May. 2pm Upton Pyne Spring Flower Show and Plant Sale**
- * **Wednesday 8th May.** 7pm for 7.30pm Upton Pyne Village Hall. **SWIFTS An illustrated talk by Edward Jackson** on these extraordinary birds and what we can do to help them. Free admission and Refreshments. (Donations towards costs gratefully received).
- * **Saturday 18th May. 6.30pm** until late Sandford Orchards Cider Works Crediton. **Celebrate the ancient tale of Franklin's Night** – the fight between the devil and the cider maker. There will be a play from the Mummers depicting the tale. Live music from Spin 2, delicious food available to purchase and plenty of cider, of course. Apple blossom is very susceptible to damage from a late frost and the old story goes that a late frost was the devil's work, so if the cider maker could defeat the devil there would be no frost to wither the blossom. Tickets £10 <https://www.sandfordorchards.co.uk/events/franklins-night/>
- * **Monday 20th May.**
7.30pm Upton Pyne Garden Club Food for Free and Seasonal Foraging. Becca Flintham. Upton Pyne Village Hall.
- * **Wednesday 22nd May.**
Floristry tuition with Katrina of Bloom Bloom Floral Design. Newton St Cyres Garden Club meeting in NSC Parish Hall 7pm start. £35 per person to include tuition and everything needed to create a stunning modern display. Pre-booking by 5th May essential. Nicola 01392 851985

Happy Gardening

Nicola Baker



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



DELIVERY WITHIN THE VILLAGE - IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO COME WHY NOT EMAIL US AND WE WILL TAKE YOUR MEAL TO YOU (1.00 - 2.00) Or you can collect it from the Parish Hall from 12.30 - 2.00pm

We are looking for volunteers/young people doing their D&W, Tentors 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.

UPTON PYNE & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

All events are held in the Upton Pyne Village Hall

CONTACT June 01392 841272

ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SHOW

Saturday May 4th @ 2pm



Everyone is welcome to exhibit or just come along and enjoy the show

Any contributions towards our PLANT

SALE will be very welcome!

Contact Show Sec. Chris Grundy 01392 851970

PHOTOGRAPHY-COOKING-RAFFLE-REFRESHMENTS

Monday May 20th @ 7.30pm

BECCA FLINTHAM

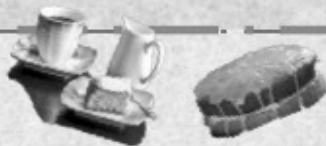
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RAFFLE & REFRESHMENTS

May on the Farm

Changing of the guard

May is high spring. The vivid palette of greens, so difficult for English landscape artists, is at its most varied. Olive green of young oak leaves, right through to the blue green of thriving wheat crops and everything in between. Later on the greens merge until in high summer the landscape is clothed in mid green and we've all forgotten the miraculous transformation from the browns and greys of winter.



Jane and Mary

And it's been a difficult winter and early spring. Warmth meant everything grew. The wet meant all our plans for grazing, cultivating, and everything else went awry. Sodden pastures are tender and do not easily support the weight of cows. We needed to graze because the silage ran short. We grazed only a few hours at a time, to try and harvest the grass and feed the cows. Soil needs a lovely crumb structure with one third air to function properly. Pug wet soil with heavy cows' feet and you squidgy out the air, leaving a soil that will be less resilient to drought, as the plant roots and all the other magnificent life of the soil struggle to thrive in the less aerated soil.

We are also hastening to catch up with cultivating. In my garden I was impatient and handled the soil when it was wet. I'm now seeing the soil biology sulk, the soil texture is hard and I will need to work to restore the structure. In a garden, you can tend the soil, put silver sand on, provide each bit with what it needs. On the farm, you can't do that in such detail. We needed to spread the dirty water safely to avoid polluting the river. To do that we drove tankers on places that were wet but growing, avoiding pollution but risking this year's crop with compaction. We have planted these areas, cultivating to remove as much of the soil damage as we can. Our summer grow may be affected, especially if we have a drought. No wonder farmers can look at the world with a steady pessimism.

These warm wet winters are what is predicted for us in climate change, so we will spend the next few months working out how we manage the next wet winter: how best to adapt to what we humans are creating in the climate. It will be costly, and we will have to save our pennies to afford the adaptations we'll need.

The crops are growing, regenerating from the ruin of the winter and early spring, roots remediating the soil life. The wheat and barley we sowed last autumn are slowly coming back to life. In turn, the plants are making new life: the little embryo ears, like sticky translucent pearls, grow inside the main shoots. These will become the seeds that we eat, and which will make the next generation of crop next year. We hasten to restore our empty silage pits. We thought we had plenty in hand this winter, and it's been tight.

We are serving the spring-calving cows. They are now so well nourished by the rapidly growing grass. Their bodies are shouting to use this sun-given bounty to make new life. They have been frolicking, practicing sex with their friends. Either one of our little Angus bulls obliges them or, mostly, we insert a little straw of semen in their cervixes when they are receptive. In the easy living of high spring and summer, they will nourish and grow the new life, to produce a calf nine months later, the same gestation as humans, just in time for the new grass of next spring.

Among the humans, we are looking at renewal too. My daughter Jane has taken over the running of the farm and cheese. She is bringing new insights, new approaches from her career in big data, teaching and a degree in biology. She is working with our wonderful young team. (I'm now the oldest person on the farm other than Stuart Dowle, who still does a little with us). I'm so privileged to see these young people take forward what my parents and their parents created.

We do cheese grading together with the young team. I've a lot of experience as a cheese judge. We've all had some training recently to bring in new techniques. Younger people have more taste buds (a young child will have four times as many as me) and I'm enjoying that combo of my experience, new ideas, and more acute sensory potential. We will be developing what we do with these new insights to make even more delicious cheese. So exciting.

Top tip for safe walking: we know ticks potentially carrying Lyme's disease are a problem in our woods and fields, carried by the wild deer. I had wondered why I hadn't had any ticks attach to me over the last few years. I realised consulting Mr Google that coconut oil behaves as a very efficient insect repellent, as good as DEET. I've always slapped on coconut oil as a body lotion after my morning shower. Try it. Lyme's disease is rare but can be very nasty.

Happy spring!

Mary Quicke



How colours work together

Although he works mainly in oils, Owen Williams used a limited palette of acrylics for his demonstration on 22nd March. Owen explained the relationship of colours to each other, showing how it's possible to mix a wide range of colours using just three or four (a red, a yellow, a blue, and a white). He encouraged us to experiment and press on even when the results are disappointing or unappreciated by others, because the knowledge gained while experimenting would prove invaluable.

Owen paints on wood or canvas first primed with an orange colour. If allowed to show through in places, this adds zing and makes the greens in a landscape vibrant. Influenced by Fauvism, Gauguin, Schiele and Kandinski, he focusses on colour and form.

His technique consists of simplifying the scene so that a few lines and silhouettes sketched in at first form the composition, and paints negative spaces to great effect.

His painting of a gnarled tree, fields, distant hills and a fence gradually emerged. It was almost backwards painting, as the tree was painted first and the sky added last. He paints with flicks and dabs and occasionally a flowing line, welcoming the accidental shapes that appear as well as the intended ones. He has a great eye for shapes and patterns in the landscape and acknowledged that his years of work as an illustrator have influenced his style.

For those of us who tend to overwork a painting or fuss over details, this demonstration was a helpful way of showing us how to create drama and atmosphere with minimum paint.

A most enjoyable morning. We look forward to a possible workshop with Owen later this year.

Jenny Hallam

Tales from Moominvalley

On 5th April the Parish Hall was filled with 36 very excited children (accompanied by an equal number of responsible adults!)

It was wonderful to see so many happy faces awaiting the arrival of the Moomins. Many of us will remember the Moomins, and now there is a whole new generation that watch Moominvalley on Sky TV. They are able to follow the stories on television where the Moomins live in harmony with nature, and now this was being re-created live in Newton St Cyres Parish Hall!

Based on the much-loved Moominland novels by Tove Jansson, this gentle heart-warming show told the story of a year in Moominvalley. Moomintroll woke up in the middle of winter with a “something-wrong feeling”. There was no sign of his good friend Snufkin, or the note Snufkin left him. As winter turned to spring, Snufkin returns, the days lengthen into a lazy summer and “the sea brings them all the adventures they could wish for”. Autumn barges in and Snufkin leaves once more for the Lonely Mountains. The production encompassed the books’ themes: the love of nature, the value of friendship, the pain of separation and the acceptance of difference.

Each section of the story also had an interactive element. Audience members had a snowball fight, toasted marshmallows around a fire and went sea-swimming. The characters of Moomintroll, Snufkin, Little My and Thingummy and Bob were brought to life with 2D rod puppets and life-size 3D puppets. The show used beautiful original music and songs, and pre-recorded narration with the iconic Tove Jansson illustrations created in a magical pop-up book.

This was all possible by working with Villages in Action, to bring the event by ‘Get Lost & Found’, who delivered a spell-binding production.

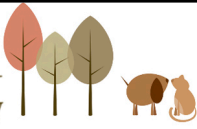
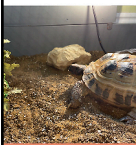
We hope to work with Villages in Action again in the Autumn, to bring ‘The Goat Show’ to Newton St Cyres when lots of family friendly events will take place over several days. Keep a lookout for further details. Your continued support of events is much appreciated!

Nicola Baker



Moomins magical pop-up book

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Providing help and advice in our local community

Regular readers of these community columns will know that we help people with a vast array of problems. Many are finance related, especially since the increase in the cost of living has impacted on households across the area. People by and large do not know what benefits or financial assistance is available that they may be able to claim and even if they think they may be able to get help, they often don't know how to go about applying for it or are simply too proud to ask. Quite often, eligibility for certain benefits opens the door to other assistance and in today's world, the problems that people present to us are becoming increasingly complex.

We have specialist teams to advise on things like debt and energy as well as help that is available to people with special needs such as people with cancer or other life limiting illnesses. We can help with housing problems and social needs and if we can't provide the help that is needed, we can refer people to other organisations that are more specialised in particular areas.

In our articles we have talked about shoddy workmanship, rights that people have when holidays don't measure up, employment issues and what to be aware of when buying a car. We are here to listen and give free, impartial advice to anyone who needs it.

For us, the start of a new financial year is a time to reflect on what we have achieved in the previous financial year in terms of the numbers of people we have helped, the problems we have advised on and the impact that has had. We are continually striving to improve our efficiencies and find more ways to help more people. This year we introduced a new email advice service for instance, and we are looking at ways to make getting advice more accessible, for example, by making more information available on our website.

We also understand that not everyone is computer savvy and sometimes people just want to be able to talk to somebody on the telephone or in person which is why we have an ongoing recruitment and training programme to grow our volunteer numbers. All our volunteers get full training and ongoing support and volunteering with us can lead to paid employment opportunities. You don't need to be an expert in any particular field, you just need to care and have a willingness to listen; our training and support will see you through the rest.

If meeting new people and helping within our local community appeals to you, please contact recruitment@citizensadviceetnmwd.org.uk

Rosanna Teale
CEO and Trustee Support Officer



NEWTON ST CYRES CHURCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

‘SOUL OF THE CITY’ GOSPEL CHOIR – 22 March

‘Joyful, Joyful’ indeed! What an evening of celebratory gospel music by the Choir and their 4-piece band. They embraced the audience with their joyful expressions, broad sunny smiles, and stunning harmonies.

No wonder they reached the final of Gareth Malone’s BBC Choir of the Year under the direction of their outstanding Choir Director, Emma Watson.



*And if you missed
them, they are on
at the Sidmouth
Festival on
Sunday 26 May!*

Newton St Cyres was so lucky to host the Choir in the church. And, thanks to the generosity of our wonderful audience and the singers, over £300 was raised to be shared among the Choir’s Benevolent fund, AGE Concern, and NSC Church Community Association.

None of this would have been possible without the truly amazing work of our volunteer team (they know who they are!). THANK YOU.

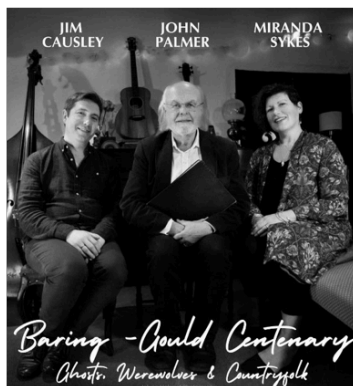
Christine Fraser



Ghosts, Werewolves and Countryfolk

*a Celebration of the life and works of the Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould
on the Centenary of his Death*

**Jim
Causley**



**Miranda
Sykes**

Created & narrated by **John Palmer**
Newton St Cyres Church
Saturday 11th May 2024 at 7pm

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We are based at

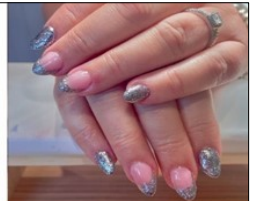
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Age range from Birth to pre-school.**

**please contact us on 07598527713
or Email Littleexplorers16@mail.com**

THE RETREAT

NAILS & SKINCARE

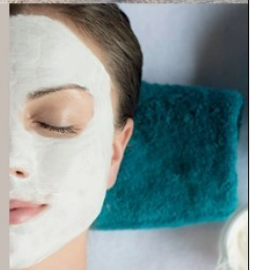


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Templespa stockist

Jess - 07377 519919 /
jessoleach1@gmail.com

Newton St Cyres



NEEDING A LITTLE EXTRA HELP AND SUPPORT?



Whether at home, going out, meal
assistance, shopping or transport
to an appointment.

*I have 10 years experience working
for a well-known charity.*

Please call Lyn on 07922 936342

WEDNESDAY, 8th May @ 7.30pm
Crediton Parish Church Music Endowment Fund

Registered Charity number: 1136033

HAYNE HOUSE HOT FIVE

At Holy Cross

Relax & Dance the night away!
A relaxed evening of Gypsy Jazz



**ticket
source**

£15 on the door, cash or card -
includes food.
Bar - Beer, wine & soft drinks

Do You Remember...May?

May 1974

The Church reported on the wedding of Stephen Mear to Susan Painter who will live in Exmouth.

The Church roof had been repaired and new guttering fitted.

The Parish Council were now receiving planning applications but there were only 14 days in which to comment. The planning applications would be posted at the rear of the Clerk's house in Tytheing Close where people can see them. Parishioners can then ask to have them discussed.

The cost of the Parish Clerk was detailed, a Clerk can be paid 22.5% of a 1d rate (£100 in NSC). If he or she is a member of the Parish Council they get bare expenses.

The Clerk, Henry Gliddon is a member of the Council and does the work for nothing.

The 200 Club results were announced: £200 – Mr Hill (Woodlands), £50 – Les Ede (Crown & Sceptre), £20 – Mrs Ashmore (Tytheing Close), £10 – Mrs Leach (New Estate)

The Vicar reported on what appeared to be two male hedgehogs fighting over a female in his garden. The beaten hedgehog curled up and was pushed away by the victor who then displayed in front of the female – spring was obviously in the air!

May 1984

The 1984 Newton walkabout was to be held on May 26th and is a sponsored walk around the parish boundary (or as near as possible). The total distance is 15 miles and the start and finish would be at Shute Cross.

A report of the 1981 census was contained in the Parish Council report. Total residents were 857, 423 males and 434 females. Newton St Cyres is 1.796 hectares and has 309 households.

John Escott was co-opted to the Parish Council.

May 1994

At the Tennis Club AGM the fees and Club sessions were set for the coming year. The Committee elected were: Mathew Wheadon – Chairman, Margaret Walters – Vice

Chairman, Mark Sedgwick –
Treasurer and Jean Brierly –
Secretary

At the Annual Parish Meeting 25 people attended. A balance of £592.68p was reported. It was reported that the Post Office expected to re-open before the end of the month and proper recycling facilities will be put in the Crown & Sceptre car park.

Dog mess and car parking were still a problem and the Council were still looking for a Parish Clerk.

The Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator's details were published.

Two letters of thanks appeared, one for Reg Bray who retired from his post as Sexton (he had also been a bell ringer for 70 years) and one for Dave Pritchard the retiring organist.

May 2014

The Art Group were holding an exhibition and sale at the Boniface Centre.

The Football Club had plans for a "Legends" match as well as a kids versus parents game.

Pat Butt who had run the monthly community market for some years had had a stroke and help to continue was being sought.

The Parish Council discussed the recent flooding and it was agreed to establish a resilience group. A rain gauge warning system was proposed. It was decided to enter the Best Kept Village competition again and the application was to be fuller than the year before.

The community support group had made a banner to promote their activities and were meeting every month. Their purpose was to ensure that no-one in the village went without the support they needed whether this was physical, spiritual or emotional.

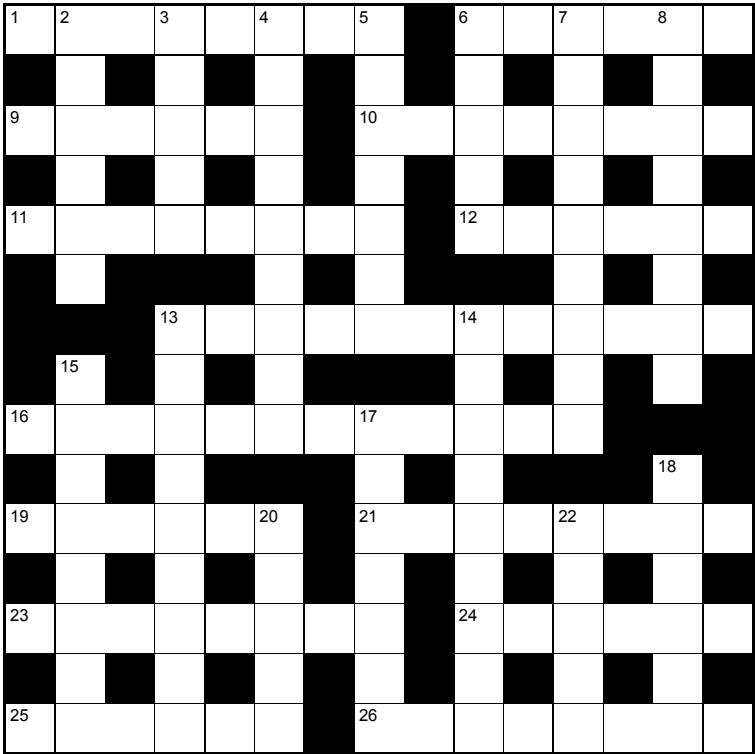
Jacqui Ward had been in touch with the British Heart Foundation and a grant of £400 could be made to assist the purchase of a defibrillator to be located in the middle of the village at a cost of between £1200 and £1500. A couple of games afternoons had contributed to the necessary funds.

St Loyes appeared to be willing to help with the training which would be necessary.

A questionnaire was sent out to explore whether the village wanted to develop the playground at the Rec.

The History Group, Friends of the Arboretum and the Gardening Club held a joint meeting. The speaker, Caradoc Doy told the story of the Veitch Nursery and the plant collectors who were sent out all over the world.

Cryptic Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 He helps those lost for words (8)
- 6 Letter from Europe takes time to reach Mark (6)
- 9 Society leader frequently shows temper (6)
- 10 Request certain to provide delight (8)
- 11 Nice policeman? (8)
- 12 Fatigued when restricting Ecstasy in ranks (6)
- 13 Mother, awfully sad at heart, is absolutely crazy (3,2,1,6)
- 16 Singer is against note being heard (7-5)
- 19 Credit given to goddess in difficult time (6)
- 21 Bloomer left social worker in agony (8)
- 23 Control price of fashion? (8)
- 24 Left in centre of spooky Portuguese city (6)
- 25 Yankee almost upset North African (6)
- 26 They pay for colonisers (8)

DOWN

- 2 Tradesman ho spends a day on the tiles? (6)
- 3 Subdued slander about Lawrence (5)
- 4 Not up to game in Kentish Town (9)
- 5 Restrain salesman on ship (7)
- 6 Caught a whiff of fish (5)
- 7 Edited one script for Morse? (9)
- 8 Concerning racehorse, raised Cain perhaps (8)
- 13 Brothers are kept in order here (9)
- 14 Stay to suspend a fight (4,5)
- 15 Two pairs make 'em we're told (8)
- 17 Put the French in elevated spot offering view of Bristol (7)
- 18 Very cold beer (6)
- 20 Blemish isn't a problem (5)
- 22 Ring about right nuisance on the internet (5)

Set by Alberich

Sudoku

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

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

© Web Sudoku 2024 - www.websudoku.com

Solution to April 2024 Cryptic Crossword

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

The Parish Church of St Cyr and St Julitta



Happy Birthday!
Happy Birthday to you
Happy Birthday to you
Happy Birthday dear Church....
Happy Birthday to you



What is he wittering on about now? I hear you ask. Birthday, what birthday? Well, after our recent celebrations of those two great festivities of Christmas and Easter, May sees the third of the important festivals for the Christian Church – that of Pentecost! A time of great celebration, time for a party and a moment that marks the birth of the Christian Church.

And while it probably passes many people by, the Day of Pentecost is such an incredibly important moment for the Church, and so very different from those other two momentous events. The actual Birth of Christ took place in the middle of the night, in a place for animals, in a small village, in a little province at the far end of the Roman Empire – witnessed by only Mary and Joseph. That moment of glorious Resurrection was hidden away in a cold, dark, sealed tomb, and only later – after the actual event – was Jesus met and seen.

But this moment of birth for the whole Church was anything but hidden away, anything but in the middle of the night. This is how Luke, in the Acts of the Apostles, describes what happened:

When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. (It was about 9 o'clock in the morning.) Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale-force – no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, with tongues like flame, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came running. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were blown away. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?"

From that moment on, everything changed for the disciples. From being fearful and hiding away, from anxiety and uncertainty, they totally changed. With great confidence and certainty, they flung wide the doors and the windows and began telling everyone about Jesus – about his miracles, about the wonder of the Resurrection. A real party atmosphere took hold and so powerful was their testimony that over 3,000 people on that day committed themselves to following the teachings of Christ.

And from that moment, the Church began to grow and grow and grow, quickly spreading across the region, the whole of the Roman Empire and beyond: to Egypt and Africa. Within a few decades, Christianity had become an organised, accepted and still growing movement.

So, that moment of Pentecost, of tongues of flame and rushing winds is definitely a real moment of celebration. So, very much – "Happy Birthday, Church!"

All blessings

Tim

Rev'd Tim Collins, Priest-in-Charge, Netherexe Mission Community



LE_t's GO

LEGO CLUB



Sunday 19th May:
at 4 o'clock

Newton St. Cyres Church

All ages very much welcome.

For more information, please contact:

Revd Tim Collins 01392 860767 tim.collins@netherexe.org

SERVICES & INFORMATION MAY 2024

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

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

Sunday 5 May Easter 6

11:15 am	Service for Animals	Cadbury	Lay Led
11:15 am	Café Church	Rewe	Lay Led
05:00 pm	Communion	Stoke Canon	SS

Tuesday 7 May

09:00 am	Chattertots	Thorverton	Lay Led
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Thursday 9 May Ascension Day

06:00 pm	Service [followed by meal]	Stoke Canon	TC/LF
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Sunday 12 May Easter 7

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

Sunday 19 May Pentecost/Whit Sunday

09:30 am	Communion	Brampford Speke	GC
09:30 am	Bubble Church	Thorverton	TC
10:00 am	Coffee & Chat	Stoke Canon	LF
11:15 am	Communion	Cadbury	KR
04:00 pm	Lego Club	Newton St Cyres	Lay Led

Sunday 26 May Trinity Sunday

09:30 am	Communion	Newton St Cyres	TC
09:30 am	Choral Morning Prayer	Thorverton	Lay Led
10:00 am	Messy Church	Stoke Canon	Lay Led
11:15 am	Communion	Rewe	TC

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

Who's Who? Abbreviations Key

TC	Revd Tim Collins	JD	Revd Julia Dallen
LF	Laura Ford [Licensed Lay Minister]	GC	Revd Preb Graham Cotter
TL	Revd Tony Lane	KR	Revd Preb Kathy Roberts
SS	Revd Sharon Simpson		
SN	Sheila Newton [Emeritus Lay Minister]	TBC	To be confirmed.

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

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

Mrs Juliette Lea [Administrator]
Tuesday & Thursday [09:00 – 15:00]
Tel: 07594 714590

Email: administration@netherexe.org

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

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

Neighbourhood Watch Deputies

Tim Sedgwick	Godolphin Close	2	851223	twsedgwick1@supanet.com
Sue Gee	Church Area	Glebe House	851164	asgee@btinternet.com
Tom Dowle	Court Orchard	24	851704	tomdowle@live.co.uk
Chris Lee	Langford Road	Greenlands	851280	
Mike Kersey	Half Moon	12	851603	
Penny Pearkes	Newton House	9	851517	pearkes4@gmail.com
Wayne Meeton	Norton	Glenacre Sweetham	851954	wayne@wvmstudio.com
Derrick Rhydderch-Evans	Pump Street	Old Beams	851443	derrickrevans369@btinternet.com
Anna Mace-Leska	Sand Down Lane	Compass House	851441	leska@btinternet.com
Jacqui Ward	Smallbrook	2 Broadgate Cottage	851918	Jacquiward30@yahoo.co.uk
Jill Hawksley	Sweetham	Station Cottage	851269	peterbrew@aol.com
Clive Wootton	West Town	4 Meadowlands	851428	hollywallydoda@outlook.com
Alan Hancock	Woodlands		851744	
Damien Hodge	Tytheing Close	2	851111	damienhodge@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk
Geoffrey Jackson	"The Village"	Shaplands Cottage	851551	megalops@btinternet.com

For help, further information or to submit a report please go to the website or contact the NSC Parish Council Co-ordinator (to be appointed)

Newton St Cyres Parish Hall

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

UP TO HOURS 3 6 9 12

VILLAGERS

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

NON VILLAGERS

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

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

A WEEK IN THE PARISH HALL

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

Roger Furniss Chairman, Hall Management Committee

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

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

Priest-in-Charge	Rev. Tim Collins	
Church Wardens	Sue Browne, 1 Glebelands, Sand Down Lane	01392 851460
PCC Hon Secretary	Pita Burt pitaburt@gmail.com	01392 851410
PCC Hon Treasurer	Jackie Enright	01392 851859
Electoral Roll Officer	Jen Holt, 21 Woodlands	01392 851521
Tower Captain	Mary Quicke - mary@quickes.co.uk	07729 844945
Doctors (Crediton)	Redlands Primary Care Joseph Locke Way, Crediton, EX17 3FD	01363 727111
Newton Wonder Magazine and Website	Editors:-Peter Hawksley - editor@newtonwonder.net Peter Cordingley. - cogscord@outlook.com	01392 851269 01392 851778
Parish Council	Chairman - Graeme Barnell graemebarnell@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk Clerk - Jane Hole	01392 851308 01392 851148
Parish Hall	Chairman – Roger Furniss Booking Sect - Peter Watts, peterwatts369@btinternet.com	01392 851601 01392 851369
Primary School	Head of Teaching - James Akhurst School Office	01392 851267 01392 851267
Newton Nippers Pre-School	Contact the school	01392 851267
Newton Nappies Toddler Group	Kelly Berry	07890313010
Recreation Club	Chair- Carrie-Ann Finning - email: finning-newtonstcyresrecreationalclub@outlook.com Bookings - Claire Digby - email: newtonrecbookings@outlook.com	
Newton Revels	Chairman - Eric Fee:-ericwfee@hotmail.com	01392 851595
Art Group	Jenny Hallam:- jennyhallam6@gmail.com	7787383658
Neighbourhood Watch	To be appointed	
Footpath Warden	Steve Parker, Lilly Farm.	01392 851505
Newton Environmental Wellbeing Group	Andrew Broadhead, newnewgroup@protonmail.com	07813 532544

Community Police	PCSO Nicola Payne, Police Station, CREDITON Nicola.payne@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk	Dial 101
District Councillors	Sandy Chenore:- schenore@middevon.gov.uk Martin Binks:- mbinks@middevon.gov.uk	
County Councillor	Margaret Squires	01363 84337
Local M P	Mel Stride mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk	01392 823306
Football Club	Mark Smaldon	7733455177
Friends of NSC Station	Chris Southcott	01392 851569
Luncheon Club	John Salter, Hill Park	01392 851346
Mah Jong Club	Geoff Jackson _megalops@btinternet.com	01392 851551
Newton Ramblers	Rosemary Chambers	01392 851400
Tennis Club Secretary	Laura Leigh	01647 24259
Twinning	Lorraine Mitchell	01392 851596
Young Farmers	Will Ayre (Chairman) willayre@hotmail.co.uk	7964286831
Archery	Alison Couling	01392 841282
Gardening Club	Nicola Baker	01392 851985
History Group	Jean Wilkins	01392 851337
Table Tennis	Roger Wilkins	01392 851337
Friends of the Arboretum	Roger Wilkins	01392 851337
Adonai Community Kitchen	Jocelyne Whittaker	07508 871172
Community Allotment	Gail Meldrum meldrumgail@gmail.com	07999 958799
Crediton Citizen's Advice	Adviceline (10.30 - 3.30)	03444 111444

The **NEWTON WONDER** is delivered within the Parish at a charge of only **£8.00** per year(in 2024). Subscriptions are due in January.

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

If you move away it can be posted for £21.00p.a.

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

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

Please add your last name as the reference

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

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

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

Local voluntary Village events are included free of charge.

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

Advertising Rates for the Newton Wonder

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

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

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

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

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

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Tel:-01288 341617 or 07784 008471.

Email:- printroom@communitymagazineprinting.co.uk

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