

NEWTON WONDER

The Magazine and Website for the Community of Newton St Cyres

What next
for these?



50p

March 2021

www.newtonwonder.net



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EST. 1540

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from the Quicke's Cheese Box

The Cheese Box is open Monday- Friday 10am-4pm. It is our responsibility to ensure the health and safety of both our customers and staff so we're adhering to strict cleaning rules, asking each customer to use the hand sanitiser provided before entering the shop and operating a one in one out policy.

Order and Collect from the Newton St Cyres Cheese Box

We've added more local produce to our 'order and collect' service. You can now order fruit and vegetables, yoghurt and cream alongside Quicke's cheese and whey butter, Colston Basset, Devon Blue, Cornish Yarg, Sharpham Brie, milk, bread, flour, yeast, eggs, crackers and biscuits.

Collection will be from Quicke's Cheese Box car park, in Newton St Cyres at an allocated time. To place an order please call the Cheese Box on 01392 851000 (Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm) or email: cheesebox@quickes.co.uk.

Cover Picture

Our cover picture this month is of the ubiquitous single use plastic bottles. In this issue Peter Cordingley has written about the blight of the use and disposal of plastic.

Your Lockdown Projects

We are always interested to hear from parishioners just how they have been managing to cope with lockdown and the other restrictions brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. In this issue Julie Furniss has produced an illustrated account of her family's garden project. We would love you to tell us about your projects, or activities you have taken up or developed during the last year. I have managed to make our piano, which had more sticking keys than playable into an instrument which works by dismantling and freeing all the working parts. People have undertaken all sorts of domestic and garden projects which we would love to hear about.

A Road Map

As we prepare this Newton Wonder Boris Johnson is outlining what he calls a road map out of lockdown and the associated restrictions. The excellent news is that schools will reopen on 8th March and with continued testing and surveillance it should be unnecessary to close them again. However, it could be said that the age of the members of the Newton St Cyres community is rather higher than that of the population as a whole so between us we have a very large number of grandchildren. Some have not seen their families for up to and over a year. Yet it is hard to see at the moment when those families who live on the other side of the country (or the world) will be able to meet. We will miss a second Easter with our families, since it has been made clear that at the earliest, it will be 17th May before we will be allowed to stay over, or our families stay with us. However it is good to be able to look forward to the end of restrictions.

Toxic Digestate Lagoon between Shute Cross and Rixenford Cross

You may have seen on nextdoor or facebook references to the proposal to create a lagoon for the residues from the anaerobic digester at Clyst St Mary. You may not be aware of its proposed location or have realised the impact this could have on our community. The proposed site is very close to the boundary of this parish and Upton Pyne, being less than half a mile from Shute Cross on Rixenford Lane which is the route to Thorverton. The large tractors with tankers and tanker lorries associated with the development are likely to cause major disruption in the lanes: the two ways to the site are through Upton Pyne or up Langford Road. Cllr Roger Cashmore has set up a petition which is available in various places. However the easiest way to register your objection to this plan is to log onto the Newton Wonder website: www.newtonwonder.net and scroll down the home page, click the link to the petition and complete the form.

Lockdown has changed lives for us all. One thing that was never requested before was the ability to pay for your Newton Wonder online. If you would prefer not to handle cash then we can take direct payments into the account. Please ensure that you use the correct title for the account which is "Newton Wonder Community Magazine" and the sort code: 30-93-14, account number: 05351394. This is listed at the back of the magazine on the page with the village Who's Who?.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT February 2021

The meeting, held on Zoom on 4th February 2021, was attended by nine Councillors, the Parish Clerk, the Devon County Councillor (Margaret Squires) and four members of the public. James Anstee (Devon County Council Road Safety Officer) attended the open session at the beginning of the meeting.

Road Safety and the A377

James Anstee kindly agreed to attend this council meeting to discuss the Parish's concerns about traffic on the A377. Residents have seen an increase in both the number and speed of cars passing through the Parish over recent years, probably due to housing developments in Crediton and beyond, and this is causing an increasing number of safety issues in the Parish. Cllr Enright said that while we were very appreciative that a pedestrian-controlled crossing will soon be installed in the centre of the village, this will not solve all of our problems.

For some time now, residents of Half Moon have been telling us about safety issues concerning their access to the nearby lay-by, where many of them park their cars. To reach the lay-by, they must walk along a grass verge, which in the past has been overgrown and is currently slippery and muddy. There is a risk of falling and the verge is unsuitable for pushchairs and children. Some residents have found it preferable to walk along the road. The construction of a paved path here has been tied to development at Hanlon's Brewery. However, this development has been, at best, delayed and may not happen. Half Moon residents are in urgent need of the paved path. James Anstee agreed to investigate the matter to see if the construction of a path could be facilitated.

Another problem concerns the speed of traffic as it enters the village near Tytheing Close/Sand Down Lane. Residents must cross the road to use the buses, and access the rest of the village, as there is no footpath on the Tytheing Close side. However, the quantity and speed of traffic make this difficult and dangerous. Some residents have been abused by road users as they try to cross. Recently a police officer was able to confirm residents' views that a significant number of vehicles are exceeding the speed limit at this point in the village. The Parish Council would like to see more action taken on speeding vehicles, and for a crossing of some sort to be constructed by Tytheing Close.

James Anstee was able to describe what is already being done as regards speed surveys and offered to share some more of the data he had collected. We are hopeful that he will be able to attend the Annual Parish Meeting in April with some of this data.

Other Road Related Issues

Cllr Squires, our Devon County Councillor, described how the Covid pandemic has made it hard for her to chase up Highways issues with Council staff. However, she promised to act on our list of outstanding issues where she can.

A resident of Godolphin Close has complained that private cars are being left parked in the slip road between the old Post Office and the bus stop. This makes access for larger vehicles such as the recycling and rubbish collections difficult if not impossible. Another member of the public said that access for large vehicles was a problem for Tytheing Close too.

At the old Post Office, the problem seems to be people leaving their vehicles in order to catch the bus. The Council decided that, in the first instance, the Parish Clerk should write to the Highways

department to see if we can have limited waiting signs erected here. We would also ask residents to understand the problems larger vehicles have in accessing, and so providing services to, all the houses in the village.

Devon County Council

Cllr Squires reported that the County Council budget is currently being prepared. At least partly in consequence of the Covid pandemic with an increased demand for social and childcare services, the budget will have to rise. This will mean a rise in council tax too. In addition, lower priority departments, such as Highways, are likely to see their budgets squeezed.

The County Council elections in May are still scheduled to go ahead, although there will be some changes to how they are conducted. Cllr Squires reported that there will be little or no door-to-door canvassing. Parishioners are reminded that they can request a postal vote if they do not wish to attend a polling station.

The funding for a replacement bench for the village green has been passed to the Parish Council, and we are currently selecting a suitable design.

Planning

An application has been submitted for the change of a carport to a garage in Kingfisher Close. The Council decided to make no comment on this application.

It was noted that some objections to the development of the nursing home at Langford have now been received from local residents. However, the Parish Council has already submitted its view so felt unable to make further comment.

An application to cut back some trees protected by tree preservation orders at the Church of St Cyr and St Julitta was turned down.

Other Parish Issues

Emergency PPE equipment has now been bought and installed at both the rec and the village hall.

The residents of Kingfisher Close have requested a salt bin. The Parish Clerk will investigate if a grant can be obtained to buy one.

A broadband survey has been designed and tested. However, it was decided to delay the full roll-out of the survey. This will allow us to see what will be available under the new government scheme due to be launched in March and to see the impact of Devon County Council awarding a contract for broadband services to Airband.

It has been suggested that the profile of our village could be enhanced by describing it as 'the Gateway to Mid Devon'. Cllr Cashmore volunteered to work with the Church group to see what this would entail beyond a new village sign.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be by Zoom on **Thursday 4th March 2021** at 7:00pm. Should any member of the public wish to attend, they should contact the chairman of the Council, Jim Enright, on jimenright@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk before 6pm on the day of the meeting. Alternatively, if members of the public want issues to be raised in Council meetings, they can contact councillors in the usual way.

Liz Ouldrige , Press Officer

Newton St Cyres Parish Council will be holding
the Annual Parish Meeting
on **Thursday 11 March, 7pm via zoom**

We have invited Devon County Council's Road Safety Manager to speak about road safety on the A377. Please come along to this virtual meeting and hear what he has to say and ask questions if you wish.

Contact the Clerk at parishclerk@newtonstcyres-pc.gov.uk for zoom login details which will also be published on the Councils Facebook page and website nearer the time.

Parish Hall



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&
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We have monthly meetings of general interest, a great opportunity to listen to entertaining speakers and to find out what else is going on in our U3A.

Upcoming monthly meetings

March 17th Anthony Poulton-Smith The Saxon Era

April 21st Prof Peter Edwards Death of Venice?

Meetings are usually on the third Wednesday of the month, at the Boniface Centre in CREDITON, but we have been forced to go "virtual" during these challenging times. Monthly presentations are via zoom and a link is sent out shortly beforehand. There are also remote quiz challenges.

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Do you need any help in these times?

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

Neighbourhood Watch Deputies

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

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

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Newton St Cyres 200 Club

The winners for the February 2021 draw are:

No. 80	L Fiddock	£10.00
No. 31	D Pacheco	£10.00
No. 97	S Gee	£10.00
No. 150	P Coates	£10.00
No. 179	V Gallavan	£10.00

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

Jane
01392 851148

RECREATION GROUND CLUB

February will pass without any sport at the Rec, but I have received cricket date requests for three of the five teams that use our facilities. Fingers crossed, at least the later dates will be played. Surely this situation can't go on for many more weeks.

We have to stay positive that this will end. We keep the grounds tidy so all is ready once we can play again. Grassroots sport has been hit hard by the pandemic, so let's hope everybody has been keeping up their personal fitness and will be ready to start once they get the all-clear.

But I can't see us getting darts and skittles before the normal start of season in September.

Hoping to have more to tell you about next month.

Wendy Lewis

The Post Office needs you!

We are very fortunate to have a Post Office/ mini shop in our village particularly during Covid. We are one of only seven locations locally that enjoy this service.

Unfortunately, the Post Office does not have enough equipment for it to be left set up permanently at each location. This means that at the beginning and end of each opening, it takes considerable time to lug all the equipment from and to the van, and some of the equipment is quite heavy.

Offers of help with moving the equipment from and to the van would be greatly appreciated. Several volunteers could form a rota. The task would involve a little time (10 minutes), twice a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) at opening and closing times. If you feel you can help, please phone 01392 851804 or call in when the Post Office is open, or 01392 841086 at other times.

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Thoughts for March from Peter Cordingley

How many times have you stood at the check-out at a supermarket and wondered why so many of your groceries are sealed away in plastic? Fruit, fish, meats, veggies – you name it, they're all treated the same way. Heaven only knows what all this adds up to across all the customers at all the supermarkets in this part of the world. On a national level, it hardly bears thinking about.

And when you get home, all this plastic has to be removed and disposed of. Where? How? The best stuff will normally get recycled, but vast quantities finish up in landfills, where it festers, sometimes for hundreds of years, and creates gasses that poison the air and the surrounding land. Unknown amounts simply get dumped, finishing up as the garbage we see all around us or polluting the oceans.



Plastic rubbish overflowing at Tesco

According to Which?, Morrisons had the worst record for recycling, with 61% of their packaging judged to be not easily recyclable. Over half (58%) of the packaging materials used by the Co-op were also not widely recyclable.

More than 40% of the total supermarket packaging was found to be labelled either incorrectly or not at all, making it tough for people to decide whether to recycle their plastic or dump it. That probably at least partly explains the over-flow situation at the Crediton dump, though simple human laziness is almost certainly another factor. It's so easy, isn't it, to make your problem somebody else's?

So why do supermarkets wrap so much in plastic? Here's a few of their answers:

- Protection: plastic protects vulnerable products from damage while in transit and from contamination or damage by moisture, insects or light.
- Preservation: plastic preserves products for longer, which reduces waste by giving you and me more time to use or consume them before it is no longer suitable to do so.
- Prevents waste: products are kept together and spillages are avoided.
- Transportation: plastic allows transport over great distances, so that we have access to a wider variety of non-local produce. It also saves space through stacking objects, making transporting them more efficient.
- Displays: important information about the product, such as nutritional content or allergy advice, can be displayed on packaging.
- Efficiency: a bar code affixed to a plastic covering allows for swifter checkouts, which means a more efficient shopping experience and less time wasted by the supermarket.
- Health: protecting goods, particularly fruit and veg from being touched, lowers the risk of contamination – especially important in these days of Covid.

But there is good news. Industry, and in particular the supermarkets, is waking up to the crisis and is taking steps to manage the situation.

Tesco's has what it calls a 4Rs strategy – Remove, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. This means that as far as possible, it will remove non-recyclable and excess packaging from its business. Where it can't be removed, Tesco's says it will work with its suppliers to reduce it to an absolute minimum. The retailer will explore new opportunities to reuse its packaging and ensure that anything left is all recycled as part of what it calls a closed loop. If packaging can't be recycled, the supermarket says it will have no place at Tesco's.

To remove one billion pieces from its own brand products, Tesco's says it will be doing away with:

- small plastic bags commonly used to pack loose fruit, vegetables and bakery items, and replacing them with paper ones
- plastic trays from ready meals
- secondary lids on products such as cream, yoghurts and cereals
- sporks and straws from snack pots and drinks cartons
- Pieces of plastic used to pack clothing and greetings cards

Tesco's has already stopped offering carrier bags with online deliveries – a decision that will stop 250 million bags being produced every year. It also plans to remove plastic wrap from its multipack tins.

According to government figures in 2018 (the latest I could find), the number of single-use plastic carrier bags sold per year by seven supermarket chains – Tesco's, Sainsbury's, Asda, M&S, the Co-op, Waitrose, and Morrisons – has dropped to just over 1 billion, down from more than 7 billion before 2015.

So there is movement, but now there is the matter of face masks. How many do you think are thrown away every day in the UK? Would you believe 53 million? And, of course, not all of them end up in landfill.

Countless face masks make their way into our rivers, streets, meadows, oceans and other places they don't belong, including in the guts of sea life. This is on top of the huge amount of plastic waste already choking the oceans.

Single-use or disposable face masks are made using a variety of plastics, including polypropylene, polyethylene and vinyl – which means they can take up to 450 years to break down. Even then, the plastic stays around as tiny microplastics.

What an unhappy irony it would be if face masks, which have saved so many lives, should in the end contribute to the death of our environment!

So what can we all do, each of us in our own small way, to cut the use of plastic? Here's some ideas:

- Carry a reusable bottle. We use over 35 million plastic bottles every day. Carrying a reusable bottle is a great way to cut your plastic use and save money too.
- Say no to plastic straws or to straws of any kind. They nearly always finish up in the garbage.
- Take a reusable coffee cup with you. Some places even offer a small discount if you use your own cup.
- Loosen up. If your local store offers some fruit or veg in loose, unwrapped form, choose them.
- Carry a spare shopping bag. Since the plastic bag charge was introduced in England, there's been a superb 85% drop in their use. Keep that going by keeping a shopping bag inside your everyday bag.

All this is not to suggest that supermarkets are specially to blame or that they are indifferent to the problem. Far from it. Unwanted plastics enter our lives from many places. But next time you're in a supermarket, why not keep an open mind to what you can do to make a difference? You might be surprised.

NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP

For our second online talk, on Friday 8th January, hosted by Crediton Library, the speaker was Elly Babbedge. She had originally agreed to speak to us in March 2020, but the talk had to be cancelled because of the first lockdown.



Elly has been doing historical research from an early age, when she was looking at her own family's genealogy. She has since been a teacher and an archivist, and has done a great deal of work on the history of Cheriton Fitzpaine, on which she is an expert. She spoke to us on the Care of the Poor in some Mid-Devon Parishes: Cheriton Fitzpaine, Stockleigh English, Cruwys Morchard, Cadbury and Newton St Cyres

Her starting point was that in the parishes the poor were cared for rather than penalised. The people in need were known and part of the community. If they fell into misfortune, then the neighbours and parishioners would help for as long as was needed. This is in contrast to the large, impersonal workhouses built to house the poor in the 19th century, and feared everywhere for their rigid and punishing regimes.

The care of the poor and sick had, since the establishment of the monastic houses, been carried out by the monks and nuns as a religious duty. Alms were given and both wayfarers and the sick cared for. Elly gave us the example of the Hospital of St Cross in Winchester, which continues the custom, and where anyone can still request a dole of beer and bread. This safety net was ended by the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536-41, and from then on the care of those in need fell to neighbours, family, church members and benefactors. It was usual for the wealthier to leave money in their wills, and Elly quoted the example of the Rev Thomas Reynolds of Cheriton Fitzpaine who, in 1559, left money to educate poor children into a trade, to give marriage portions to 'the honest poor men and maidens', and to help those families overburdened by children.



Throughout the 16th and 17th centuries, the monarchs and state passed legislation to deal with the increasing numbers of poor, described as rogues and vagabonds. These were wounded soldiers returning from the various wars, widows and children, the unemployed, often poor labourers, and the elderly and sick.

A distinction was made between the 'deserving poor', who could not work and were granted a licence to beg, or were apprenticed if they were pauper

children, and the able-bodied poor, who needed work. They could be set to work with materials provided by the parish. 'Vagrants', who were considered idle and blameworthy, could be sent to a House of Correction or whipped and returned to their place of birth. A law passed under Edward VI in 1547 even provided for able-bodied vagrants to be branded with a V and sold into slavery for two years, but this was repealed three years later.

Over time, a system was established which made parishes legally responsible for the care of their own poor, and a poor rate was levied to pay for this. Overseers of the Poor were appointed to deal with the support of those in need in their parish. The natural result of this was that people were always returned to their place of birth to be cared for there, and not be a burden on a neighbouring parish. Poor people could be identified by a badge worn on the shoulder with the initials of their parish and a 'P'. Crediton poor house, established in 1698, had a weaving shed and the poor wove cloaks which had to be dyed red to show their status.

Elly next explained what was done in practical terms to help people. Many villages had a poor house, often near the church. There is a splendid one in Cheriton Fitzpaine dating from 1648, which eventually became the village primary school. Another way of housing the homeless was through an Act of 1723 which allowed for poor relief to be contracted out to someone who undertook to house, feed and clothe the poor in return for a weekly payment from the parish. People who had a home but were destitute could be paid a subsistence rate from the parish rate to tide them over to better times, or until they recovered from illness.

Maternity care was provided, and in the case of an unmarried woman, efforts were made to find a husband to provide for her and the child, whether or not he was the father. Elly quoted an interesting example from Cruwys Morchard in 1791 when, two days after Mary Ellis gave birth to the daughter of Daniel Tremlett, a local landowner, she was married off to William Gosland, a simpleton, of Cruwys Morchard parish. This was instigated by Mr Tremlett, and the couple then moved to Cruwys Morchard and were chargeable to that parish, where they had two more children.

As soon as they were old enough, pauper children would be apprenticed. This could be to a trade, but usually it was as unskilled labour on local farms or in households, and often lasted to the age of 21 for boys, and 24 (or until marriage) for girls. This was frequently a benign arrangement, but it could, of course, result in children being badly treated.

However, although Elly told us about hardship and cruelty, there were also stories of great kindness and care. The story she told of Herman Taylor illustrated this. He married Catherine Tom in Cheriton Fitzpaine in 1704, and they had four children. In 1716 and 1722, he received money from Daniel Tucker's Bequest for the Poor, and then he became ill, of a 'malancholly disorder', which must have been a serious mental illness of some kind. The Overseer of the Poor paid for him to be treated by Dr Southcombe in South Molton at a cost of 3/6, and supported the family when he and his wife returned. Herman then went missing, and was found living rough in a bad state and again at the cost of the parish had to be washed, shaven and reclothed. Again he was treated for lunacy, this time in Silvertown, but he died. His wife remarried in 1729.

This is brief resume of the detailed story told by Elly and is a good example of the care shown by the parish to 'one of their own'. A total of £50 was spent on looking after Herman and his family.

Those of us who live in Newton St Cyres were eager to hear what information Elly had discovered about our village and the treatment of the poor here. It has never been possible to identify a poor house, even though there are references to one. Newton is a large parish with a sizeable village, church and Lord of the Manor and there would certainly have been many poor to support over the years.

Indeed, a list of smallpox deaths in 1698 describes several individuals as poor, for example, Edward Jerman 'a poor labourer'. A list of burials in 1699 records people as having had 'parish pay' and this description continues through the burial records. Examples of provision for the poor go on; in 1714 Andrew Quicke was paid £20/10s for land for the use of the poor of the parish. In 1716 a poor house existed in Newbridge, down the road towards Exeter and workmen were paid for repairs and rethatching in that year and into 1717. There are still records of work done for the parish house

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there in 1726. However, there are also many references to people in the village being paid to 'keep' individuals, by housing, clothing and feeding them. Elly thinks that this method of looking after the poor was used here in Newton as well as supporting people in their own homes in cash and kind, with parish funds being spent, for example, on shoes, stockings and sheets, also money to help in sickness and for child care.

In the early 19th century, Mark Helmore, a mason and property owner, was receiving rent for a poor house in the village, and in 1835, John Quicke was paid £1/10s rent for poor houses. It seems from the evidence that various houses in the parish were, at different times, rented for the use of the poor, rather than a permanent alms house or similar being built here.

In 1834 the Great Reform Act was passed, and this caused the Crediton Poor Law Union to be created in 1836. The work house to the west of the town was built, and all the surrounding parishes, including Newton St Cyres, sent their poor to be housed there rather than in their own parishes.

The detailed research that Elly has done over time means that she is able to rescue from oblivion some of the lives led by individuals in the villages she has studied. She made a plea for the preservation of records. The Poor Law Records consist of accounts, receipts, apprenticeship records and other papers which would have been in the Parish Chest, but over time they often have been scattered throughout a parish, perhaps borrowed and not returned, or even destroyed. They are a valuable resource, documenting moments in the lives of poor people, and used by Liz Shakespeare, a local author who wrote 'The Song of the Skylark', set in North Devon and strongly recommended by Elly.

I think in the difficult year that we have had, we will all know of many examples of parishes 'looking after their own' and the local food banks and help given to people in villages all over the country remind us that things do not really change that much in times of hardship.

We thank Elly for her interesting and enjoyable talk, delivered in spite of the lockdown.

Isobel Hepworth

Newton St Cyres in World War 2

I am preparing a report on how World War 2 affected life in Newton St Cyres and our villagers. This will be published by the History Group and I will give a talk in the Hall (after covid restrictions are relaxed!).

I was not born at the outbreak of war and didn't move to the village until 1982, so this will be based mainly on written accounts, including newspaper reports, the school logbook and the 'vicar's book'. Also, Jean and I have talked with a number of residents who were here during the war. Their first-hand experiences provided valuable insights.

If you have any family stories or anecdotes about life in our village during the war or the experience of our villagers who were in the armed forces, I would love to hear them - just give a ring or send an email.

Thanks for your help.

Roger Wilkins



NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP

How much do you know about the past in Newton St Cyres?



Newton St Cyres History Group has an ever-growing library of publications. What better way to occupy your hours during this continued period of isolation and social distancing!

- **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 Cyres 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)**

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

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

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

Copies can be purchased through

**Janet at the local Post Office (Stella & the Civil War only)
on Tuesdays (9-11) and Thursdays (12:30-2:30)
or by contacting Brian Please (01392 851507, 07958 363149,
brianvplease@hotmail.com)**

NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP ZOOM TALKS

We are now part of CAHZoom with 3 other local groups. We join together to enjoy history presentations. Two have been held already and they have proved to be very popular. Crediton Library do a really good job of hosting these meetings for which we are very grateful. All the speakers have given their services free so there are no charges involved.

To join us it is first necessary to download zoom onto your laptop. This is not difficult, find the site using your browser and go ahead.

The next step is to obtain a ticket through Eventbrite, The appropriate link is sent to Roger Wilkins in plenty of time. Roger has a long list of people to whom he regularly passes these links as they come in. If you would like to join these talks please contact him by phone 01392 851337 or email rogerwilkins1@btinternet.com.

Once you have reserved a ticket from Eventbrite (using Roger's link) they automatically send you the direct connection to the meeting on the appropriate day. All you have to do then is click the blue address and you will find yourself in the waiting room ready to be admitted to the presentation. It is best to join the meeting early as it takes a little while admitting everyone. Sometimes the meeting address appears in grey. If this happens look directly underneath and you will find a meeting ID and passcode. Open zoom on your screen, press the join option and you will be able to put in the ID and code. You will then be admitted.

CAHZOOM TALKS FOR SPRING 2021

MARCH 12	THOMAS BODLEY AND EXETER CATHEDRAL LIBRARY	IAN MAXTED
APRIL 9	ST LAWRENCE CHAPEL CREDITON: ANCIENT AND (RELATIVELY) MODERN	TONY GALE
MAY14	DEVON IN THE 1920's - A FORGOTTEN DECADE ?	JULIA NEVILLE

All meetings are on Fridays at 4pm hosted by Crediton Library



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Bert Jewell writes Rhymes and Ways about Gardens and Gardening

March

March winds may be gentle, they may also be rough,
Sheep living on the moorland, they have to be tough,
like the primrose growing on the roadside verge,
spreading year after year until large clumps emerge.

And then there's the snowdrops, so happy, yet shy,
hiding their faces from those who pass by,
flowering in the shadows under trees or shrubs,
or in a nice shady corner in some patio tubs.

There's aconites too, with their collars of green,
Flowers like buttercups, that just love to be seen,
Then fade as they must as the weeks go on by,
Tis the crocus and daffs that next catch your eye.

There's mauves and purple, yellows and white
in drifts or containers, so wonderful, so bright,
and at the back of the border a forsythia there stands,
like a great yellow duster you could hold with both hands.

To dust away winter, and turn a new page,
To meet family and friends whatever their age,
Maybe go for a coffee or a bar for a drink,
Life will one day be normal, or that's what I think.

Things to do in the March garden

Before we get on with what to do, I thought I would keep you up to date with where we are in our new property. As I mentioned last month, the garden needs to be completely cleared, back to a blank canvas. We have started by cutting down three large conifer's, there are still two in the front garden to be removed and two even bigger ones in the rear garden. They will have to be dismantled from the top by a tree surgeon, as I no longer climb trees. The large apple tree has been partly dismantled and plans are being drawn up for the extension we are hoping to build. They will be submitted to the council shortly. When the weather is bad, we are stripping off wall paper in one of the bedrooms, getting it ready for painting.

Now, weather permitting this could be a busy month, but as I write these notes the temperature outside is three degrees. By the time you read them it should have warmed up, and if it has you can spring clean beds and borders. Lightly fork them over and remove weeds, mulch with garden compost. This is also a good time to divide overcrowded perennials. Gently dig them up and by using two garden forks back to back, gently ease them apart and replant the piece you want to keep.

You may find that the lawn will need cutting at some stage this month, so raise the deck for the first few cuts, until it really begins to grow. Break up any worm casts with a besom broom or wire rake before cutting.

It's time to get the secateurs out for a bit of pruning. Rose pruning is usually started about mid-March. The buds will have started to develop, making it easier to see where you should cut, just above an outward facing bud.

Buddleia Davidii (butterfly bush) can be cut back to just above where it was cut last year and dogwoods (cornus alba cultivars) should have their oldest stems cut off at about 6" above soil level. This will encourage new coloured stems to grow from the base.

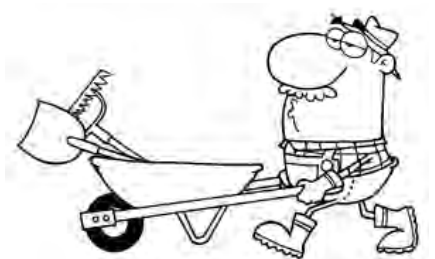
If you are a veg gardener, now is the time to get busy, if the soil conditions are right, not too wet or too cold. If you turn soil that is too cold it will take longer to warm up. Once the soil has been prepared you can sow seeds of lettuce, radish, leeks, spring onions, broad beans, parsnips and early varieties of carrots and peas.

Enjoy sprouting broccoli that should be ready to harvest. Plant early potatoes at the end of the month or early April.

Plant of the month

"Magnolia Stellata"

This is the one magnolia that will grow in most garden soil and will not get too big, 6' x 6' and it can be lightly pruned if necessary. Plant in a sheltered spot and enjoy the white star like flowers. It grows best in sun or part shade.



Enjoy your gardening

NEWS FROM MOON RIDGE FARM

Hello Readers, below is a recent newsletter recently published to our subscribers. We will be now sharing our news on a monthly basis through the Newton Wonder. In future it will be a mixture of our monthly newsletter and other items of interest from around our farm.

We have our smallholders' supplies shop open Tuesday to Saturday, selling mostly poultry products, but we also sell a range of animal feed and raw dog food. We also have our 'Lock Down Locker' with a supply of eggs available 24/7 through an honesty system. As we move towards Spring, we will also have for sale produce from 'Will Grows' home-grown fruit and veg from our farm.

An unplanned year ahead.

Sunday morning, the latter end of January, sleet and snow turning to rain now but the hill tops to the south across the valley are still white.

What a year it has been. We normally draw up a plan for the year in the quiet period between Christmas and the New Year. Last year's plan for obvious reasons turned out very differently than expected!

We are still here, unfortunately not all in our line of business still are: Notably Annie Hall based in Bristol, who we worked with for many years, decided that last year was going to be her final year of trading. We thankfully managed to buy most of her equipment, livestock and shop goods, which helped us both mutually. She will be missed by us and all her customers.

In over 20 years of business and steady growth, this year's plan is the hardest of all to make.

The last year has enforced many changes within retail, especially, as one of our customers put it, "It's a kick in the pants that's forced evolution 15 years down the road in six months"

Certainly it has changed much of what and how we do things. All our stock has gone online with click and collect the main way of purchasing now. Our products are now available for nationwide delivery, both our poultry and associated products can be delivered right to your door (there is a temporary halt on the poultry thanks to avian flu restrictions).

Supply and demand have been incredibly difficult to manage with a massive shortage worldwide of poultry throughout the spring and summer. All sorts of things have caused headaches; on ringing our supplier in April for egg boxes we were told we would be added to the waiting list to receive them in September! This was probably the worst, though much of our 'shop stock' has increased in the price we pay. Our main feed rations have increased by 19% in 12 months, which has been a bit of a shock.

Still, it is not all doom and gloom! We are here, we are fit and well and still progressing with the farm's development. The retail side of things has grown and will continue to develop with more lines available online with lots of specially selected packages /poultry kits, all of it making the purchasing process a little easier.

PIGS

We have increased our pig numbers, meaning we will be able to offer more of our saddleback cross weaners throughout the year. Having grown up with pigs kept indoors on the family farm in a 'traditional manner', I have found it truly astounding to see just how much real free-range pigs will graze given the opportunity. Our dry sows often have nothing else for the spring and summer, other than roaming over the 10 acres-plus and keeping in excellent condition.

In past years, we have sold weaners from the farm with any 'leftovers' fattened for our own consumption or heading to the local livestock market, which is where our lambs have always gone.

We have thought for some time that we are not making the best of these, and are contemplating offering our own lamb, pork and venison, either fresh or as frozen prepacks at the farm. So, if anyone is interested, please let us have your thoughts. This would be very much appreciated.



OUR PERMACULTURE PROJECT



Visitors to our website may have noticed the addition of the 'Permaculture Project' and/or 'Will Grows' to our menu line-up! Will our son, now 17 and doing his A levels, has for the last three years or so been growing various vegetables and fruits for the family, with the emphasis on perennial plants. The excess has sold well from the farm and he is now offering more in the way of young plants and tubers (through the website)



Area of vegetable garden

and direct at the farm. The likes of oca, mashua, yacon, (Chinese artichoke) Jerusalem artichokes with lots and lots of other perennials are being grown and propagated in the 'forest garden' extending to just over an acre. It's an exciting addition around the house.



Jerusalem Artichoke

SOIL IMPROVEMENT



Yacon or Chinese Artichoke

Going forward with this area as a springboard, we commissioned Conor Kendrew (Mrs, grad IEMA ecosystem and permaculture design) to give us a design for the farm. The design is a multiyear program and will make the farm more diversified and ever more resilient to the changing world we are in. As our soil environment is clay based, flooding is common, and we often find ourselves trudging around in mud, only to have a three-week dry spell resulting in baked and cracked soil. In another week, the grass is disappearing.



Swale at Moon Ridge



New pond at Moon Ridge

The back end of 2020 saw the earth works part of the design implemented with swales (pocket ponds) and reservoirs dug and linked with pipe work to allow us to control water levels and supply 'over the ridge' to the east and west valleys. We were happily surprised to see it working well, as it is very experimental, and being completely full before Christmas, allowing the start of our tree-planting phase. We have previously planted well over 1,000 fruit and native trees, albeit a bit random with no real scheme in place. This design will link all the areas up. The theme is 'productive trees in

productive pastures – a predominantly sylvo pasture system in the paddocks, with sheep, deer, goats, pigs and poultry running under what will eventually be productive fruit and nut trees. These will be grafted walnut and chestnut varieties as the ‘canopy layer’, with pears, plums, apples, persimmon, cherry, damsons, cobnuts and almonds, to name but few, as well as support species such as Siberian pea tree, robinia (black locust), autumn olive, etc., plus timber species such as chestnut, robinia and eucalypts for firewood, fencepost and timber. We are planting many of these as ‘living fence posts’ that will be pollarded above fence level for fencing and firewood.

This is an exciting project running alongside the rest of what we do here at Moon Ridge, with the ever-present aim of becoming more productive and more sustainable. Within a few years we hope to will offering our own wide range of naturally grown fruit and nuts from the farm and the website.

Back to the farm stock: We kidded the pygmy goats in December (ready to go in March), so please register your interest via the website. This is done via an automated system and is the fairest way of letting all interested parties know when they are ready for sale.



The first of this year’s piglets are due at the end of February, and then the lambing in April. The deer predominantly calve in June. The poultry have not stopped, with quail, ducks and bantam chicks already growing and more eggs being set in the incubators regularly. When ready for sale all new hatched stock will be listed on the website.

As I said at the start, I have found this year to be the most difficult I have ever planned, but one thing I can predict with certainty: We are going to be busy.

For now, we will continue trading as we have been and hopefully as the year progresses we can start to resume ‘normal business’ and welcome back our customers new and old to the farm in the regular way.

Thank you. Keep safe

The Moon Ridge Team

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11 issues

Newton St Cyres Gardening Club



Crocuses & Pollen Sacs on Bees

take shape. Flowers such as cosmos are a great source of pollen and nectar throughout the summer and autumn and they are easy to grow from seed. The seeds are long and thin and very easy to hold when planting. Scatter several per small pot across the surface of multi-purpose compost that you have prepared. Next, cover with additional compost to a depth of around 3mm. Gently water using a can with a fine rose, and keep in the greenhouse or on a warm, bright windowsill. Keep the compost just moist. When the first true leaves show, prick out the new seedlings, and, holding by the leaves, put each into separate pots. Continue

With the month of March, we really are between seasons. There are still hints of winter with snow, sleet and frost, but as the month progresses we are also on the way to spring with longer and, we hope, warmer days. Our gardens will be bursting into life with leaves unfurling and lots of new shoots and buds on a variety of our plants. We officially enter Summer Time on 28th March, when clocks go forward an hour.

After a very wet Valentine's Day, today the sun has come out and with it the bees - who are busy visiting the hellebores and crocuses, collecting pollen, and in the conservatory the air is filled with the scent of Narcissus 'Paper White' *Narcissus papyraceus*. March and April can be the most optimistic and exciting months for gardeners, as preparations for the coming months



Hellebore & Bee

to grow on indoors until after the last frosts, when you can then plant them out into the garden.

March is also a great time to plant summer-flowering bulbs. Although many people think that bulbs are planted in the autumn for spring flowering, those planted in March can be planted straight into borders filling any gaps you may have. They will establish their roots in the cooler soil before flower from June onwards. These include allium, crocosmia, dierama (angel's fishing rods) and gladioli. Bulbs that can be planted in March, in pots, include lilies, begonias, dahlias and anemones.

Do you have a wildflower area in your garden? If not, maybe this could be a project for this year. The best times to sow the seeds are March through to April, or in the autumn. Wildflower areas provide masses of colour during the summer months and they are happy to grow in low-nutrient soil. So any area that you have, which is at present a blank canvas, can be transformed.

The ground does need to be prepared first, either by hand or using a rotavator for a larger area. Aim to remove invasive plants such as couch grass, nettles & docks and create a relatively free-draining soil. Rake over to give a firm and fine tilth ready for sowing.

There are a variety of mixed wildflower seed packs available from garden centres, which will give a guide to how much seed is needed per square metre. Sometimes it helps to mix the seeds with sand to make dispersal easier and more even. After sowing, rake the ground lightly and then tread in. You may need to cover with wire mesh if, like us, you have cats! Wildflower areas are perfect habitats for a wide range of wildlife and will give pleasure to you too, for years to come.

In response to my earlier request for details of any lockdown projects, Julie and Roger Furniss have written an excellent article on creating their new pond. It's published in this edition. Thank you to Julie & Roger and Will.

Happy Gardening

Nicola Baker





The garden with the lawn removed and drainage pipe in place

our small back garden, surprisingly, became a place of much activity and sanctuary for us as a family.

Having moved to a smaller house with a smaller garden some seven years ago, we were pleased not to



Wall complete

A garden sanctuary from Covid

Covid-19 and the first lockdown of 2020 was a new experience for all of us. Some families were more adversely affected than others and, sadly, some lost loved ones to a new disease which has had a worldwide impact over the past year or so.

It may not be politically correct or sensitive to say but the first lockdown brought us some positive experiences which we called our Coronavirus Bonus -



Shuttering fixed and concrete going in

have a large garden dictating to us that we had to sow, grow, cut and tend. Being able to buy local produce from local shops and a fortnightly Farmers' Market meant that we did not miss out on the seasonal vegetables and fruit we used to grow.

But lockdown changed things. We had long thought about putting in a small pond. Having decked two sides of our back garden – one side for entertaining and the other for Roger's workshop – we were left with an area for a small vegetable plot and a strip of lawn which became a quagmire in the winter. Time for action. Fortunately, the garden centre and builders' merchants were open for click and collect and deliveries.



Roger and Will; the pond dug

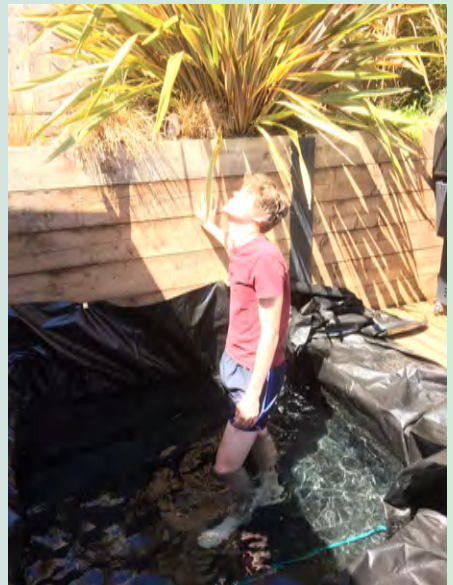


Pond works complete

soak-away were dug to allow for the pond overflow and excess land water to drain away. An old guttering pipe was drilled on one side and laid and secured in the channel.

Roger and Will set about digging out the hole, at four different levels, for the pond. We shifted several trugs and buckets of soil from the back garden down to the front drive. Topsoil was then freely available to neighbours who were also working on a garden project. Having gained some plywood offcuts from a friendly neighbour, shuttering was shaped

Having decided to replace the lawn with a gravelled area with slabs and planting, we could see a perfect place for a small pond at the end of garden. The lawn (what there wThe gardenas of it) was removed, the pond shape marked out, the old lawn area tamped down and a drainage channel and



Will enjoying cooling water



Julie and Roger laying gravel

and pinned in place ready to build a concrete retaining wall. Of course, we picked the hottest days to start this project. Roger and Will mixed concrete by hand and shaped the retaining wall.

Finally, the hole was dug, the retaining wall was in place and it was beginning to look like a pond. Underlay and lining were installed and slowly we filled the pond using rainwater from our underground storage tank. We all volunteered to stand in the cooling water to mould the liner in place! The pump and fountain were installed and we now had what looked like a pond.

After the water had been left to settle, we were ready to add some plants and wildlife. When we were allowed to visit Bow Aquatics, we added some goldfish and shubunkins. Fortunately, a friend has a large, well established pond and was happy for us to collect pond snails and other wildlife. We looked forward to adding frog, toad and, hopefully, newt spawn in the spring - does anyone have any they would be happy to donate?

We were finally able to sit back and enjoy our new pond ... until we looked around our garden and decided that our small vegetable patch would be more productive if we replaced it with a greenhouse! Our second lockdown project was taking shape. You can read about that next month



Path and pond finished

Julie Furniss

How well do you know your village?

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- 2.
- 3.

Can you answer the following questions?:-
WHEN was the picture taken?
WHERE was it taken?
WHO is in the Picture?



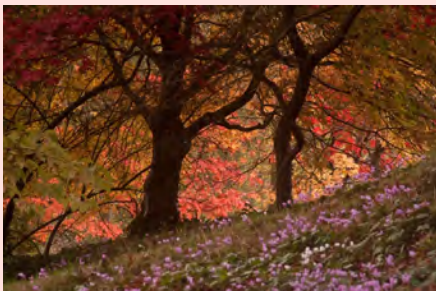
For a closer look see our website:-www.newtonwonder.net
On the Home Page you will find this picture and a link to all the quiz photos so far and an easy form to submit your answers.

Sherwood House,

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March on the Farm

NATURE

March, in like a lion, out like a lamb? Biting east winds, or gentle sun and rain, all reliant on the great tussle of warm and cold air masses. And whatever the weather, each day the sun rises earlier, zeniths higher and sets later. The cold can only have so much of a hold. Each day, even when it's cold, you see some new assurance of spring: a primrose in a sheltered dell, wild garlic stirring in the leaf litter, blackthorn flowering in the hedge. Birds are in full nest-building swing, lots of song, lots of construction, a little discrete playing away.

Our fallow deer have black backs, a slightly unusual variant. Walking in the woods, a doe jumped out from the undergrowth just ahead of us, where she'd been resting as the fawn gets bigger inside her. My brother is hoping for some natural regeneration from some chestnut trees he felled last year, each stump sending up lots of stems. It's good feed for deer. She's been nibbling the new shoots. Hey, leave some shoots to grow. And some trees he coppiced a little while ago each have 4 or 5 good stems that managed to grow through the restaurant stage, now almost ready if you wanted stakes or biomass.



ARABLE

We are spreading the winter's haul of manure, rotted strawy dung, that is an elixir for weary arable soils. You need to get the goodness under ground to stop losing the ammonia, a good fertiliser in contact with the soil and a pollutant sitting on top of it. Arable soils lose organic matter, which is where the animals come in, using the straw for beds and feed then sending the composted beds out to grow grain and straw, to start the cycle off again. It's lovely to see the green shoots emerging from the soil, green shot silk on the brown background.

That cycle is so beneficial, we are rethinking how we winter the animals. The cattle tolerate grazing crops all winter. Even with a grass run back, on our slopes, it's more damaging to our soils than we want. And seeing the benefit of that manure on our soils starts to make the case for buildings and machines, much as I like the idea of running on cow power alone.

COWS

Cows are settling into grazing, out first on 10th February. Now they are scarily eating into the stored growth from the winter, grass disappearing into hungry mouths, until suddenly it's growing faster than they can eat and shortage tips into plenty. I know that happens every year, and I spend most of March watching the balance tipping one way or the other until finally growth wins.

This year, we have a bumper crop of heifers from our spring calving cows. We've used sexed semen, where sperm that will make a female is induced to swim one way, into the straws of semen we use to have the cows conceive. That means slightly less good conception, and a lot more heifers from dairy breeds. We rear them to join our own herd, and if we've any spare, other grazing-based farmers want the quality we have.

We now rear our male calves, and the female calves from the beef breeds we use to calve at the end of March. We used to think of that as a distraction from raising milking cows, and now it feels like a good use of the inevitable by-products of dairy farming. We use some very fine Angus bulls, not only tasty, but known to be tasty. We had Belted Galloway bulls, which gave a striking white belt around their offsprings' middles. They were equally tasty, and not known to be, and people valued them less.

DAIRY

The milk is lovely, benefitting from the grass feeding, the curd pale golden yellow in the vat. We are making a normal amount of cheese. When it matures, Covid will, with any luck, be something we have learned to live with, though inconvenient, and we can be eating out and enjoying the company of friends with a delicious plate of cheese. We've been grading cheese from last year and the autumn. The cheese gives no indication of the dramas surrounding its birth: luscious buttery notes are coming to the fore, with some lovely savoury notes.

We are cutting more of our cheese into pieces to send out to households. It's our way of saying thank you! While you haven't been getting out and about, you have been ordering hampers for yourself or as presents. It's great to feel directly connected to people who love our cheese and to share some of our favourites from other makers with you.

RECIPE

Fish pie with Quicke's Mature Cheddar sauce

Fish pie is such a great standby. I love the mix you get in fishmongers. Peel and boil some preferably yellow-fleshed potatoes. Hard boil some eggs and peel. Make a white sauce, put generous amounts of Quicke's Mature cheddar grated (I include the rinds, too). Put fish pie mix into a dish, with white sauce over it. Arrange eggs cut in half lengthways around the dish. Season.

Mash potatoes with milk and generous amounts of Quicke's Whey Butter, salt and pepper. Gingerly put the mashed potato on the fish filling, working from the edges so the potato is always supported. Grate a little cheese over the top. Bake in a hot oven till the top is golden. Eat with a spring vegetable mix braised in butter, seasoning, and as little water as will boil away over a low heat until the vegetables are tender.

Mary Quicke

NEWTON RAMBLERS

Sadly, we have once again had to abandon Newton Ramblers walks for the foreseeable future due to the coronavirus.

Although we cannot have any of our walks, as soon as we get back to some sort of normality we plan to start our programme again. We normally meet on the third Sunday of the month.

When the situation improves, please ring Nigel or Rosemary Chambers on 01392 851400 to find out when the next walk is taking place and where we will meet.

Take care, and we hope to see you again soon.



Newton Environmental Well-being Group

On the verge of calamity

Across Devon, roadside verges and green spaces serve as vital sanctuaries for wildflowers, pollinating insects, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals. And there are some great success stories of communities helping to manage green infrastructure to support bio-diversity and enhance community well-being.

Sadly, however, since the 1930's, 97% of the UK's wildflower meadows have been lost or modified. This loss of habitat has meant our pollinating insects have suffered steep declines and 87 species of wildflower are threatened with extinction.

Appropriate management of our green infrastructure is essential. Without this, wildflowers can be lost through too frequent cutting, or outcompeted by vigorous coarse grasses.

You are invited to join us on Zoom for what promises to be an informative presentation and an opportunity to explore steps we might take to enhance the bio-diversity of our green spaces.

Life on the Verge

A presentation & discussion facilitated by Tom Whitlock ACIEEM, an ecologist with Devon County Council.

Thursday 22nd April, 7pm–8.30pm.

Hosted by Newton Environmental Well-being Group (aka N.E.W.)

See you there.ZOOM Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89881124795>

Zoom Meeting ID: 898 8112 4795

Or email Andrew.broadhead4u@gmail.com

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Do You Remember... March

March 1971

Householders are advised of a rather mean racket where magazine sellers are going door to door selling subscriptions to various publications that never appear. People are advised to get magazines from the newsagent.

The church clock is now back and mounted on a new stand under the tower. Four hatchments and the sundial have been repaired and reinstated in the church.

March 1981

The idea of 'Twinning' has been put forward as a natural progression for an active village such as Newton St Cyres.

For a mere £1 the church tower can be lit up for birthdays, weddings or any other occasion.

The end of this school term will see the end of an outstanding era in the life of the headmaster Mr Reg Mear. Saturday 4h April will be 'open house' at the school, the proceedings will be entirely informal although rumour has it a presentation of sorts will be made at some stage.

The St Cyres players will be having an evening of one-act plays on 26th, 27th and 28th March. Rehearsals are already under way and should provide entertainment for all.

Pauline Loo extended thanks to everyone who has contributed to the sum of over £80 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

March 1991

BT have said they will no longer provide directories in Payphone booths because they are either destroyed or stolen.

Devon Emergency Volunteers are looking to recruiting new people to help in emergencies. Training will be carried out by experts in firefighting and light rescues.

The Twinning Circle is up and running, with Rots a village about five miles from Caen identified. A visit is planned for May.

The Young Farmers participated in the Crediton Parish Church Plough service during which the plough is blessed for the seasons successful crop.

March 2001

There is to be an open meeting at the school to discuss proposals for a purpose-built building for Newton Nippers pre-school. Also suggested is an outdoor activities area for the youngest pupils by fencing off a plot outside classrooms 1 and 2.

The Parish Council dealt with problems caused by flooding such as blocked drains and damage caused to the bridge on Station Road, Mr Ricketts of MDDC will give a talk on affordable housing at the ASM on 26th April. Questions and suggestions for a suitable site are invited.

Plans are in hand for 'Our Times Past' event, with equipment from farms and workshops displayed.

March 2011

Three new grit bins have been ordered and will be placed in Court Orchard, Sand Down Lane and at the top end of Pump Street.

Friends of Newton St Cyres station are busy tidying up the area around where the station building used to be. The original station sign will soon be erected.

The Gardening club read an interesting talk about butterflies and moths by Peter Hurst. Advice was given on suitable plants to attract butterflies.

Newton Nippers pre-school has now been in their new environment and are very happy with the facilities.

Another incident with wild boar has been reported in the Bakers area.

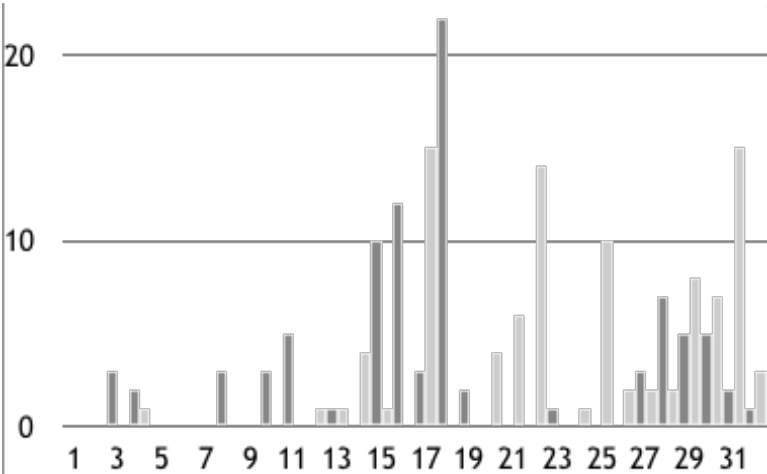


Chris Southcott took this picture of a stone at the base of the wall on the west side of Station Road and wondered if anyone knows what it is, or signifies, or where it came from? Who is CB?

The Weather

in Newton St Cyres

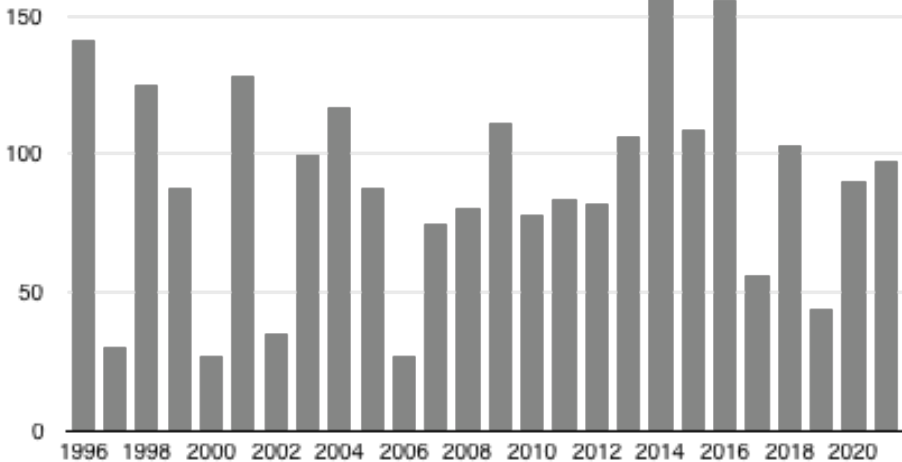
■ Daily rainfall in NSC in January 2020
■ Daily rainfall in NSC in January 2021



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



■ Rainfall in mm. January in NSC since 1996





**Sustainable
CREDITON**

Stilton, celery and walnut risotto

A tasty way of using cheese and celery for lunch or supper.

For four portions you'll need:

8 oz (250g) Arborio risotto rice
1 oz (25g) butter
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 finely chopped shallot
1 ½ pints (800 ml) vegetable or chicken stock
4 oz (100g) finely chopped celery
3 oz (75g) stilton cheese
2 oz (50g) walnuts, roughly chopped and toasted
seasoning.

Melt the butter in a saucepan, add the oil, chopped celery and shallot and cook gently for a few minutes. Stir in the rice and make sure it is coated with the butter and oil mixture. Gradually add the stock, a cup at a time, and simmer gently until the rice is soft, and the risotto creamy. Stir in the crumbled cheese, season with a little salt, and freshly ground black pepper. Sprinkle with the warm, toasted walnuts and garnish with celery leaves.

Paul Cleave

JTA

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Private Prayer at Newton St Cyres Church.

The Church is open for

Private Prayer

**and will be manned every Wednesday,
from 2.00pm – 4.00 pm**

Please wear a face covering. Sanitiser provided.

Counselling and Christianity – Delusion and Denial

This is the fourth in this occasional series of articles. Like the first, it is prompted by the Netherexe Parishes going into an interregnum (or vacancy) as we search for a new rector. So this month, this churchwarden gets the short straw, and has to think of something to write.

I confess that I have a bit of a formula: I look for ways in which my training and practice as a counsellor reinforces or changes my thinking about religion, in the hope that it will prove interesting or thought provoking for others. I am also a great reader, so I like to recommend books which I have found useful.

I have thought for a while that the parable about being able to see the speck in your neighbour's eye, but not the plank in your own, has lots of relevance to counselling and to human psychology generally. We find it much easier to notice other peoples' faults than our own. Have you ever wondered why that should be so? I think the answer is self-protection. We delude ourselves that we are fault-less because admitting that we are not is painful. Denial is a very common psychological defence.

Indeed, sometimes the people that annoy us most do so because we actually have similar traits, but we are in denial. So next time you are angry with someone, especially if, on reflection, your anger seems a little too intense for the situation, ask yourself whether you may be projecting your faults on to someone else. Physician, heal thyself!

I think it is quite likely that we all have protective elements in our psyche: parts which take over when we feel threatened, parts which are trying to keep us safe, whose intentions are to be helpful, but whose actions might be counterproductive. For example, we might have a depressed part which keeps us from interacting with others in case they hurt us. Or an angry part which keeps others at arm's length for the same reason. There is likely to be something in our history which has given birth to these parts. I am not a vastly experienced counsellor, but I have had quite a lot of clients in the past few years. I have not had a single client who hasn't had a reason for their psychological distress. The past or the present have been the cause.

If this idea that there are parts of your psyche which are not entirely helpful has some resonance, you might like to read "Self-Therapy" by Jay Earley. It's an accessible introduction to a mode of psychotherapy called IFS (for Internal Family Systems Therapy). If you identify as Christian, "Altogether You" by Jenna Riemersma applies IFS in a Christian context.

So this churchwarden gets the short straw, but he's deluding himself if he denies that he enjoys writing it. If you have a view on what we might need from our next rector, do get in touch with your churchwarden.

Royston Kershaw
Thorverton

Newton St Cyres Church

EASTER SUNDAY

If the situation allows we hope to hold

Holy Communion

at 10.00 am

Covid conditions apply

Please bring a mask and book a place with:

Sue Browne – 01392 851410

Meanwhile

PRIVATE PRAYER

continues every Wednesday

2-4 pm

SERVICES & INFORMATION MARCH 2021

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

Please note these services are proposed for March 2021 and may change due to Government Restrictions and COVID-19 tiering. Please check for current information by visiting our website at www.netherexe.org

Sunday 7 March Lent 3

11:15 am	Holy Communion	[CW]	Cadbury	JH
05:00 pm	Afternoon Worship		Zoom/Telephone Service#	JH & LF

Sunday 14 March Lent 4 & Mothering Sunday

11:15 am	Informal Service		Cadbury	Lay Led
05:00 pm	Afternoon Worship		Zoom/Telephone Service#	Lay Led & TL

Please note there is no "In Person" Holy Communion service on this day.

Sunday 21 March Lent 5

09:30 am	Open Door		Zoom/Telephone Service*	JH
11:15 am	Holy Communion	[CW]	Cadbury	D Francis
05:00 pm	Afternoon Worship		Zoom/Telephone Service#	JH & LF

Sunday 28 March Palm Sunday

11:15 am	Holy Communion	[CW]	Cadbury	JH & KR
05:00 pm	Afternoon Worship		Zoom/Telephone Service#	LF & KR

Abbreviations: CW = Common Worship BCP = Book of Common Prayer

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

Libby Price either by email libby@prices7.com or telephone 01392 860257

before 7pm on the Friday preceding the service.

Places at services are strictly limited, and if you turn up at the church without booking, you may be turned away.

Afternoon Worship will continue by Zoom and telephone at 5:00 pm. To join by Zoom, click the link on your computer:

Afternoon Worship: <https://zoom.us/j/96051498892?pwd=dno0R05tVpFa1NmRWpxaHBjZ0prZz09>

To join by telephone: Ring 0203 481 5237, Meeting ID 960 5149 8892# Password 591980

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

To join by telephone: Ring 0203 901 7895 Meeting ID: 920 9331 7053 Passcode: 117621

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

Who's Who? Abbreviations Key

JH	Revd Julia Hocking	Curate	07928 813333	julia.hocking@netherexe.org
LF	Mrs Laura Ford	Reader	07741 491946	laura.ford@netherexe.org
TL	Revd Tony Lane			
KR	Revd Preb Kathy Roberts			
TBC	To be confirmed.			

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

Mrs Margaret Lowe [Administrator]

Tuesday & Thursday [09:30 – 15:30]

Tel: 07594 714590

Email: margaret.lowe@netherexe.org

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

Newton St Cyres toddler group

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

Our family sessions are £2 a time and run from 9:30–11:30am. The price includes a drink and a snack.

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



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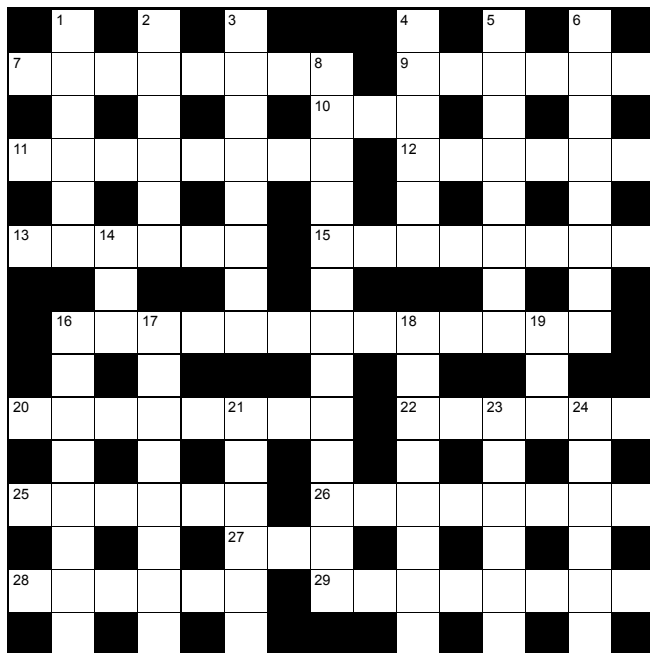
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Cryptic Crossword



ACROSS

- 7 Liking for swansong? (8)
- 9 A woman, first to kiss a nerd (6)
- 10 Poor actor in first half of play (3)
- 11 Possibly make bread low-calorie with this material (8)
- 12 One lays down golf club (6)
- 13 Slowly going round a shed (4-2)
- 15 Great fire trick endlessly rehased (8)
- 16 Ann quoted girl uncharacteristically speaking pompously (13)
- 20 Song about a...a curse (8)
- 22 Assume former partner will need training before court (6)
- 25 Wine is left in crate anyhow (6)
- 26 To abandon plane is not unusual (8)
- 27 Some ambassadors create fuss (3)
- 28 Dark-sounding piece (6)
- 29 Runs into trouble with southern relations (8)

DOWN

- 1 Threat from males by a church (6)
- 2 Show or hide (6)
- 3 Leaders of manufacturing association equip ancient plant (8)
- 4 One sleeping in tent is more affected (6)
- 5 Remorseful criminal gets tired (8)
- 6 Cosmetic surgery changed life in fact (8)
- 8 Film depicting very patient person from Rome? (3,7,3)
- 14 Song listened to in Scottish town (3)
- 16 Awkward crowd wants fish (8)
- 17 Modify, for example, ring for trusted friend (5,3)
- 18 Who can start such a sentence? (8)
- 19 Born in endless poverty (3)
- 21 Car in ultimately pristine condition (6)
- 23 Difficult situation for Penny, not rich (6)
- 24 Many sheets, we hear, needed for singing groups (6)

Set by Alberich

Sudoku

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

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

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Solution to the February 2021 Cryptic Crossword

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

WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

Priest-in-Charge	Revd Katie Cross - katie.cross@netherexe.org	01392 759612
Church Wardens	Sue Browne, 1 Glebelands, Sand Down Lane	01392 851460
PCC Hon Secretary	Pita Burt pitaburt@gmail.com	01392 851410
PCC Hon Treasurer	Brian Please, Compass House, Sand Down Lane	01392 851507
Electoral Roll Officer	Jen Holt, 21 Woodlands	01392 851521
Tower Captain	Mary Quicke - mary@quickes.co.uk	07729 844945
<u>DOCTORS (Crediton)</u>	New Valley Surgery , - Drs Hall, Saunders, Harris, Ziegler, Nicholls, Davies and Spriggs	01363 772263
	Chiddenbrook Surgery - Drs Twomey, Braddick, Griffiths, Kirwan and Parker	01363 772227
<u>NEWTON WONDER MAGAZINE & WEBSITE</u>	Editor – Peter Hawksley Email: editor@newtonwonder.net	01392 851269
<u>PARISH COUNCIL</u>	Chairman - Jim Enright Clerk - Jane Hole	01392 851859 01392 851148
<u>PARISH HALL</u>	Chairman – Roger Wilkins Booking Sect - Mary Long, - maryglong@btinternet.com Caretaker - Chris Barlow	01392 851337 01392 851624 01392 851125
<u>PRIMARY SCHOOL</u>	Head of Teaching – James Akhurst Administrator - Maxine Pople	01392 851267 01392 851267
Newton Nippers Pre-School	Contact the school	01392 851267
Newton Nappies Toddler Group	Emily Rickard	01392 851899
<u>RECREATION CLUB</u>	Chairman - Tony Lewis, 80 Wrefords Lane, Exeter Booking Secretary - Mrs Wendy Lewis, 80 Wrefords Lane, Exeter	01392 432287 01392 432287
Newton Revels	Chairman - Eric Fee - ericwfee@hotmail.com	01392 851595
Art Group	Jenny Hallam, jennyhallam6@gmail.com	7787383658
Neighbourhood Watch	Damien Hodge, 2 Tytheing Close damien.hodge@centraxgt.com	01392 851111
Footpath Warden	Steve Parker	01392 851505
Cancer Research UK	Jean Wilkins, Coldharbour, Sand Down Lane	01392 851337

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

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

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

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** is delivered to local households and businesses at an annual charge of £5. Additional copies can be purchased from the Post Office/Village Store.

Advertising Rates for the Newton Wonder

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

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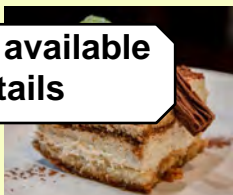
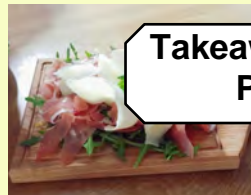
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