

NEWTON WONDER

THE MAGAZINE & WEBSITE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF NEWTON ST CYRES

May 2026

£1.00

See page 57



Chris Hawkins enjoying the bench he made.

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Volunteering and Volunteers

Our cover picture this month demonstrates a theme running through this month's Newton Wonder. Volunteering can be seen simply as living a full active life. Chris Hawkins made the bench and put it out on the corner of Woodlands. A voluntary act for the benefit of others and himself.

This is not normally what people see as volunteering but people are doing it all the time; a cup of tea for a neighbour who has a problem, help with gardening, shopping for someone who cannot get to the shops. These are all normal daily activities, never thought of as volunteering. However sometimes volunteering needs to be more organised, sometimes in association with a building, a hall, a club, a pub, or a church.

Sometimes the organisation is there to join and sometimes people feel they want to do something new. So they just do it. A classic example is the Adonai kitchen where Jocelyne set up her "pay what you like" lunches, where payment is made into a deep bag so that those who can afford or want to pay more can do so, and those less affluent can put less, or nothing, in the pot.

On page 34 Ann Quon Cordingley explores volunteering in the village. As you might expect the situation is not all rosy but nor is it doom and gloom. Many groups are thriving in the village. I suggest it is the umbrella organisations like the Rec., the Parish Hall and the church who are finding it difficult to find volunteers and they are necessary to support all those activities that are thriving in the village.

The parish hall is finding it hard to find volunteers and, in its centenary year, looking to redevelop to meet the needs of the future. See page 30.

Peter Hawksley

Letter to the Editor

The front cover of the Newton Wonder this month (April 2026) stated that the neighbours did not hear anything when Cherry Tree Cottage collapsed. This is not true. The nearest neighbours certainly did hear the crash as the chimney collapsed and this is why they were in Pump Street to watch the collapse of the rest of the building, including the collapse of the side wall onto their property. One of these neighbours immediately contacted the council to have the road closed to avoid people being injured if there was any more subsidence into the road. Making a statement that casts doubt on the veracity of these eye witnesses statements to the council teams is not very helpful.

Sandy Harrison

Pump Cottage

Parish Council Report April 2026

At the Parish Council meeting on 2nd April we were able to welcome another new councillor. Imogen Marshall will be taking on the role of footpath warden as well as helping in other areas in which she has expertise. This is very pleasing as the Council now has eight members and we only need one more to make our numbers complete.

Several members of the public expressed their concern about potholes on Tytheing Close as well as a need for a crossing over the A377. Our road wardens may be able to help with filling the potholes. If not, we shall have to ask Mid Devon District Council to repair them. The Council also sees the need for a crossing and we will continue to work with Steve Keable, our County Councillor, on this problem.

Concern was expressed about the number of apparently abandoned cars around the village. These vehicles have been parked for some time and may not be taxed or have a valid MOT. Councillor Liz Ouldrige promised to follow this up.

Councillor Jock Campbell gave us an excellent briefing on the development of holiday homes next to Hanlon's Brewery. It seems the developers may have infringed some planning rules and Jock will be in contact with MDDC to ensure that there is full compliance with planning regulations.

The Council had two bits of good news from Devon County Council. First, they have installed a smart new bus shelter at Half Moon. Second, they have replaced a very difficult stile on footpath 8 (this goes across the Quicke fields from Tinpit Hill to Marsh Lane) with a gate, at our request. However, the sewage leak at Smallbrook continues to be an issue. The Environment Agency has assured Councillor John Dean that it will be fixed shortly. John will be monitoring this.

Councillor Monica Herpoldt-Bright briefed us on the Britain in Bloom entry and we gave permission for some flower-adorned bikes to be placed on the green for the short time of the judging. Monica is also trying to arrange a meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch volunteers with our local police liaison officer.

Councillor Liz Ouldrige attended a meeting on resilience organised by Devon Communities together. The Environment Agency provided some useful contacts which may be of interest to parishioners. To check your property's flood risk, you should visit this website <https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/risk> . If you wish to sign up to free flood warnings by phone or email, please visit www.gov.uk/get-flood-warnings or phone 0345 988 1188. If you need to consider flood resilience measures,

then www.befloodready.uk ,
www.floodmary.com and
www.bluepages.org.uk may be
 helpful.

The National Grid was also
 advertising its Priority Services
 Register. You can sign up to this by
 ringing 0800 096 3060 or visiting
[https://customer.nationalgrid.co.uk/
 advice-and-guidance/priority-services](https://customer.nationalgrid.co.uk/advice-and-guidance/priority-services).
 This service is free and available to
 anyone who relies on electricity for
 medical equipment, uses a stairlift/
 electric hoist, etc, or who would be
 distressed and unable to cope with an
 unexpected power cut. The service
 will give you a phone number to
 contact in case of a power cut. It will
 inform you in advance if there is to be

a planned power cut and will provide
 updates while power is off. It can also
 provide some assistance through other
 organisations such as the Red Cross.

The next meeting of the Parish
 Council will be on 7th May in the Club
 Room of the Parish Hall. It will start
 with our Annual Parish Meeting at 7
 pm. Do come along as we will be
 presenting the work accomplished by
 the Parish Council over the last year,
 as well as our accounts. It is a good
 opportunity for you to talk to us about
 your local concerns.

Liz Ouldrige
 Chair
 Newton St Cyres Parish Council

Newton St Cyres Parish Council **Invites you to the Annual Parish Meeting**

on Thursday 7 May 2026

**This is the annual meeting for parishioners to come together
 and discuss parish issues and all parishioners are welcome to
 attend**

**There will be a report on the Parish Council's activities over the
 past year and the PC accounts will be available.**

**This is an opportunity for parishioners to raise any questions
 or discussion items regarding anything and everything Newton
 St Cyres related.**

Crediton Arts Centre Presents

The Tempest

**A play by
William Shakespeare**

Performances at Newton St Cyres Arboretum on

Saturday 27th June at 3pm

Sunday 28th June at 3pm

Adult ticket £10; Concession ticket £8.50 (booking fee applies)

Tickets available now online from:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/creditonartscentre

printed tickets available from:

Helen 07717 062810 or Andrew 01392 851164

Please bring own refreshments, seats or picnic rug!

Proceeds of this event go to Friends of Newton Arboretum



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Kitchen: 12:00-15:00 and 17:00-21:00
Sunday Pub: 16:00-21:00 Kitchen CLOSED

Newton St Cyres, Devon, EX5 5AX
01392 851282

Newton St Cyres 200 Club

The winners for April 2026

No. 68	N Wheadon	£100.00
No. 197	S Whalley	£10.00
No. 221	D & S Rowell	£10.00
No. 244	I Harris	£10.00
No. 214	C Lethbridge	£10.00

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

VILLAGE LUNCH

Thursday 21st May 2026, 12:30pm

2 courses + tea/coffee £17

(Gratuities at your discretion)

This month will be at the

BEER ENGINE

MAIN COURSES:

Confit Duck Leg, Roasted New Potatoes, Veg & Gravy
Crispy Fried Scampi, Chips, Peas & Tartare Sauce
Sausages, Mustard Mash, Peas & Onion Gravy
Red Lentil, Chickpea & Vegetable Curry, Rice & Poppadom

DESSERTS:

Sticky Toffee Pudding, Vanilla Ice Cream
Vanilla Ice Cream & Baileys
Crème Brûlée

To book, please ring **JOHN or CHRIS SALTER, 851 346**
by Sunday 17th please, with Names & Menu Choices

NEWTON RAMBLERS

Sunday 10th May

The walk this month will be a circular one around the wildlife-rich wetland of **Exminster Marshes and the Exe Estuary**. It should be a fairly easy, flat walk of around 4 miles. We will start from the RSPB car park off Station Rd, Exeter EX6 8DZ, this postcode takes you to Station Road. The access for the car park requires you to take a sharp turn to your right, off Station Road. If you have binoculars, do bring these with you, as there should be chance to see birds around the Marshes & along the Canal. Walking Boots (or Wellingtons if we have had a lot of rain prior to the 10th May) are advised. The walk is mainly on footpaths, but we will cross fields and there could be a stile to negotiate.

We will initially meet at Newton St Cyres Parish Hall Car Park at 9.30am in order to reduce the number of cars that we take to the start of the walk.

If you plan to meet us at the RSPB car park, please let us know in advance & we will look to leave there by 10.30am (traffic dependant)

A table has been booked for 10 people at 1.30pm at the Royal Oak in Exminster, where they have a wide menu selection but **NOT a Sunday Roast**. Please reserve your place with Nicola on the number below by Tuesday 5th May, as I will need to make a pre-order.

All are welcome, and further information about the walk is available from Nicola on 01392 851985



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

Newton St Cyres Tennis Club

We had our AGM on March 31st and it was a lovely evening in the Beer Engine.

We welcome new committees members and with all the hard work in the background the Club is running smoothly due to the hard work of all the volunteers.

Spring has sprung and the bulbs are flowering and the trees budding, so do join us for tennis. It is such a relief to have dry and so often sunny weather here in and around Newton St Cyres since the really wet winter.



On 1st April the new membership year started; ready for you to have a go at some tennis. Do contact our membership secretary Laura Leigh on 01647 24259 or membership@newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk for details and you shall have an enjoyable year of tennis and banter and friendships.

You can also come as a guest three times a year for a small fee. Maybe you would like to try that.

There are a number of teams playing in the league this summer and a few of our not so rusty rackets' group have entered a team in the league. Congratulations.

And you can now enter for the Club Tournament which is very popular and the finals will be celebrated in September with a BBQ. This is always a great event and not to be missed.

Junior coaching is now run by our coach James Temple and is well attended. It takes place on Wednesdays. There is place for more experienced juniors in the older groups.

Jon Wills our coach offers private coaching both individually and for small groups, so if you feel you need to brush up your skills or learn more about the doubles' game, just get in touch with Jon Wills via our website: coach@newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk.

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

Frederiek Maddock



Table Tennis

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

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

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

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

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



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Newton St Cyres Parish Council

Volunteer Road Warden Scheme – Monthly Update

After the wet start to the year, we have spent much of our time recently working with DCC Highways to clear our flooded areas and initiate road repairs. Further to this, we have been implementing repairs/ maintenance to the drainage network to prevent future reoccurrences by working with Highways and Land Owners to find longer term solutions. In summary, this year to mid-April we have:

- * Assisted residents effected by the January floods
- * Worked with DCC to ensure speedy road repairs post flooding along Station Road
- * Reported and liaised with Highways to get Camps Bridge repaired after storm damage
- * Liaised with Highways and Environment Agency to report and repair sewerage leaks in Smallbrook
- * Assisted in distributing salt grit to the community in icy conditions
- * Cleared road drains outside Belunos/Old Post Office removing 7 wheelbarrows of grit!
- * Cleared road drains in West Town Road/Riscombe Hill, discovering a long term blockage!
- * Liaised with Land Owners to discuss and plan longer term flood prevention initiatives
- * Filled 24 potholes in our roads and reported many more for Highways repair

YOU CAN ALSO HELP US by reporting anything you see that may cause a hazard to the public. Whether this be a pothole, overgrown hedge, blocked drain or dirty signs we are problem solvers! If we can't help then we know who to report it to for speedy attention.

Please report anything using our online reporting form using the QR code or contact the Parish Clerk via email: parishclerk@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk



Open Gardens for Hospiscare

**Thur 7 May,
Tuesday 2 &
Monday 15 June
2pm - 4pm**

Compass House, Sand Down Lane, Newton St Cyres, EX5 5DE

A half-acre, level garden focused on wildlife and pollinator-friendly planting. Borders are filled with shrubs, perennials and annuals, many grown from seed in the greenhouse.

Two patios with planted containers offer lovely views and space to enjoy refreshments.

Dogs: On leads

Toilets: Yes

Refreshments: Tea, coffee, soft drinks and home baked cakes

WHERE: Compass House, Sand Down Lane, Newton St Cyres, EX5 5DE

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS: Level garden from parking in front

ADMISSION: By donation

Parking: On forecourt (priority disabled/elderly); 4 on farm track; 10 spaces at neighbour's (3 mins' walk)

CONTACT

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NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP



“More than just the Barns of Crediton” The Prayer Book Rebellion of 1549

Tony Gale of the Crediton Area History & Museum Society is a local historian who has

uncle, Edward Seymour, was Lord Protector of the Realm until 1549. Seymour was a committed and zealous Protestant, keen to reform the church. He introduced a new Prayer Book in 1549, and the stage was set for rebellion.

specialised in Devon’s past and especially the Crediton district. He edited the book *The Great Fire of Crediton 1743* in 2023 and has spoken to us on this and other topics over the years. This time his topic was how the dramatic and violent events of the Prayer Book Rebellion in Devon and Cornwall affected Crediton and Newton St Cyres over 475 years ago.

The tragic events that spring and summer in 1549 were caused by King Henry VIII’s break with the Pope in Rome. His need for a male heir and thus his need to divorce Catherine of Aragon are well known, but Tony pointed out that King Henry never renounced his Catholicism. The Pope had given him the title ‘Defender of the Faith’ (Fidei Defensor); Henry was proud of this and the title is still held by British monarchs, appearing on the coinage as F.D. (you can check this!). However, Henry’s son and heir, Edward VI, had been brought up as a Protestant. He was still a minor when he was crowned in 1547 and his

Tony explained clearly why so many ordinary people were driven to this desperate act, using an inventory of Crediton Church dated 1547. It records how the images and altars of Mary, St Katherine, St John and St Nicholas were destroyed. Furthermore, the 24 clergy of this Collegiate Church were dismissed and the lands and income taken in by the state. The clergy were given a pension, but the shock of these changes was greatly resented. The introduction of a new Book of Common Prayer was the final straw. It was in English, so that although it could be understood as Latin was not, the familiar mystery and comfort of the services was lost. Tony made the point that Cornwall was still Cornish speaking and so one foreign language was replaced by another. People now had to participate in the mass every week instead of just at Easter, and the priestly embroidered and colourful vestments were replaced by black and white robes.

Outrage boiled over in Sampford Courtenay at the Whit Monday service. The congregation grew more and more angry, voicing their feelings that King Henry would never have changed the old religion. They decided to petition King Edward by marching to London, a route which took them through Crediton. In Exeter, forces were raised by the Carew family and marched west to settle the protest. In Crediton, barriers were built to protect the town from the soldiers and here we come to The Barns of the title of Tony's talk. He is reasonably sure that the site of the main barrier was where the present Bowden Hill meets Park Road; there was a Tithe Barn there and this was on the old Exeter Road. There was a confrontation and the soldiers were repelled, so they set fire to the barrier and the barns. The protestors fled and the soldiers returned to Exeter thinking that they had dealt with the matter. It was June 22nd. However, as Tony put it, the burning of the barns had fanned the flames of anger and by June 29th, a week later, a force large enough to march on Exeter had gathered. The protest and petition had escalated into a rebellion.

Events now moved swiftly. The rebels had been joined by a large Cornish force and they besieged Exeter. King Edward appointed Lord John Russell to march westwards and suppress the rebellion. The opposing troops fought at Fenny Bridges, Woodbury Common and finally Clyst St Mary,

where Russell won the day and, infamously, massacred large numbers of bound rebels by cutting their throats. The siege of Exeter was lifted. It was now early August and Russell proceeded to crush the rebellion with great cruelty, burning houses, killing men and even taking the property of those loyal to the crown. On 16th August his troops marched towards Sampford Courtenay on their mission to stamp out the rebels, passing through Newton St Cyres and spending the night in Crediton. Graeme Barnell had supplied Tony with a story from a book of 1847, describing how Geoffrey Arundel had sent his daughter, Cecy, to an uncle in Newton St Cyres. After pillaging the village, one of the Royalist commanders carried her off, and Arundel was killed trying to save her. There is no way of verifying this account, but it shows how dramatic and dreadful the events of that July and August. There were about 7,000 men who had to be fed and given sleeping quarters in the town. Tony played us a vivid dramatic reconstruction of how this would have played out in an ordinary family who had such men forced upon them. The final battle at Sampford Courtenay finished the rebellion.

Even with the rebellion crushed, retribution went on in Devon and Cornwall. The names of two local men are recorded, Captain Maunder (a Crediton family name) was arrested at Samford Courtenay and Thomas

Dowrich of Dowrich, accused of being a rebel sympathiser. There is no record of their fate after their arrests. The instructions were that the leaders should be hung, drawn and quartered and 'popish priests' hung from the bell towers of their own churches. Property was confiscated from suspected rebels and given to known loyalists.

By mid-September the government felt that things had gone far enough and Russell was recalled, as having exceeded his duty. An interesting footnote from Tony was that the vicar of Crediton, George Mason, somehow

remained as priest throughout the conflict. He had been a Catholic vicar yet he must have introduced the religious changes as required by the law. The final irony, of course, is that when King Edward died in 1553, Mary Tudor became queen and returned the country to Catholicism. These were dangerous times to live through.

Many thanks to Tony Gale for his beautifully illustrated and detailed description of these tumultuous events.

Isobel Hepworth

Very sadly, in the time between the talk and the publication of this article, Tony Gale has died after a short but devastating illness. He delivered his presentation sitting down because he could not stand for any length of time. It is a great loss and our sympathy goes to his family and friends, and to the Crediton Area Museum and History Society with whom he worked so closely.

Past and future for the History Group

When our Chairwoman, Jean Wilkins, introduced this talk on Wednesday 11th February 2026, she announced that she and her husband, Roger, our Treasurer, would be retiring after the March meeting. She mentioned some of our founder members who were present in the audience, particularly Christopher Southcott who had been instrumental in our first (and only, so far!) excavation into the water system at Court Barton in Spring 2011. She said how supportive Sandford History Group have been and thanked Mike Brett for his meticulous sound and video recordings of our meetings. Crediton Museum were also acknowledged, and a representative who was present thanked Jean in return.

Jean then outlined some thoughts about how the group could go forward in different ways, such as using technology for research, meetings and recording. She thought that house histories of properties in the parish would be interesting and recommended 'Find My Past' as a particularly useful web site.

Anyone interested in participating should contact Midge Kelly
midge.kelly333@gmail.com

How well do you know your village?
Can you answer the following questions?:-
1. WHEN was the picture taken?
2. WHERE was it taken?
3. WHO is in the Picture?

No 108



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

JUST A THOUGHT

It's not often that the County Council gets much praise, but the quality of work on the resurfacing of the A377 on the Crediton side of the Cowley roundabout is exceptional. All done out of sight overnight and finished immaculately, with sharp new road markings. Congratulations to all involved at Highways! And yet some people thought it necessary to complain online that the work over-ran the schedule!

The Grockle

Newton St Cyres-in-Bloom 2026

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Newton St Cyres in Bloom

RHS Britain in Bloom SW Spring Seminar. 26th March 2026

The annual Spring Seminar held at RHS Rosemoor was attended from Newton St Cyres by Cathy Wightman, Emma Parkin, Paul Collier, and Christine Fraser. It provided an excellent opportunity to network with other groups, chat informally to Bloom judges, and to see some excellent projects and practices. Among these, as featured in SW in Bloom's autumn newsletter, is a photograph of Roger Wilkins and Andrew Gee with an article about our arboretum winning the SW Regional CPRE Environmental Award! Well done again – particularly as one of the speakers at the seminar was Hugh Edwards, Head of the CPRE, so he will have taken particular notice, I'm sure!

Some of the advice to think about for this year's entries was:

- Don't feel you have to include more in your entry: *include better quality!*
- Schools remain very important to the RHS, so do include them [and we do..]
- Get your local councils to support you (e.g. Mid Devon District Council)
- Increase the number of volunteers by securing 'corporate giving', i.e. businesses giving staff time off to support your projects

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Ali Marshall, head gardener at Torre Abbey, Torquay.

Ali's excellent presentation focused on Health and Wellbeing. Her projects argue that conditions such as dementia, OCD, depression, bipolar, anxiety (especially in men, interestingly) are reduced by 36% when people are engaged in gardening and being in active in green spaces.

Research: *Mycobacterium vaccae* is a non-pathogenic bacterium found naturally in soil and water that may improve mood, reduce stress, and potentially boost cognitive function. When inhaled or absorbed through skin contact with soil, it activates serotonin-releasing neurons, acting as a natural antidepressant and anti-inflammatory agent.

Summing up the Japanese practice of 'forest bathing' (a prescribed healing activity), Ali reminded us to *Connect – Take Notice – Keep Learning – Be Active – GIVE.*



Dave Harris, Marge and Courtney Ware and Ron Nethercott proudly displaying the village Gold Award last year

Judging will take place in July (date to be confirmed) and take approximately 2.5 hours. The judges will take into account *everything* they see as they travel round the village – such as clean and well-maintained public fixtures (bus shelters, roadside bollards, street sign), ‘art-in-the landscape’ and (this year we are planning on painted/floral decorated bike at strategic points), household gardens as they pass by, etc. This means there is an opportunity for everyone to contribute in a small way!

Our Village

Entry 2026: We have registered our village and this year we will be in the ‘Mary Mortimer Trophy’ group. This is a step up from 2025 and villages in our group include Poltimore, Charmouth, Chew Magna, Plympton St Maurice, and St Buryan. The Newton judging route will be as last year, i.e. all 11 key points from the Beer Engine and railway station to Pump Street and the Parish Hall (see map).



*Our celebration in the Parish Hall last Autumn with some of the many participants and award winners
(Photo by Ann Quon Cordingley)*

This year, in addition to the whole village entry, we have 6 IYNs ('It's Your Neighbourhood' groups). Each of the 6 IYN projects will therefore get some additional 'assessment' time and, at the awards event, will receive a framed certificate specific to that project. The 6 IYNs are the railway station, Newton St Cyres Primary School, Kingfisher Close, Court Orchard, the arboretum, and the village green.

Just a bit more about IYNs: They are free to enter as the cost is covered by the RHS. IYNs are designed to help develop, celebrate and give recognition to volunteer-led community action groups. The core pillars for Assessment are:

- Community Participation 40%
- Environmental Responsibility 30%
- Gardening Achievement 30%

The Assessment Levels are:

- Level 1 – Establishing
- Level 2 – Improving
- Level 3 – Advancing
- Level 4 – Thriving
- Level 5 – Outstanding

You may recall that our school achieved Level 4 last year, a really excellent grade for a first entry. And the school wild flower meadow is featured in the SW in Bloom autumn newsletter under the 'Best New Entry' award.

Our NSC in 'Bloom' Portfolio

This year we will again produce a Portfolio for the judges in which will feature many of the 'Bloom' projects, with photographs showing some of

the year-round work.. The Portfolio is designed by Martin Taylor. The 2025 Portfolio was shortlisted for 'Best in the South West'. It was a terrific community effort and something all contributors can be proud of.

RHS South West in Bloom Awards

These will be held in Torquay in the autumn and anyone participating in the village entry can attend with Christine, Cathy and our mentor, Paul. There is a fee for this event and we are hoping to get a grant to cover most of the costs – and the lunch is usually excellent!

Christine Fraser & Cathy Wightman



ST CYR COFFEE MORNING

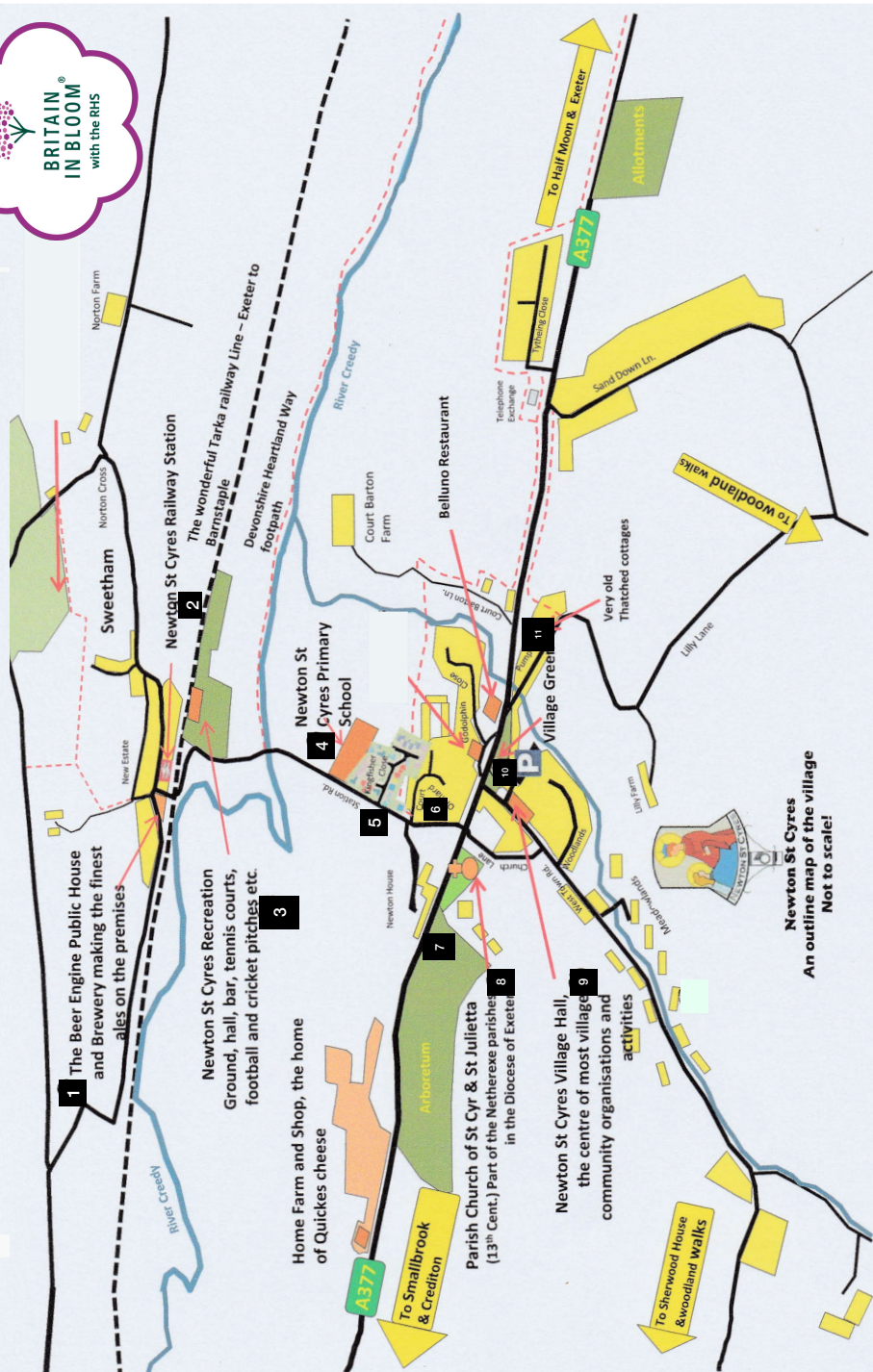
**MAY 9TH 2026
10.30 - 12.00**

**PARISH HALL
Newton St Cyres**

**A warm welcome
for coffee and chat,
stalls and raffle.**

*All funds in aid
of Church.*

Judging Tour Points numbers 1 - 11



Newton St Cyres
An outline map of the village
Not to scale!

Bert Jewell writes Rhymes and Ways about Gardens and Gardening

May

May, and the long days of winter now a thing of the past,
There's warmth in the sun, things are growing quite fast,
From seeds sown in April to plants we can share,
Runner beans in little pots with half a dozen spare.

Ready to be planted when the risk of frost has past,
Keep them fed and watered, through the summer they will last,
There's Broad Beans in the veg patch that were planted weeks ago,
Now they're all in flower, but they started off real slow.

Wisteria on the trellis, its flowers lilac blue,
It may be shy to flower if the plant is fairly new,
But give it time to settle, to find its way around,
It needs to get those fleshy roots way down into the ground.

"Montana" out in flower as it scrambles through a tree,
So beautiful to look at but sadly not for me,
I like "Nelly Moser", more gentle and refined,
Other than the cold at night, she really doesn't mind.

There's "Mrs Bradshaw" in the border, her flower scarlet red,
She helps to keep the weeds down, "in a magazine I read",
It also said to stop a while, to take a well-earned rest,
To look around the garden and to know you've done your best.

Things to do in the garden

After the hard work in March and April, preparing the ground, cutting down last year's flower stems that were left for the insects to overwinter, sowing this year's seeds and generally tidying borders and beds, it's now time to enjoy the flowers and all the new growth that will brighten up our life in this time of uncertainty and cost.

I mentioned "Clematis Montana" in my poem, but don't get me wrong, I really like the show of flowers you get with a Montana, but it's a bit like the Russian Vine (Polygonum). It goes everywhere. If you don't have close neighbours and the boundary fences are yours, peace will prevail.

On a few occasions in my work I ended up "Piggy in the middle". A Montana had gone through a fence into a shrub border next door. The neighbours wanted it cut back hard, my customer wanted it trimmed. Hard pruning could lose the flowers for a year; they are normally just tidied up. Clematis "Nelly Moser" is a large flowered hybrid with pink and mauve pyjama striped flowers, it doesn't need a lot of pruning, but can be cut back a little in February, to flower in May and June and in September.

"Mrs Bradshaw" is a Geum, a hardy perennial suitable for the herbaceous border. The large leaves are good as ground cover, suppressing the weeds, and the flowers are brick red.

May is also a good time to prune "Ribes Sanguineum" or Flowering Currant as it is known, and "Forsythia". Don't go mad with the secateurs, but clip them enough to keep them in a manageable size.

If you grow a "Mahonia", it may be a good idea to cut off the tops of each stem that has flowered. They flower December / January. Cut them just under the old flower head. If left unpruned, they just keep growing up and you end up with a 6' unsightly stem and flowers you can't see, or you could leave them to produce berries for the blackbirds. "

"Mahonia Aquifolium" flowers in March and can be used for growing a low hedge.

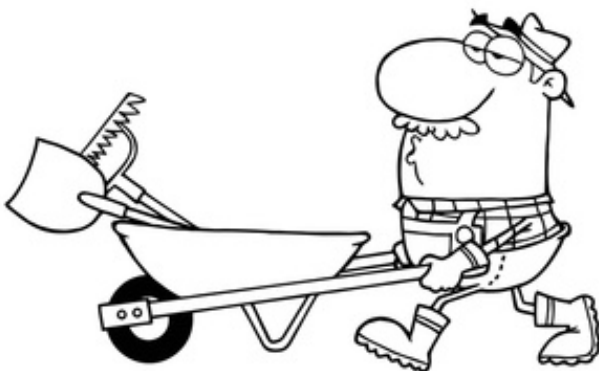
In the veg patch you can sow seeds of Swede, Beetroot, maincrop Carrots, Peas, Radish, Lettuce and Spring Onions. If you grow Potatoes, continue to earth them up, this will help to keep the haulms protected from the late frost and help stop the developing potatoes going green. Green Potatoes are poisonous.

Plant of the Month

"Viburnum Mariesii"

A spreading shrub with tiered branches, the leaves unfurl in spring followed by white flat flower heads all along the branches. Can grow to about 8' x 8' in time. Well drained soil in sun or dappled shade.

Enjoy your gardening



ARBORETUM NEWS MAY 2026

Well it certainly felt like spring had arrived last week, not so much today while I write this. But nature marches on. The camelias and magnolias all come out at various times and currently some have flowered and gone, some are looking their best and others are still waiting. There are plenty of other wildflowers, daffodils, primroses and bluebells throughout the arboretum and so there is plenty to look for and enjoy if you venture into this area of the village.

The arboretum has had its annual tree inspection – a vital requirement of our insurance and another example of the efforts of our team of volunteers that carry on without most people in the village being aware of it. Some areas of grass have had their first cut of the year, carefully avoiding the areas with small spring flowers. The picnic benches have all been overhauled and repaired as necessary by our volunteers. So grab a picnic and get some fresh air in beautiful surroundings.

I always feel like I am on a rollercoaster at this time of year. Winter hangs on and pushes into spring and things need doing but not quite yet and then, boom, summer is here and most of those spring tasks are still waiting. So it is good to get a little bit ahead of myself and give you some dates for the summer.

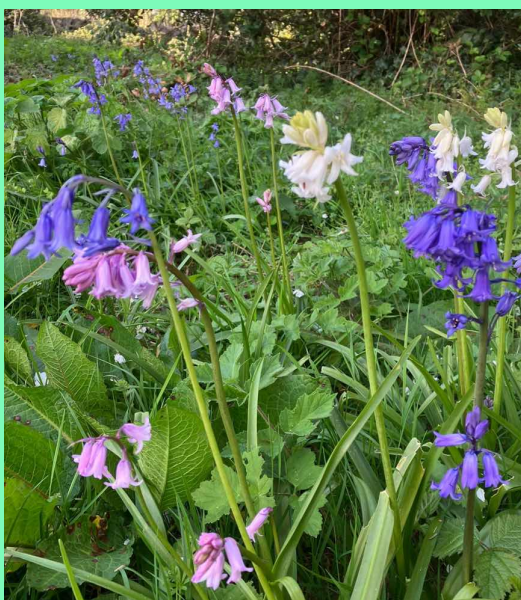
First of all, I am pleased to be able to tell you that the Crediton Arts centre will be performing William Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' in the arboretum this summer. The dates are Saturday and Sunday, 27th and 28th June. Both performances are at 3pm so get your picnic baskets and blankets ready and be ready to be entertained. Ticket details are on the poster elsewhere in this issue and it will be advertised around the village. Previous performances have been tremendously successful, so get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Secondly, the Annual AGM and tour of the arboretum for Friends is now scheduled for 7pm on 3rd June. We are trying a different format this year that may be a little more popular – more details to follow.

Speaking of friends, if you visit the arboretum and enjoy what we are doing there, please think about signing up to be a Friend of the Arboretum. We are very pleased that several people have recently joined the Friends and the ongoing support of all our Friends is vital to the health of the arboretum.

Andrew Gee
Chair, Arboretum Committee

Pictures of the Arboretum in the last couple of weeks



Pictures from Andrew Gee



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16th May. 7.30 pm
La Cenerentola
Opera:



7th
May.
**Jazz
on the
Green**

Music and
Food:

8th May.
7.30 pm
**Mishra
(Griffin &
Collier)**
Music:



22nd - 26th. May
Art Exhibition



28th. May 7.30 pm
Last Thursday Picture Show
Film:



29th. May
7.30 pm
Blade Runner
Film:



Further details of these and all events can be found at www.creditonartscentre.org or in our Summer brochure, available at outlets in Crediton

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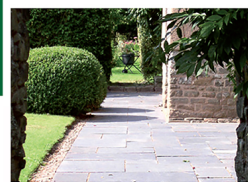
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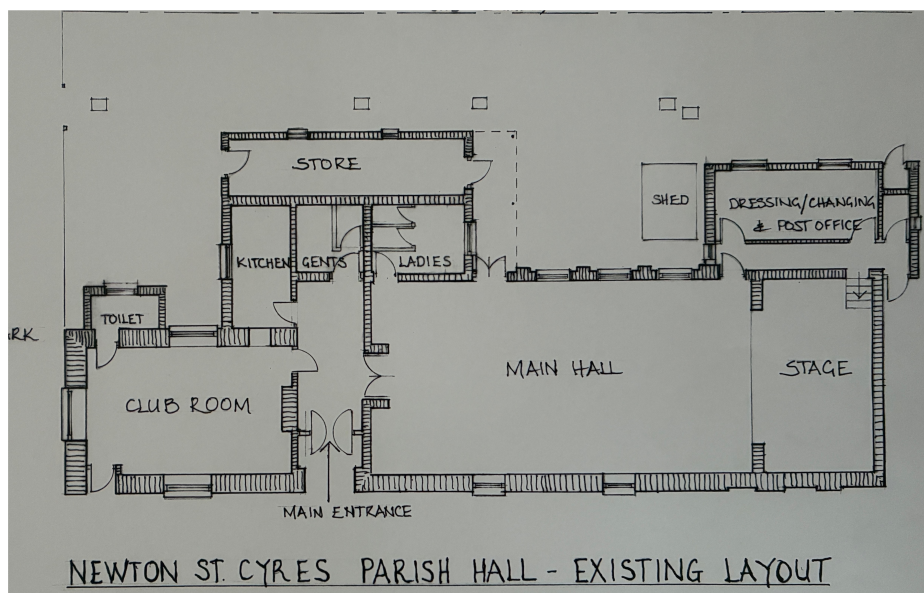
NEWTON St CYRES PARISH HALL

As the Parish Hall enters its centenary year is a great time to examine its future. What do we want of our hall? What facilities could, or should, it offer and for whom?

The new committee is keen to answer these questions and set about bringing our hall into the twenty first century.

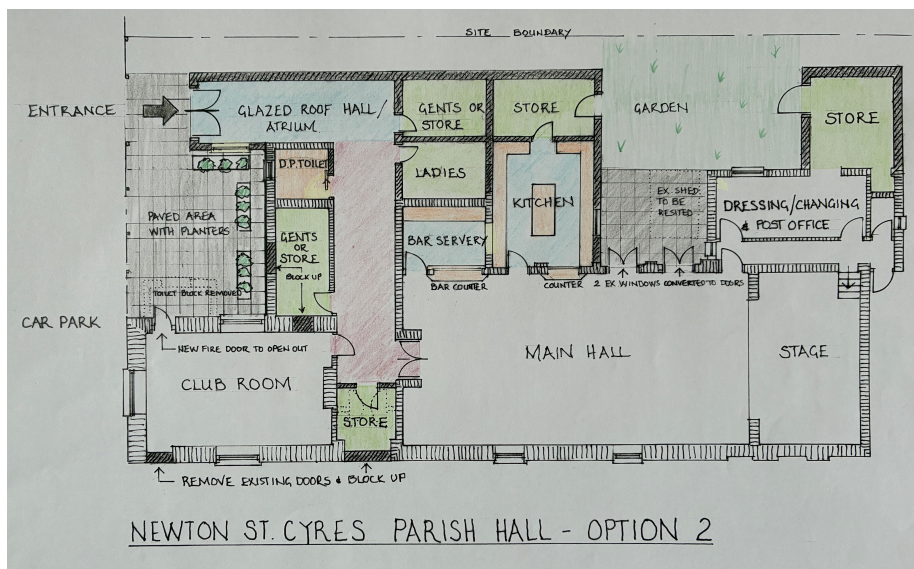
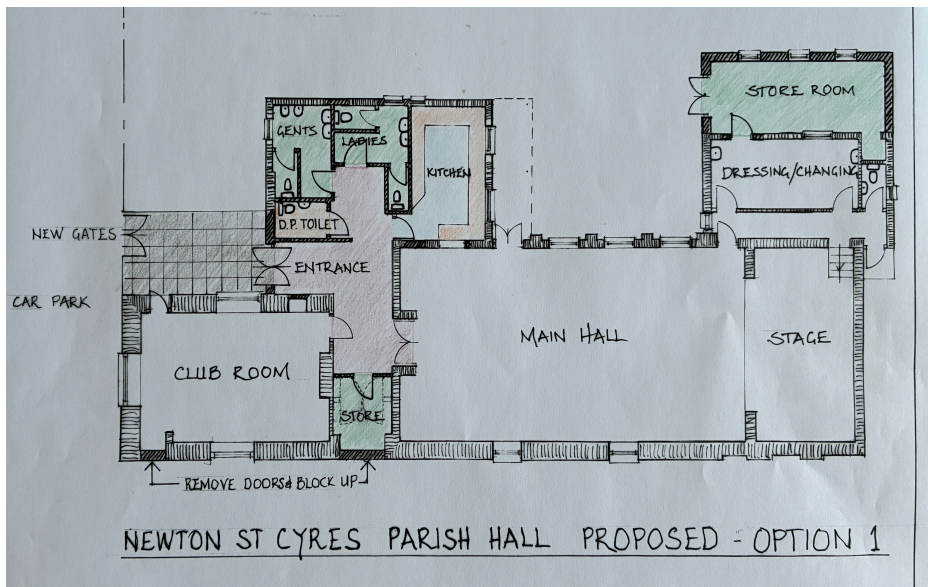
The answers to these questions must be made by the people who use the hall and, more particularly those who will use the facilities in the future.. Please put on your thinking caps and consider what activities we have and those you would like to see in the village and how they could be provided by developing the hall.

Background: The Hall was a cider barn and was given to the village by Capt. Noel Quicke in 1926. So this is our 'Centenary Year'! In 1970 the Hall was significantly 'remodelled' and expanded.



The current floor plan

Current plans: Plans drawn up from 2014 onwards show possible ways of relocating the front door to the car park side, because of the risk from the exiting doors opening straight onto the increasingly busy West Town Road. Two suggested possibilities are shown below.



Going Forward: The current possible plans reflect the past and emphasise the need to move the entrance. In the centenary year plans need to look to the future. The village may decide that the current plans are not appropriate for the 21st century and a much more radical approach needs to be taken. Your views are the most important. Please think about future use of the hall and the features and facilities you would like to see. We need to work this year on producing a final re-ordering plan with advice from Mid Devon Planning and Conservation Officers, then submit a Planning Application.

First the views of our community will be sought and taken onboard. Please help us by looking at the draft outline plans displayed above and in more detail at The Post Office in the Parish Hall and completing the short survey on the next page.



An artist's impression of option 2, showing the end-gable on the right viewed from the car park

Parish Hall Questionnaire

Please tick the boxes below

	Yes	No	Unsure
Will a new side entrance from the car park improve safety?	☐	☐	☐
Do toilets need to be accessible from a foyer i.e. not via the Hall?	☐	☐	☐
Does the kitchen need to be expanded for catering events, parties?	☐	☐	☐
Should the Hall have a Bar?	☐	☐	☐
Should the Hall have a Coffee Shop?	☐	☐	☐
Should the Hall have Solar powered energy?	☐	☐	☐
Should the blank end-gable feature a 'village' mural?	☐	☐	☐
Would you like to join the Fund-Raising Team? If so, please give your name and contact number and/or email.	☐	☐	☐

Your Name _____

Tel: _____

email: _____

Please complete and return the questionnaire and return to The Post Office at the Hall on Tuesday 5 May or Tuesday 12 May.

Thank you.

Nigel Chambers, Parish Hall Chairman

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any community and fill important gaps in many areas of village life. Some groups and organisations in Newton St Cyres have no trouble attracting them. But, as Ann Quon Cordingley reports, others sometimes struggle.

Lorraine Mitchell says she loves volunteering. A retired nurse, she helps out at the Adonai Kitchen in the Parish Hall, serving folk who are there for the "pay what you like" meals on offer twice weekly. "I come in to help once or twice a month. I really like being with people and helping out," she once told me.

Lorraine is one of the 20 or so volunteers who help out at Adonai Kitchen. The "boss", Jocelyne Rimbon-Whittaker, says: "They give their whole souls and when they are here, they are like angels. The work is hard but they are warm and caring, and without that, this wouldn't be a success."

While Adonai and other groups such as the arboretum enthusiasts and community allotment have no problem attracting volunteers, the same cannot be said for all groupings in the village. A quick scan of village life shows that finding willing hands is quite a challenge.

The Recreation Club (or Rec) is struggling, as are the church, the Parish Hall and the History Group. The Parish Council was also in a fix until

recently, but a recruitment drive has attracted three new councillors, bringing the total to eight.

Here's the situation around the village as far as can be established:

Everyone knows that when it comes to sports, **the Rec** is the go-to place. It is the venue for football, cricket, tennis, archery, skittles and darts. Over the years it has hosted private functions and special events and celebrations such as the Revels, fireworks night, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the Music and Dance Festival.

Yet the Rec has only six or seven volunteers to undertake the enormous range of tasks needed to keep everything going. This includes taking bookings, ensuring the cricket and football pitches are well maintained, cutting the grass, manning the bar when needed and much more. On any given day you will find Ian Harris, who describes himself as the club's dog's body, mowing the pitches, fixing a leaky roof or serving at the bar – all on a voluntary basis. It comes as no surprise, then, that the club is in desperate need of more volunteers. This includes a secretary, committee members, bar staff, and general maintenance workers for buildings and the play equipment.

One reason could be the general misconception about how the place is funded and run. "A lot of people think the Rec is run by the Parish Council," says long-time Rec committee



The Rec's Cathy Yate

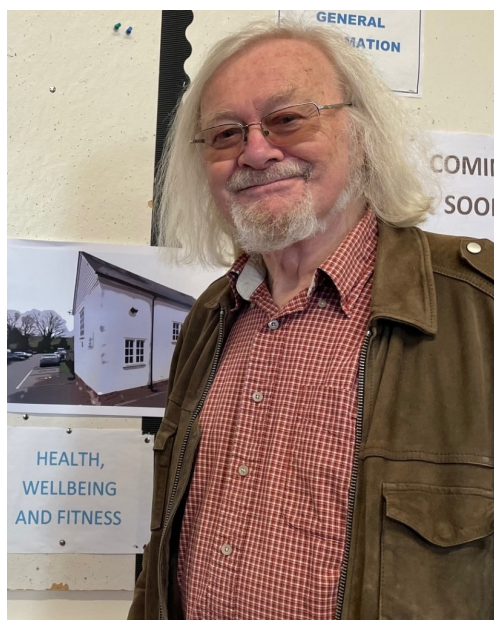
member and volunteer Cathy Yate. "This is not the case. It's a licensed independent community organisation run entirely by volunteers."

"It's all non-profit," adds Ian Harris. "Whatever we make goes back into the club, so no one ever makes any money out of it."

Cathy says that given how vital a resource the Rec is, it could use more volunteers to help spread the load. "We serve local football and cricket teams, plus indoor sports in the winter months and incorporate the tennis club. There's a wonderful children's playground that I think every child in the village uses," she says. "We'd like to do more, but without more

volunteers, we are limited in what we can do," she says. She's had to cut back on volunteering behind the bar as she deals with a temporary health issue, but is determined to stay active behind the scenes.

The **Parish Hall** is another vital community asset where people meet, ranging from clubs, organisations, official bodies, tutoring classes and fundraisers to family gatherings and parties. It needs a volunteer bookings secretary to answer telephone enquiries and emails. Its current bookings secretary, Peter Watts, is stepping down after five years in the role. Although most of the work is done using Hallmaster, an online booking system, it does require a human to keep an eye on things.



Nigel Chambers in the Parish Hall

"Many of our users are regular hirers and they can increasingly use Hallmaster directly for rebookings and changes.," says Nigel Chambers, Parish Hall chair. Other events are more 'one-off', such as birthday parties or new regular bookings. These all require information about the Hall's facilities, availability and charges, before being booked in, with paperwork exchanged. "That's the heart of the bookings secretary's job, although we have a team of people who help out, showing potential hirers round and locking/unlocking the hall as required," says Nigel.

The **parish church** has been without a church warden for a year, after the long-time church warden and stalwart, Sue Browne, stepped back.

Pita Burt, the church's honorary secretary, says: "It's difficult filling posts. People are so busy." However, Pita says filling the voluntary roles could provide an opportunity to look at things differently. "Perhaps, this is also an opportunity: new people, new beginnings, new direction. Instead of looking for one or two people, a group could do the warden job more pleasurably and try new ideas. Keep this amazing building singing!" she says.

Meanwhile, the **History Group** has seen the retirement of Jean and Roger Wilkins, two of its founding members and driving forces.

Some say the challenge in finding another Jean Wilkins is that it is the kind of work that appeals to those

with a special interest – in this case local history. As with the case of the parish church, the dilemma may also be an opportunity to help reshape the group, to modernise it and seek new directions.

"The future direction of the History Group will be determined by the people who choose to drive it forward," says Group member Midge Kelly. Options might include continuing with the current guest-speaker format, or focusing on research, arranging visits to local historical sites or events, cataloguing and digitising local historical records, or contributing to Heritage Open Days.

"The main challenges as I see them will be to attract enough volunteers to run things, ensuring that historical records are not lost, and maintaining financial viability," Midge says.

But it's not all bad news. Other groups such as Adonai Kitchen, the arboretum, the community allotment managed by the Newton Environmental Wellbeing Group, Britain in Bloom, the Gardening Club and Neighbourhood Watch are thriving.

Parish Council Chair Liz Ouldrige thinks that the village doesn't do badly when it comes to volunteers. When she put together a list of all the people who volunteered in the parish last summer, to thank them for their contribution, it came to nearly 100 people. "I was taken aback at so many," she says. "There are only about 800 people in the parish. So that's pretty good."

But she agrees it is difficult to get people to take on jobs involving a lot of responsibility. "Partly it's because people lack confidence in themselves, partly it's because most people are very busy and don't think they have time to take on a major role," she says.

One issue is that the national retirement age has gone up. With the retirement age now 67, people are working longer. "So that stock of youngish, enthusiastic volunteers is no longer there. Even when people do retire, many now have care duties, either a partner or a parent," Liz says.

Some say the problem may be with cliques – where long-established groups have been together for years, and so newcomers may not feel welcome.

Whatever the reasons, there is no doubt that volunteering has its benefits. People volunteer to make a

positive impact on the community, gain new skills, improve their mental and physical health, ease feelings of loneliness and build social connections. But best of all, they make our community stronger, more vibrant, more cohesive and a more caring place to live.

Interested in volunteering? These groups would love to hear from you:

Recreation Club: Carrie-Ann Finning:
finning-
newtonstcyresrecreationalclub@outlook.com

Parish church: Pita Burt
pitaburt@gmail.com

Parish Hall: Nigel Chambers
nchambers@ctc.uk.com

History Group: Midge Kelly:
midge.kelly333@gmail.com

Photos by Ann Quon Cordingley

Do you play Bridge?

Would you like to come and play Bridge at our friendly club in Morchard Bishop? We meet every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm with a free lesson beforehand for those who want it.

Why not come along and give us a try?

For more information, contact me, John Chater -01363 877096



May on the Farm

The joys and sounds of spring

This slow and beautiful spring builds up to its climax. The cool weather extended the gorgeous process of leaves unfurling. Each plant starts with its own particular shade of green, olive, red. And now the leaves are mostly moving to mid green.

The songbirds make a wall of sound as they work to feed their hungry chicks. Swifts swoop high and low by the river, swallows soar overhead while their chicks peep from their nests in the barn, house martins dart over the trees. Tiny and indomitable, they seem effortless in flight even after their miraculous journey from Africa.

April's sweet showers dampened the soil after March's drier weather. Now we hope for that benign variability, cool and warm, wet and dry, for our spring-grown crops, grass, clover, oats and maize for winter feed and seeding fresh pastures.

I love to see the cows in the long shadows of evening in the pastures echoing with birdsong. The ladies have a playtime quality now, their milking and big meals done, just filling in the edges and chatting with friends, making the acquaintance of any visitors.

The spring calving cows are particularly frisky. They are on their holiday from pregnancy. Every 21 days looking for Mr Bull and practising with others at around the same stage of ovulation. At the end of the month we give them their desire, first from the AI technician for the best grazing and cheesemaking milk bulls we can find. If that doesn't do it for them, they have a frolic with the little black Angus bulls.

The bulls have been best of friends all winter, companionably grazing on outlying fields. Suddenly they are in competition for the ladies who are hot to go. We keep them with separate groups to avoid any jealous spats until their work is done and friendship is restored.

The cows can no longer keep up with the grass growth. We cut the surplus bounty for winter feed. Silage making is a task of speed to preserve all the nutrients and make the best fermentation: the target is to cut in the morning and pick up in the evening. Only the kind of large machines run by Dan Chanin, our local contractor based at Smallbrook, manage to do this on time. They dance in the field and beyond: mowing, turning, picking up and

chopping, blowing into the trailer, taking back to the pit, rolling down tightly, covering and weighing down to exclude air, all to set up the best lactic acid fermentation. We apologise to our neighbours; the lanes get busy with the tractor drivers intent on preserving the precious nutrients for the winter.

The care with breeding we have taken over the years, driven by Matthew Wheadon's expertise, has given us cows whose milk is up to 25% more full of cheese solids, protein and fat than standard milk. We have had to adjust our make to this, adding the right amount of salt to balance the extra curd. We add salt because it stops the lactic acid bacteria of the starter (same family as the desirable silage making bugs) going too acidic and spoiling the flavour of the cheese.

All that grass and all the rich milk make for a lot of cheese. Full vats of milk make full coolers of cheese curd. Heavy work to cheddar (turn and pile up) the blocks of curd, mill them when they've got to the stretchy stage. Fork in the salt, shovel into the cloth-lined moulds and press and redress and repress the cheeses twice more. Put them on their maturing shelves. The young cheese almost glow, pearly white in their cloths. They develop their rinds with amazing patterns of moulds unique to our store over the next few months.



Mary with the mug

I did a cheese tasting at the wonderful Cheesewick Market in Chiswick for Mothers' Day. Lucy Cufflin, the wonderful prime mover of the market, made me an incredibly beautiful jug with a glaze inspired by the patterns on our cheese rind maturing at the country's leading affineur, Perry James Wakeman at Rennet and Rind in Stamford.

Saturday 16th May 7.30pm

ROB BARRATT

Comic Poet, Wordsmith & Singer

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Rob's act combines clever word-play with satire, verse, song and audience participation.

He deals with such important topics as second homes, squid, distressed furniture, data-driven education, Neanderthal politics and his relationship with potatoes, but beneath the humour serious issues lurk.

He has appeared at arts, literature and folk festivals and venues all over the British Isles and in Australia.

"A cracking evening with a talented wordsmith who made audience participation voluntarily enjoyable." (Liz Williams, Butterleigh Village Hall, Devon, 2024)

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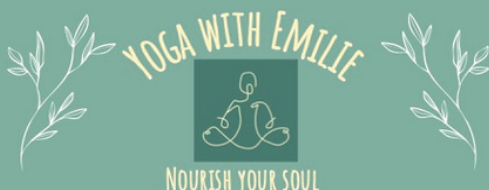
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We also make a few vats of goats' cheese. Our goats' milk comes from farmers a couple of counties away. Their milk hasn't had the attention to breeding we've given our cows over the last 70 years, and we adjust our eyes and our hands to the more delicate milk. We keep the curd soft and moist to give a melt in the mouth almondy quality to the cheese. We are celebrating it this month as a wonderful high spring cheese.

It makes a luscious cheese toastie. I love to pair it with a gentle beetroot relish or beetroot boiled and dressed with a good oil (pumpkin gives a glorious green colour) and a little pepper and ground allspice. The colour contrast is amazing and the warm earthiness and aromatics really complement the cheese.

The shop team are out and about this month. Come and see us at the Devon County Show from Thursday 21st May to Saturday 23rd May. We will be in the Food and Drink Tent and it's always lovely to see local faces. We are also at Exeter Farmers' Market on the quay every third Saturday of the month. The team will cut and wrap cheese to the size you want and we look forward to seeing you on the farm, at the show or on the quay. Our Cheese Shop is also open Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm and Saturday 9am-1pm.

Mary Quicke



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The Strange Mystery of the Three Abandoned Cars.

The purpose of this article is to draw attention to the environmental problem of abandoned cars in our village. It is done humorously through the motif of famous police TV series.

Dear *Sisters (Boniface Mysteries)* and *Brothers (Cadfael)*,

I will *Endeavour* as is my *(Line of) Duty* to share with you the mystery of the three cars abandoned on or near Station Road – just off *Dixon of Dock Green*.

The *Frost* has barely gone, and it is not yet *Midsomer (Murders)* but all three cars have been reported to the *Police (Interceptors)*. I did not expect them to respond within a *Heartbeat* or for *Luther* or *The Sweeney* to arrive, but they were not interested and didn't give a *Scooby Do*. It was like *Waking the Dead*.

What has happened to the spirit of *Miss Marple* or *Poirot*. It appears we are up the *(Jonathan) Creek*.

All the *(Z) cars* showed on the DLVA website as having either no tax or MOT, and we subsequently learned none had insurance. One car was also a suspected “clone”. The cars last showed as being registered in Dorking, Stevenage and Exeter.

After several calls and emails *The Boys (and Girls) in Blue* did attend to *Capture* the details, but had no *Prime Suspect*. I understand they work on a *Shoestring* budget to meet *The Bill(s)*.

All three cars are now reported to Mid Devon Council on “7-day notice” for removal.

It would be *Rebus* of me to discuss abandoned cars without mentioning those that are SORN (Statutory Off-Road Notification) in the Parish Hall car park, blocking spaces for other users. Do these previous owners live a *Life on Mars*? Abandoning vehicles is an offence under the “The Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978”

Thank you and *(Juliet) Bravo* to all those in the community who have *Campion(ed)* this investigation that is not *Pie in the Sky* but a real *Cracker*.

This neighbourhood is a *Broadchurch* of people, but we wish to remain a *Happy Valley* and *Beyond Paradise*.

Yours sincerely

Rumpole of Newton St Cyres.

PS I am off for a glass of *Bergerac*.

[See the Parish Council report in this issue for the council's response to the problem.]

Newton St Cyres Gardening Club

My Easter project was to plant up an Alpine trough. I had meant to do this on several previous occasions, but this year I have actually completed one, as the photograph shows! Troughs are a simple but effective way to grow alpine plants, in conditions as close as possible to their natural environment. They also allow you to be creative in a small space and to experiment with plants that you may not have grown elsewhere in your garden.

Stone troughs are a traditional and attractive way to display alpiners, but are expensive to buy. I was fortunate to already have a spare Belfast sink, and a few suitable stones/rocks. Alpine troughs need an open sunny location, away from trees that may drip on them. As these troughs are heavy, make sure you move them into their final position before planting up. If your chosen location is on a paved area, they only need to be raised a few inches off the ground, on supports such as bricks.

It is essential that you have a drainage hole, and that this is loosely covered using broken pots. This will prevent the trough from filling up with water over the winter, which alpine plants do not like. This also prevents any soil from being washed away, while still allowing water to drain away. I also used a small piece of plastic mesh over the drainage hole, as I had read that this should prevent Vine

Weevils from crawling up into the trough where their grubs can cause considerable root damage.

There are various mixes of compost that can be used, but I opted to mix my own of 50/50 John Innes No 2 Peat Free compost and horticultural grit. The mix should be slightly damp and this can be checked by taking a handful of the mix and squeezing it. If it falls apart it is just right. If it stays in a lump you need to add more grit.

Alpiners do not need a deep soil run, as they are used to thin alpine soils. So, instead of filling the trough with the compost mix, I used broken- up polystyrene packing trays, as these provide a lightweight drainage layer, and reuse a non-recyclable product. If you know that you will not need to move the trough in the future, you could use a thick layer of gravel instead. Another alternative is to use lightweight clay balls that can be bought at garden centres. All of these methods improve drainage by allowing excess water to 'escape' quicker than it would through compost. The compost mix should come to a level about three-quarters of an inch below the top of the trough. This will then allow for a top dressing of grit.

The 'landscape' of the trough can be made by creating crevices with thin

stones placed on their sides, or by using them vertically to create mini mountain peaks. Before planting, I watered the plants well and placed them, still in their pots, on top of the compost until I was happy with the overall appearance. I then started to remove them from their pots and plant into the compost, starting at the edge and working across to the opposite edge, and keeping a level surface.

Once I had planted all of the alpiners, I was then able to add the top dressing of grit. Alpiners like to have their crowns dry, and this keeps the plant leaves away from the compost, preventing leaf and stem rot. The grit will also reduce any weed growth. The plants that I chose combined a variety of foliage texture as well as flowers, and my colour scheme was purples, pinks and whites. These plants were, from top left in the photo to bottom right:

Iberis sempervirens Appen-Etz,
Pulsatilla vulgaris Purple, *Primula denticulata* Alba, *Phlox subulata* McDaniels Cushion, *Saxifrage x arendsii* Lofty Pink, *Saxifrage* Silver Cushion, *Armeria maritima* Select Rose, *Pritzelago alpina* Icecube, *Armeria maritima* Alba, *Aubretia* Hy Glacier Red

The **Chelsea Flower Show** this year, runs from 19th to 23rd May. As always, there will be coverage on the BBC, but at the time of writing I have been unable to add precise dates and times. However, coverage will

include tours of the show gardens, interviews with garden designers and lots interesting plants and tips.

The following is taken from the RHS website. "Things to look out for this year will be:

Show Gardens large and small curl round Main Avenue and Royal Hospital Way. A stroll along this route will take you past some of the finest examples of garden design at the world's most prestigious flower show. As well as inspiring plant combinations and cutting-edge landscaping, these gardens serve as a barometer of current gardening trends and key issues facing horticulture.

All About Plants

Gardens celebrates the wonder and magic that plants can bring to a garden. With a focus on unusual and specialist plants, rather than hard landscaping, this category offers a different take on the story of a garden. By working closely with specialist nurseries, exploring different plant schemes and palettes, these gardens can inspire the plant enthusiast in us all.

Balcony and

Container Gardens explores what is possible in a smaller space. Urban gardens can be so much more than a place to store a bike. Top designers take on the challenges that town and

city gardeners face, from flood management, pollution and noise to clever ways to make the most of the

The RHS flagship ‘Campaign for School Gardening’ inspires school children to learn through gardening to



The Alpine Trough

small space. These gardens are practical as well as inspirational, with design principles that can be lifted and transplanted to nearly any garden space”

Attention Gnome lovers everywhere. For the second time in the history of the world’s most famous gardening event, the gnome ban at RHS Chelsea Flower Show will be lifted by the RHS to raise funds for the RHS Campaign for School Gardening. The ban was first lifted for the 2013 show and the RHS is again inviting celebrities to decorate gnomes to feature at the 2026 show. These will then be auctioned off to raise funds for the next generation of gardeners.

boost pupils’ wellbeing, skills and environmental awareness.

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.

- 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 & 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, Bidens, Ivy-leaved Geraniums, Fuchsia and Verbena. To these you can also add foliage plants such as Nepeta, Variegated Ivy and Creeping Jenny.
- Add height to perennial borders by planting Delphiniums and Verbascum. Water well in pots first and add water and organic matter to the planting hole. Use supports where required.
- 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.

- Check for newly hatched larvae of Viburnum and Lily beetles, and remove them before they cause plant damage
- If Pulmonaria is looking weather damaged, remove damaged foliage and ensure it is well- watered
- Herbs such as Lemon Balm and Mint should be pinched out to prevent flowering, and make the growth bushier. Parsley can be sown direct into the soil in a sunny south-facing spot. Sow sparsely and thin out later to about 6 inches apart to allow plenty of space for growth.
- Plant main crop potatoes, if you haven't already done so, and continue to earth up earlies
- Planting Ferns can be ideal if you have a shady spot in the garden. They do best in soil containing garden compost or leaf mould and the pots should be soaked well first before planting into a hole, the same depth as the pot.
- Continue to keep seedlings growing strongly by ensuring sufficient light, water and space by 'pricking out'

WHAT'S ON?

Friday 1st & Saturday 2nd May.
Toby Buckland's Festival at Powderham Castle. 10am-5pm each day.

Sunday 3rd May. International Dawn Chorus Day. We have heard the birds singing well from mid-March, when males are showing off in their search for a female and warning other males of their presence and that they have survived the night. By May the Dawn Chorus is at its peak, with overseas visitors having arrived in addition to our resident birds. If you are able, try to listen from around 5am

Thursday 7th May. Hospiscare Open Gardens, Compass House, Sand Down Lane, Newton St Cyres EX5 5DE. 2pm-4pm. A half-acre, level garden focused on wildlife and pollinator-friendly planting. Borders are filled with shrubs, perennials and annuals, many grown from seed in the greenhouse. Features include a dead hedge, two wildlife ponds (no fish), a small copse, and an orchard reached through a wildflower meadow. Two patios with planted containers offer lovely views and space to enjoy refreshments. Entry by donation. Parking on forecourt (priority disabled/ elderly); 4 on farm track; 10 spaces at neighbour's (3 mins' walk). Tea, coffee, soft drinks and home baked cakes. Wheelchair Access. (Also open on 2nd & 15th June)

Saturday 16th May. Hospiscare Plant Sale, Baring Crescent Exeter EX1 1TL. 10am-12 noon. A range of plants, shrubs, trees and garden equipment at competitive prices. Bring bags, trolleys or wheelbarrows to transport purchases. Payment by cash or card.

Wednesday 20th May. World Bee Day. Celebrated annually, marking the birthday of Anton Janša, a pioneer of modern beekeeping. The event is designated by the United Nations to raise global awareness of the importance of pollinators. The public can help bees by planting-bee friendly plants in their gardens and encouraging councils to plant wildflower meadows and leave grass verges to allow wildflowers to bloom. May is a busy time for beekeepers. They are tending their bees, watching them progress into strong colonies and often bringing in a spring honey crop depending on the weather and forage available. More information on suitable planting can be found at www.bbka.org.uk/planting-for-bees-blog.

LOCAL GARDEN CLUB EVENTS

Saturday 9th May. Upton Pyne Open Gardens. 2pm-5pm. A special fundraising event jointly organised by Upton Pyne & District Gardening Club and The Friends of Upton Pyne. Refreshments, passports & map available from the Village Hall Adults £5 Children Free. There will also be an Arts & Crafts Sale 11am -5pm. Free Entry

**Saturday 16th May. Crediton
Garden Club Annual Plant Sale at
Crediton Library 10am-1pm.**

Happy Gardening

**Tuesday 26th May. Crediton
Garden Club. Insects in
your garden by Anna Mace-Leska.
Crediton Library 7pm.**

Nicola Baker

A vibrant advertisement for Bernaville Nurseries featuring a close-up of several large, multi-colored dahlias in shades of orange, yellow, and red. The text 'GET GARDENING' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the top. Below it, the word 'with' is written in a small, white, cursive script. The main text 'Bernaville Nurseries' is in a large, white, serif font, with a small circular logo containing a red daisy-like flower between the words. To the right, a white rectangular box contains the text 'SCAN TO SIGN UP TO OUR LOYALTY CARD FOR EXCLUSIVE OFFERS AND 10% OFF PLANTS EVERY TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY' in black, sans-serif capital letters. Below this text is a QR code inside a white circle, with a small white arrow pointing from the text to the QR code. At the bottom, a white banner contains the text 'FIND US JUST PAST COWLEY BRIDGE, EXETER • WWW.BERNAVILLE.CO.UK • OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK' in black, sans-serif capital letters.

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FIND US JUST PAST COWLEY BRIDGE, EXETER • WWW.BERNAVILLE.CO.UK • OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

JUST A THOUGHT

They say the Eiffel Tower was built in 2 years, 2 months and 5 days. The McDonalds in Crediton seemed to go up in something like two days. So why, puzzlingly, is building and selling eight houses on Newton View taking longer than it did to build the pyramids?

The Grockle



**Torrridge, North,
Mid & West Devon**

Energy Saving Tips

Everyone can save money with a little bit of thought! Individually, it might not seem to make a great deal of difference but collectively, the savings by implementing the following tips can make a real difference.

In the bathroom: Reduce your shower time and slightly lower the water temperature as cooler showers use less energy. With summer just around the corner, this should be an easy fix!

Laundry: An 'eco' cycle on your washing machine may take longer but it uses less energy. For laundry that isn't heavily soiled a cooler cycle (20 or 30 degrees) works well.

Hanging clothes outside to dry and air, is effective, free and they smell great, but if drying them inside, a heated clothes airer is much cheaper to run than a tumble dryer.

In the kitchen: Air fryers, microwaves and slow cookers usually use less energy than an oven or hob. Putting lids on pans whilst cooking and using the right size pan for the amount of food you are preparing will use less energy heating it.

When you boil the kettle, measure out the water you need. Boiling water in a kettle before adding to the pan will also help your food cook more quickly meaning you use less energy.

Don't hold the door on your fridge or freezer open for extended periods of time to keep the temperature low.

Your heating: Check the temperature of the thermostat – 18-21 degrees Celsius is fine for most people.

- Check your heating times. If you have a boiler, set the temperature two or three degrees lower (or programme it to be off) when you're out or asleep.
- Check thermostatic radiator valves. You can set each one to the lowest number that keeps the room comfortable.
- Install radiator reflectors behind radiators on external walls if your house isn't well insulated. These are easy to install, even in rented homes and will make rooms feel warmer.

Does it seem obvious? Probably – but it's just a question of changing simple habits. These aren't exhaustive ideas but maybe they will get people thinking.

We have specialist teams of advisers and assessors, like our Energy Team, but many people are generalist advisers or assessors or form fillers or taking calls on our free, local Adviceline service. (0808 27 87 999)

We are always happy to welcome new volunteers to our team which is under increasing pressure to meet the demand on our services. Demand is growing, peoples' problems are getting increasingly complex taking a lot longer to unravel and help with so do please get in touch if you can maybe give one day a week of your time. Full training and ongoing support is given; people can develop existing skills or learn new ones and you will certainly make new friends. Contact recruitment@citizensadvicetnmwd.org.uk in the first instance – we look forward to hearing from you!

Rosanna Teale

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A master at work with John Hoar

It was a true pleasure to welcome back John Hoar, this time for a demonstration of a vase of flowers (camellias and

hellebore) and a pen, ink and wash vision of Newton St Cyres in the snow.

John began the flowers study with a rough pencil sketch to arrange the composition, carefully marking the areas to be left white, or very pale. The overall L shape included dropped flower-heads on the table and leaves that broke up the hard edge of the rim of the vase.

First, using a flat brush, he painted a very dilute wash of Alizarin onto the pale flowers and added a hint of bright red in places. He stressed the importance of paying attention to the light, which penetrates flowers, thus appearing everywhere. At no point did he paint a clearly defined petal – a suggestion sufficed for the marks to read as flowers. As he said, actual detail on the flowers was secondary.

Dark leaves were painted with a mix of Windsor Blue and Burnt Umber, and a swordliner brush. These dark areas immediately lightened the flowers and the white spaces. Shadows on flowers added depth, and the background, painted last, was a very dilute wash of Windsor Blue and Light Red, with the suggestion of a curtain and windowpanes.

The overall effect was of a splash of colour and light almost floating against the darker, mysterious background.

For the second demonstration, John worked on a pencil sketch of the village green and the church, using his signature method of a sharpened stick and black ink, and adding watercolour afterwards, for a very convincing snowy scene.

As always, it was a pleasure to watch a master at work.

Jenny Hallam



Newton St Cyres Parish Church North Aisle

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The Camino Finisterre

A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

Tony Lane is preparing to take on the challenge of a 118-km pilgrimage across Spain – the third time he has tested himself and his faith this way. Here, in his own words, is what lies ahead – this time with funds raised going to Medecins Sans Frontieres and their humanitarian work in the world's crisis areas.

Journeys of 'Faith'

Three years ago I made my first proper pilgrimage. That entailed walking the 130 kms of the 'Camino Ingles' from Ferrol to Santiago, in order to qualify for a Compostela – a certificate of completion of the pilgrimage. I enjoyed the challenge so much that I decided to embark on another route in 2025, starting on that occasion from Tui on the Portuguese/Spanish border and once again finishing in Santiago, 120 kms away.

Now, here I am, a year later walking yet another route, this time starting in Santiago and trekking the 118 kms to Finisterre (finis terrae meaning 'The end of the earth'), a place that legend has it that St James, one of Jesus's disciples, once visited.

Finishing my pilgrimage at Finisterre means none of the grandeur or ceremony that is experienced in Santiago. But this is not a downside, as for me the simplicity is the essence of its unique appeal. So, this is not a 'clip-on' extra route, rather a stand alone one that in so many ways is shrouded in mystery.

Hopefully, this challenge will help me to understand myself better, and give strength both to myself and those who will be walking beside me.

Beyond the physical, spiritual and mental rewards of these journeys, there is something deeply moving about following in the footsteps of the saints that walked those paths and roads all those centuries ago.

My Response to Suffering

Whilst deliberating on our world in which so much suffering prevails, I find myself asking God how I can best help others, and to this end my mind turns once again to all the amazing relief work carried out by Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF). They provide lifesaving medical care

to people caught up in conflict, disasters and epidemics. They are totally independent and do not take money from governments or state-controlled institutions. They are neutral in a conflict environment, providing humanitarian support wherever the medical need is greatest.

Dr Shafaatu Abdulkadir is the team's medical activity manager in northern Nigeria. When recently asked what she would say to someone to encourage them to donate to MSF?, she replied: "I would ask them to imagine how they would feel if their child was starving, and dying from a lack of medicine and clean running water? Then imagine someone showing up with food, with medicine, with hope! You would never forget them! You would feel love, because being cared for, and not abandoned is everything. So, giving what you can means that someone has medication, essential food, and safety. I was brought up to believe that if you save one life, you've done something to help save every life on the planet!"

Currently MSF operate in over 70 countries worldwide, including Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, Kenya, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Ukraine, Gaza and the West Bank, Iran and so many more.

The Futility of Warfare (extracted from an article by Dev Patel)

"Throughout history millions of people have died as a direct result of military conflicts. Tragically, apart from the soldiers, those killed or wounded will include thousands of innocent men, women and children caught in the crossfire. Along with that, modern weapons and tactics inevitably result in an horrendous increase of those killed and injured, leaving behind a legacy of entire cities and landscapes being reduced to rubble. Living in an age of climate change, resource depletion, and growing inequality, wars seem increasingly pointless.

Just imagine if the billions of dollars spent on weapons were instead invested in education, healthcare, and renewable energy! The idea that warfare is necessary for protecting peace or freedom must be seriously questioned. History has shown that diplomatic solutions can be found, but it requires the will to put down weapons and find common ground. War is an unnecessary and destructive force that only brings more suffering and devastation."

Sound familiar?

I urgently appeal for your generosity to provide financial support for the vital work of MSF by sponsoring me

May 2026

on this Camino Pilgrimage Walk in June. I fully realise this is a hard call, but without this kind of support, the work will tragically grind to a halt.

Whatever you feel able to afford, please use the 'Just Giving' contact details to make a donation online-:

www.justgiving.com/page/anthony-lane-2

or, if you prefer, I am able to receive cash or a cheque, all of which transferred to MSF.

Should you have any queries concerning this appeal, please don't hesitate to make contact. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Tony

Tony Lane

tel: 07860 530760

email: lane.tony42@gmail.com



Tony on a previous pilgrimage

The bench that Chris built

When Chris Hawkins got a call to clear away some timber that had been left over from a works project he was involved in, he had a light bulb moment. "While I was loading the wood onto my trailer, I thought, this timber is too good to throw away. I need to do something with it."

The result? An elegant wooden picnic table and bench that now sits on the grass verge at the corner of West Town Road and Woodlands.

Chris says that as managing director of a renewable energy and biogas company, BIO-AGRI, he rarely has the chance to use his carpentry skills. But he got out his tools and built the picnic table over a couple of spare evenings.

On his mind were his neighbours, particularly those with mobility problems. The table has floor panels to make it easier for people with accessibility issues to sit on the bench. So far, it looks like his project has got the thumbs-up from locals, with small groups gathering for a chat in the nice weather, and workmen sitting there for their lunch.

Chris, who moved from Shobrooke last December in order for his children to be closer to the primary school, says he is offering the picnic bench free to the community for residents to sit at and enjoy the outdoors.

He's already in talks with the arboretum to build picnic tables for

them. As for the bench sitting out on the grassy verge, its future is uncertain. It is on public land and may not be allowed to stay there permanently.

"If they (Parish Council) want me to move it, then fine, I'll move it," says the 47-year-old. "If mowing the grass is the issue, then I'll mow the grass around it. I just thought it's more beneficial for people to be able to sit and have a chat in the sunshine than anything else."

Interested in a bench? Contact Chris at 07798 610385.

Ann Quon Cordingley

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FULL LOAD	½ LOAD
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<i>loose tipped</i>	<i>loose tipped</i>

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BULK BAG
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5m³	3.75m³	2.5m³	1.25m³	0.625m³
DOUBLE LOAD	1 ½ LOAD	FULL LOAD	½ LOAD	BULK BAG
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<i>loose tipped</i>	<i>loose tipped</i>	<i>loose tipped</i>	<i>loose tipped</i>	

Part seasoned logs will be ready to burn from autumn onwards if bought in spring/early summer and stored off the ground in airy conditions, e.g. log store.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **Newton St Cyres & the A377 (£5)**

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

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

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

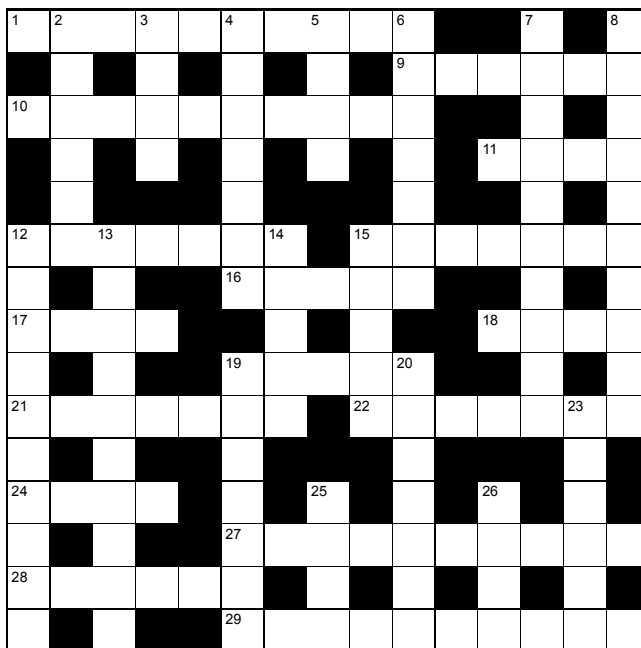
UK Censuses on Newton St Cyres (1841-1911)

Newton St Cyres Tithe Map of 1843

Copies can be purchased by contacting

Jean Wilkins 01392 851337 jeanwilkins1@btinternet.com

Cryptic Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Drunken sot samples purgative medicine (5,5)
- 9 Caribbean island also conceals British silver (6)
- 10 Abandoned footballer in red (4-6)
- 11 Worker fellow makes complaint (4)
- 12 Rod gets crazy about one person serving drinks (7)
- 15 Lose heart when praised, surprisingly (7)
- 16 Handed student a hammer (5)
- 17 Some wonder if flute will provide repeated musical phrase (4)
- 18 School requires memo to be sent back (4)
- 19 Nobleman keeps time for him (5)
- 21 Attendant scattered waste on road (7)
- 22 Contrition shown by note to detective (7)
- 24 Not at home with a course (4)
- 27 Attest fare is outstanding – this may remain? (10)
- 28 Louis Gossett initially upset another actor (6)
- 29 Copper robs me twice – could be awkward (10)

DOWN

- 2 Father Fitzgerald provides Spanish dish (6)
- 3 Nannies missing last bit of Lightning Seeds (4)
- 4 Son hid gin after organising lively party (7)
- 5 Returning, I left theatre box (4)
- 6 Daughter in Ulster cooked pastry (7)
- 7 Man works mostly as criminal (10)
- 8 Concern involved with fee for meeting (10)
- 12 Store plates perhaps in Devon town (10)
- 13 Thoroughly search mountains for a place for shooting practice (5,5)
- 14 Went out with someone old-fashioned (5)
- 15 Freed lunatic, causing delay (5)
- 19 Professional's backing US spies – that's commonplace (7)
- 20 Substitute's aloofness (7)
- 23 Part of embassy's temporary organisation (6)
- 25 I came across uplifting article (4)
- 26 At least 48 hours in stupor, we hear (4)

Set by Alberich

Sudoku

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

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

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Solution to April 2026 Cryptic Crossword

1	A	F	2	I	3	R	M		4	A	5	B	E	6	T	7	E	8	S
	B		R		E					U		W		Y				A	
9	S	T	A	P	L	E	R			11	S	H	I	V	E	R	Y		
	T		G		Y		A			I		N		W				I	
12	R	A	I	N		13	S	C	E	N	T		14	C	A	I	N		
	U		L		15	C	E		E		16	C		S				G	
17	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	B	U	S	H						
	E				A		E		S		R							18	H
			19	H	A	R	D	L	U	C	K	S	T	20	O	R	Y		
21	U		O		D		A		L		E		P				A		
22	N	E	O	N		23	S	T	E	A	K		24	Z	I	N	C		
	U		D		25	B	I			S		26	C		N		I		
27	S	A	L	E	R	N	O			28	S	T	A	T	I	O	N		
	E		U		A		N					L		O		T			
29	D	I	M	I	N	I	S	H		30	F	L	I	N	C	H			

The Parish Church of St Cyr and St Julitta



Permission to Pause

I love how the month of May is gently held at both ends by rest. At the beginning of the month, the Early May Bank Holiday offers a pause just as spring begins to gather pace. At the end, the Spring Bank Holiday gives us another moment to step back before summer unfolds. Of course, for many of us, these days quickly become opportunities to “finally get things done” – the garden sorted, the shed cleared, the emails answered, the life admin conquered. We can easily turn a day of rest into a slightly more comfortable version of work!

And yet, tucked inside these bank holidays is a quieter invitation: to rest properly.

In the Christian tradition, rest is not an afterthought. It is woven into the very fabric of creation. In the Genesis story, God creates the world in six days – and then rests. Rest completes the rhythm. It is part of what makes life whole.

Sabbath, in this sense, is not simply about stopping work. It is about stepping out of the constant pressure to produce, achieve, respond, and keep up, and, instead, to receive life as gift.

That can feel surprisingly difficult. Many of us carry a quiet sense that we should always be doing something useful. Even when we sit down, there’s often a little voice saying, “You could just quickly...” And that is how a peaceful afternoon mysteriously turns into reorganising a cupboard no one will ever open.

But Sabbath invites us into something different – to trust that the world will not unravel if we take a break (despite what our to-do list may suggest). It invites us to notice what we might otherwise miss: the sound of birdsong, the feel of warmer air, the joy of a sit-down doing nothing. It invites us to be, rather than to do.

The bank holidays that bookend May can become small, accessible Sabbaths, offering space to slow down, to reconnect, to breathe. That might mean something very simple: a walk without a destination, time in the garden that doesn't involve a checklist, a shared meal that goes on longer than planned. It might simply mean allowing yourself to do something delightfully unproductive – and not apologising for it.

Rest, at its heart, is not about inactivity. It is about restoration. And perhaps this matters especially in the times we are living in. When the world feels uncertain, when news cycles are relentless, when many of us feel stretched or tired, rest becomes more than a luxury. It becomes a necessity.

So as May begins and ends with bank holiday pauses, perhaps we might receive them differently. Not just as days off, but as gifts. Gentle reminders that we are not defined by what we do, but by who we are: people held in God's care. And in that space of rest, we may find something quietly transformative that restores our perspective, softens our anxieties, and enables us to return to the world with a little more peace – and perhaps slightly fewer mysteriously reorganised cupboards.

Because, sometimes, the most faithful thing we can do ... is simply to do nothing.

Revd. Deborah Leighton Plom

Curate, Netherexe Mission Community

Coffee and Chat

Join us in

Newton St Cyres Church on

May 17th 2026 at 10.30 am

For refreshments

A relaxed get together to discuss ...

whatever subject comes up!

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Wondrous Women!

Celebrating Inspirational Lives in
The Netherex Parishes

Children's Art Exhibition ***Autumn 2026, Newton St Cyres Church***

Who are the women who inspire you?

Family or famous? Your mum, aunty, sister, grandma or Madonna, Florence Nightingale, Boudica? Next door neighbour, doctor, scientist, explorer, artist, writer, performer?

Create a piece of art to depict the woman or women who you look up to, who make you say – “I want to be just like her!”

The artwork can be any of the following:

Painting – A4 or A5

Photograph – A4 or A5

Digital Art – A4 or A5

Sculpture – clay, papier mache, etc

3D Model

Poetry – up to one side of A4

Collaborative Group/Class Collage – 60cm x 90cm

The art will be professionally mounted or displayed and be on show at Newton St Cyres Parish Church and other locations

Wondrous Women!

Celebrating Inspirational Lives in
The Netherexe Parishes



**AUTHENTIC
VOICES**

Authentic Voices

Celebrating Women of the Netherexe Community

Join us in highlighting and celebrating the extraordinary stories of women across the seven parishes of Netherexe. The Authentic Voices project aims to record and illustrate the lives and experiences of women who have shaped our community—sharing their challenges, achievements, and unique journeys.

We are looking for ordinary but remarkable women—those whose stories have been invisible or underestimated.

Get involved! If you or someone you know would like to share their story, please contact us to help uncover and celebrate the authentic voices of Netherexe.

We aim to produce an exhibition using photographs, writings and voice recordings, which will be on display across the Netherexe parishes, and a booklet with excerpts from the interviews.

A Working Group meeting will be held at **2pm on Thursday 28th May** at Cox's Hill Farm, Upton Pyne, EX5 5HZ. Join us for a cup of tea and to find out more.

For more information and to register your interest in sharing your story or helping with the project, please contact:

- Jenny Deeks at Jdeeks61@gmail.com
- or Sue Edwards at SueEdwards2017@gmail.com

Any profits from this project will go to fund NDADA, North Devon Against Domestic Abuse, who are commissioned by Devon County Council and the NHS to provide domestic abuse support across the whole of Devon, and Devon Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Services.



***Wondrous
Women!***

*Celebrating Inspirational Lives in
The Netherexe Parishes*

A Seven Parish Pilgrimage!

***Walking with the
unnamed women of the
Bible***

**Sunday 21st June
Sunrise to Sunset**

Start with breakfast at Cadbury...

...and end with a BBQ at Netherexe

Walk all of it...

...or join us for shorter walks

***To register your interest or for more information,
Please contact Revd Tim Collins***

tim.collins@netherexe.org 07449 111663

***we are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the
road***

SERVICES & INFORMATION MAY 2026

The Netherexe Parishes - A community of Anglican churches in Devon

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

Sunday 3 May

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

Wednesday 6 May

09:30 am	Mid-week Holy Communion	Thorverton [Exe Valley Farm Shop]
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Sunday 10 May

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

Thursday 14 May [Ascension Day]

06:00 pm	Service	Brampford Speke
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Sunday 17 May

09:30 am	Communion	Brampford Speke
09:30 am	Bubble Church	Thorverton
10:00 am	Coffee & Chat	Stoke Canon
10:30 am	Coffee & Chat	Newton St Cyres
11:15 am	Communion	Cadbury

Sunday 24 May

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

Sunday 31 May

11:00 am	Mission Community Service [followed by a picnic]	Cadbury
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Every Tuesday at 6:00pm we gather for prayer in Rewe Church

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Juliette Lea [Administrator]

Tues & Thurs [09:00 – 15:00]

Tel: 07594 714590

Email: administration@netherexe.org

Peter Shepherd [Administrator]

Mon. [09:00 – 11:00] & Wed [09:00 – 13:00]

Tel: 07551 844321

Email: administration@netherexe.org



CELEBRATING?

CHRISTENING
BIRTHDAY
ENGAGEMENT
WEDDING RECEPTION
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Why not consider the Parish Hall for your venue?
It's local, not expensive, has its own car park, two rooms and a new kitchen.
Also has wi-fi and suitable for club and business meetings
For further details, please contact
Peter Watts, 01392 851369
peterwatts361@btinternet.com

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

A WEEK IN NEWTON St CYRES PARISH HALL

Tuesday (Weekly)	Line Dancing	7.30pm	Paula Benford	01392 210830	pbenford45@gmail.com
Tuesday (Weekly)	Adonai Community Kitchen	1200 – 2.00pm	Jocelyne Whittaker	07508 871172	TheAdonai- CKitchen@outlook.com
Tuesday (fortnightly)	Young Farmers Club	8.00pm	Amy Taverner	07966 982815	amytaverner@gmail.com
Wednesday (Weekly)	Adonai Community Kitchen	1200 – 2.00pm	Jocelyne Whittaker	07508 871172	TheAdonai- CKitchen@outlook.com
Wednesday (monthly)	History Group	7.30pm	Jean Wilkins	01392 851337	jeanwilkins1@btinternet.com
Wednesday (x 4 months)	Gardening Club	7.30pm	Nicola Baker	01392 851985	n.e.budden@exeter.ac.uk
Wednesday (Term time)	Greenshoots Montessori	Daytime	Melanie Grabowski		mmgrabowski@hotmail.com
Thursday (Term time)	Greenshoots Montessori	Daytime	Melanie Grabowski		mmgrabowski@hotmail.com
Thursday (2X per month)	Mah Jong	2.00pm	Geoff Jackson	01392 851551	megalops@btinternet.com
Thursday (monthly)	Parish Council	7.00pm	Jane Hole	01392 851148	parishclerk@newtonstcyres- pc.gov.uk
Friday (weekly)	Table Tennis	7.00pm	Roger Wilkins	01392 851337	rogerwilkins1@btinternet.com
Fridays (some weeks)	Art Class	10.30am	Sue Rose	01363 772284	suerose9@hotmail.com
Saturday (second of each month)	Village Coffee Morning sponsored by various groups	1030 – 12 noon	Church (Sue Browne) Alternate months	01392 851460	suecbrowne@gmail.com
Saturday (some months)	Model Train Group	2.00pm	Ann Feetham	01392 215837	annfeetham@virginmedia.com

If you wish to book the Hall or learn more about the facilities, please contact our Bookings Secretary, Bookings - Rosemary Chambers, rosemary_chambers@yahoo.co.uk, Monika Bright, herpoldtbright@aol.com

PARISH HALL HIRE CHARGES

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

MAIN HALL

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

CLUB ROOM

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

Neighbourhood Watch Deputies

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

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

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

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

Community Police	PCSO Nicola Payne, Police Station, Cridton Nicola.payne@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk	Dial 101
District Councillors	Sandy Chenore:- schenore@middevon.gov.uk Martin Binks:- mbinks@middevon.gov.uk	
County Councillor	Steve Keable steve.keable@devon.gov.uk	07967 655045
Local M P	Mel Stride mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk	01392 823306
Friends of NSC Station	Chris Southcott	01392 851569
Luncheon Club	John Salter, Hill Park	01392 851346
Mah Jong Club	Geoff Jackson _megalops@btinternet.com	01392 851551
Newton Ramblers	Rosemary Chambers	01392 851400
Tennis Club Secretary	Laura Leigh	01647 24259
Young Farmers	Harry Grigg harrygrigg456@gmail.com	7453034637
Archery	Alison Couling	01392 841282
Gardening Club	Nicola Baker	01392 851985
History Group	Jean Wilkins jeanwilkins1@btinternet.com	01392 851337
Table Tennis	Roger Wilkins rogerwilkins1@btinternet.com	01392 851337
Friends of the Arboretum	Secretary: Helen Iles friendsnewtonarboretum@gmail.com	07717 062810
Adonai Community Kitchen	Jocelyne Whittaker	07508 871172
Community Allotment	Gail Meldrum meldrumgail@gmail.com	07999 958799
Cridton Citizen's Advice	Adviceline (10.30 - 3.30)	03444 111444

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

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

To pay online/by BACS please ensure that payment is made to
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Please add your address(abbreviated if necessary) as the reference
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The Newton Wonder is also available online at an annual charge of £5
Please contact editor@newtonwonder.net

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

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

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

Local voluntary Village events are included free of charge.

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

Advertising Rates for the Newton Wonder

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

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

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

The **Newton Wonder** (Monthly except January) is delivered to local households and businesses at an annual charge of £10

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

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

Tel:-01288 341617 or 07784 008471.

Email:- printroom@parishmagazineprinting.co.uk

The Adonai COMMUNITY KITCHEN

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YOUR TIME WITH US.
COME AND JOIN US**

Our Vision and Goals

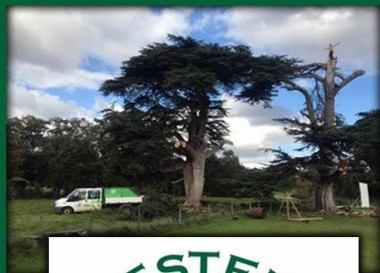
To provide hot freshly cooked healthy
meals to our community.

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



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