



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.

Renewal

The front cover is of a Rijnveld's Early Sensation which poked its head out before the end of December. New growth in the garden. The trusty daffodil is coming out to show us the way to sprng.

A New Year and what a start? Lockdown for the third time from 5th January, Whilst the health emergency is not over it is beginning to look as though it will be possible to return to something like normal life. The vaccine roll-out is under way and up and down the country there is a sense of optimism.

There is an optimism that things just will not return to the way they were, but that people have become more aware of their community. Respect for doctors, carers and nurses as well as teachers and shopkeepers who have shown skill and imagination in adapting to unknown and unforeseen circumstances.

The new rector will be looking to the future. The Church has undertaken a large survey to try to assess the way forward. I hope that you have all contributed to the discussion, whether or not you are a churchgoer. How will the building and the church find a new role in the 21st century?

Perhaps the pandemic will galvanise us all into a new, and possibly better way of life.



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PARISH COUNCIL REPORT DECEMBER 2020

The meeting, held on Zoom on Thursday 3rd December was attended by nine Councillors, the Parish Clerk, the Devon County Councillor, Margaret Squires, and two members of the public.

Finance

The main business of the meeting was the setting of a budget for the financial year 2021/22. The projected budget is similar to that for 2020/21. There was a small increase to allow for one-off extra support to the Parish Hall and the Recreation Ground, both of which have suffered badly during the pandemic. Therefore, the precept (the amount of money required to be raised from council tax) for 2021/22 is similar to that of 2020/21 with perhaps an increase of a few pence per household.

A quote for the replacement of the depth markers at Langford bridge was accepted but it was decided to postpone refurbishment of the emergency sheds until the better weather next year.

The council applied for, and was granted, a sum of £500 for COVID support. It was decided to investigate buying PPE for the Parish Hall and Recreation Ground to be used in emergencies.

The bench on the village green beside West Town road is partly rotten. The Devon County Councillor, Margaret Squires, suggested that her locality fund could help pay for repairs or replacement of the bench.

Mid Devon District Council and Devon County Council

There were no planning issues to be discussed at this meeting.

Graeme Barnell was unable to attend the meeting, but he sent in a full report, including details of a recent walk around the Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) housing estates in Newton St Cyres with the Locality Housing Officer. As a result, several areas around the village have been identified as needing leaf debris and grass cleared. The problems of social isolation with older tenants were also discussed

Two parish councillors will attend a Zoom meeting with Devon County Council to discuss the setting of the Devon budget.

Mid Devon are launching a consultation on Interim Devon Carbon Plan. This runs until February 2021. If you wish to get involved, you can sign up for the webinar series on www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/interim-carbon-plan-webinar-series/. Although these mostly occur before February.

Road and traffic issues

The grit bin beside the old school is now in an inappropriate location. It was decided to see if we could get it moved to be sited at the entrance to Tything Close.

The Parish Council decided to wait until the full report on the recent speeding survey before taking further action. It was also decided that we would ask again for double white lines in the village when the crossing was being installed next year.

BT have yet to take any action on the sunken manhole cover on the A377. The Parish Clerk will chase this up.

At present there is no school crossing patrol officer due to sickness. Margaret Squires reminded us that volunteers can be trained as back-up if required, although this may be on hold at the moment due to the pandemic.

Broadband

A broadband survey was devised and trialled by a sub-committee of the Parish Council. Those that responded to the trial were largely dissatisfied with their service. It was decided to go ahead with a full parish survey in the new year, with questionnaires delivered by the Post Office.

Other Parish Issues

Dog fouling in Court Orchard has become a problem. The Parish Clerk has notices reminding dog owners that they should 'pick up' after their dog.

The possibility of an informal food bank in the village was discussed. It was decided to investigate suitable sites for a donation point.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be by Zoom on **Thursday 4th February 2020** 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 wish issues to be raised in council meetings, they can contact councillors in the usual way.

Liz Ouldridge, Press Officer

OSTEOPOROSIS

Exeter and District Osteoporosis Support Group is part of the Royal Osteoporosis Society, the president of which is HRH The Duchess of Cornwall.

The support group was formed in September 2017. We used to hold 5 meetings a year at St Leonards Church Hall in Exeter. We had a speaker at each meeting, usually on a subject relating to osteoporosis followed by tea/ biscuits and time to chat with others with the same condition. Our average attendance was about 50 people.

As a committee we have kept in touch during the pandemic and have decided to put together a programme of events for 2021. Our first 2 meetings will be held virtually via 'Team' and by June we are hoping that we may be able to return to St Leonards.

We are a very friendly group and anyone with osteoporosis or supports anyone with osteoporosis is very welcome to join us.

Thursday 11th February at 2pm. Speaker, Suzanne Hewitt talking about fashion tips for those with osteoporosis and fractures.

Thursday 22nd April at 2pm Speaker Craig Jones CEO of Royal Osteoporosis Society.

Thursday June 17th at 2pm Dr Karen Knapp, Associate Professor in Musculoskeletal imaging at Exeter University.

Thursday September 16th at 2pm Sanna Hunt speaking on dentistry and osteoporosis

Thursday 18th November at 2pm Dr Mary Brown, Rheumatology Consultant.

If you would like to join us at any of our meetings, please email our local address exetervolunteers@theros.org.uk or telephone head office 01761473112

If you require medical help about your condition the ROS nurses are available on free helpline 0808 800 0035 between 9am/1pm and 2pm/5pm Monday to Friday or email nurses@theros.org.uk or web site wwwtheros.org.uk

Ann Bowden, Committee Member

www.newtonwonder.net

Graeme Barnell, District Councillor Newbrooke Ward: My New Year's work programme

Last Year

Until August I was a member of the Mid Devon Council's Cabinet with responsibility for Planning and Regeneration. I was able to play my part in ensuring we got our Local Plan across the line after years of delay. This plan protects us from speculative Housing Development. I was also able to help in ensuring government Covid grants to businesses were distributed efficiently and that businesses could reopen safely during the periods of respite we've had from the disease.

I had to spend a great deal of time opposing and helping to defeat GESP (the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan). I formed an alliance with friends in Mid and East Devon District Councils and with the Parish Councils, and we were finally successful in stopping GESP.

GESP was advertised as the bringer of new growth and investment to Devon. I was well placed to understand that this was just window dressing. GESP actually meant thousands of new houses locally and in other parts of rural Mid Devon that were not justified by any measure of local housing need. These schemes would have destroyed much beautiful countryside and degraded our environment.

My opposition to GESP cost me by job on the Mid Devon Council Cabinet, but that has given me much more time to work on local issues. Here are some of the issues I'll be dealing with in the coming year.

Big development

I will continue to oppose any schemes for big housing development between Exeter and Crediton.

GESP is now dead. However there are sizeable areas of the Creedy Valley that remain attractive to town planners who are always seeking ways to meet government housing targets and to developers who look at the Valley and see another lucrative suburb of Exeter.

Mid Devon District Council is just starting a new Local Plan. So are Exeter City and East Devon District Council. I will continue to be vigilant and link with the Parish Council and with colleagues from other Councils to oppose any new proposals for big development schemes locally.

Affordable housing

Like most rural areas of Devon, we lack affordable housing for local people. Most of all we lack affordable rented housing (with a government subsidy to enable rent at 80% of market) and social rented housing (50% of market rent). More affordable housing would enable and encourage families on ordinary incomes to live in villages like ours without spending disproportionate amounts of their income on housing. It would also mean that families on ordinary incomes who live in the village can remain rather than move into towns.

I will continue to support the Parish Council and my neighbours in developing a local Community Housing Scheme. First of all, we need a site. Let us know if there's a way!

I will also be working to get Mid Devon Council to invest in affordable and social rented houses, rather than spend millions more taxpayers money, with little or no return, on speculative private housing development with its Company 3 Rivers Development. It is vital that any local affordable housing schemes are sustainable in their impact on the environment and fit in with and enhance the communities in which they sit.

Transport and Traffic Plan for the Creedy Valley

After much pressure, the County Council have now promised us a controlled road crossing in the centre of Newton village. We are told this will happen later this year. We will need to work hard to make sure that it does!

I will continue my work with fellow councillors, including the Parish Council, to deliver a Transport Plan for the Creedy Valley that responds to the impact of increasing road traffic on our communities, including that arising from new housing developments in and around Crediton. Any plan needs to include:

- Footpaths and safe road crossing points in all the communities on the A377.
- Speed calming along rural lanes that are increasingly being used as "rat runs", including through Shobrooke and Sweetham, .
- Average speed cameras along the A377
- Cycle Ways, especially the Exeter to Crediton Cycle way (aka the "Boniface Trail")

Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) disrupting life in local communities

I will continue to work with the County Council, Parish Councils and with local communities to deal with the impact of HGV traffic that disrupts normal life in some of our communities. This is not about ordinary farm traffic. It's about the disruption and destruction caused by very large lorries and trailers that supply distribution businesses located in the countryside. At the moment this traffic routinely uses narrow lanes, passes through our hamlets and often by our local school. We have to find solutions.

The Birds, the Bees and Biodiversity

We are blessed to be able to live in such a beautiful place surrounded by lovely countryside. Even here I think we must work together to improve our environment. I will work with the Parish Councils, landowners, community environmental groups such as NEW, church councils, etc, to identify, protect and extend places where ponds, wildflowers and grasses can provide a more diverse habitat. I will be proposing policies that actively support populations of birds, mammals, amphibians and pollinating insects. These places include road verges, churchyards, the edges of fields. I will be working to:

- Replace mowing and cutting practices that degrade wildflower and wildlife habitats, especially practices funded by the taxpayer
- Identify and support projects that develop and extend local habitats for birds, mammals, amphibians and pollinating insects, especially projects involving schools and younger people.

Zero Carbon

Last on my work list (but definitely not least) is our part in combatting global warming. Mid Devon Council is signed up to the Devon Climate Declaration and is committed to achieving a Zero Carbon footprint within its assets and services by 2030. This is a huge task, but it is not one we can continue to duck.

I believe that the Parish Councils should also have a Zero Carbon plan that encourages and supports local people to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.

There are various ways we can contribute individually and collectively. These include:-

- Encouraging and prompting green energy generation and home insulation schemes.
- Sharing cars and journeys (post Covid, of course).
- Further reductions in landfill waste.

Post Script

There are various other issues that I'm engaged in, including local flood prevention and improving rural broadband, but perhaps more of that another time.

If you are interested in supporting me with this work, please contact me at g.barnell@middevon.gov.uk or on my landline 01392 851308. Let me know too if you think my priorities are wrong or that there is something more important that I should be doing as Councillor.

CIIr Graeme Barnell Halses, West Town Newton St Cyres

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Bored with the third lockdown?

Are you bored with having nothing to stretch your mind during this lockdown? Then Crediton u3a may have the answer. We are an organisation that appeals mainly to older members of the community, but we have no lower age limit. Much of what we do has had to be 'put on hold' during lockdown but we are running some activities online and we would like to extend an invite to anyone who would like to join our monthly talks and general knowledge quizzes. There is no charge for 'attending' our virtual meetings until the renewal date in April. Our talks are on the 3rd Wednesday morning of each month and the quizzes happen on the 4th Wednesday afternoon. Over the next few months, we are having talks about The Pyrenees Ice Caves, The Saxon Era and The Death of Venice. If you would like to join any of these events then please contact our membership secretary, Lyn, on lynpadley@gmail.com. Up-to-date information is also available on our website: Crediton & District U3A: Meetings

Membership of the Crediton u3a costs £12 a year and will be due in April. For this you also get access to special interest groups. Currently we run History, Poetry, Photography, Creative Writing and Mindfulness groups online. Later in the year, we hope to resume some of our other groups, such as our trips and visits and our walking groups, which require face-to-face contact.

Why not join us and brighten up 'the bleak midwinter'?

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Do you need any help in these times? You are not alone

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

Neighbourhood Watch Deputies

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

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

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The winners for the December draw are:				
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No. 171	J Enright	£50.00		
No. 122	J Walters	£10.00		
No. 125 No. 57 No. 112 No. 194	J Brock J Timlett Millie G Quicke	£10.00 £10.00 £10.00 £10.00		

The winners for the January draw are:				
L Pearce	£100.00			
S Parker	£10.00			
S Taylor	£10.00			
N Wheadon Mrs Whalley	£10.00 £10.00			
	L Pearce S Parker S Taylor N Wheadon			

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

Having wracked my brain and knowing the editor was waiting for my contribution for February, I decided I had better do some quick thinking.

The diary looks so different to the norm at this time of the year, and I have booked out every week until mid-May, hoping I will be able to add something after that.

At the moment, all there is in the diary is an annual cricket match on Saturday 26th June and provisional bookings for the Youth Football Tournament and the Revel that was postponed last year. In the meantime, we have to keep the grounds in order and the rents paid, all this without any income.

I, personally, am hoping to get my first dose of the vaccinations at the end of February and the second in May or June.

Here's hoping you all keep happy and healthy. Care for those close to you in this difficult time.

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 February from Peter Cordingley

Winter has been a horror movie, but, happily, we're on the last reel. That came home to me near the Rec the other day, when I saw a lone, brave little snowdrop in the hedgerow. I haven't been living long enough in England since my return from overseas to know if the snowdrop had a death wish or not, but I like to think it was signalling that the winter sun won't be slacking off for much longer. Soon(ish), it will no longer be showing up for work at 8am and knocking off at 5pm. And what a difference that will make!

I remember being shocked and delighted last summer when I got up for a bathroom visit at 4:30am and witnessed the most glorious sunrise, with the sky lit up in a dozen shades of red. Sunrise at 4:30am? Does more of that lie ahead or was it another of those Brieinduced hallucinations? Anyway, we're still a long, long way from that now, but I'm told that it's getting lighter three minutes earlier every day. Excellent! – though I confess I haven't noticed that, partly because my sensory system doesn't normally get going until about the time Theresa shows up in her little red Royal Mail van.

The winter darkness has affected our home lives. In the past, as journalists in Asia, my wife and I worked long hours and didn't normally get to settle down for dinner until 9pm or later. Now? Darkness by 5pm has tricked us into thinking it's later than it really is. The result: we're having dinner by 7pm, just like most of the rest of Newton St Cyres. And then? Well, like many others, we have discovered Netflix and all the other wonderful streaming services. Cosy nights inside in the company of "Peaky Blinders" (yes, it took us a while to catch up with that) or our other obsession, "Bridgerton", are new to us, but what a splendid way to spend a winter evening!

Back in the olden days, meaning this time last year before Lockdown No.1, the first signs of days getting longer meant the thought of al fresco dinners, a trip to the Beer Engine for a drink or two, or afternoons at the beach. Alas, we all know where that's gone.

But the old reliables are still with us. The return of light means the return of nature's colours, the joy of natural beauty all around us, and the lifting of our spirits, Covid or no Covid. Elsewhere in this publication, Mary Quicke writes eloquently of the early signs of growth – catkins, snowdrops and primroses, plus the busy world of frogs. I'm nothing like as tuned to nature as Mary, but even I have noticed the sound of birdsong that was not there a few weeks ago. As Nicola Baker says in her gardening notes, "we could not have wished to live in a better part of the world during the lockdowns and restrictions."

There's no point hiding the fact that there are testing times ahead for all of us, and my views on the usefulness of the vaccine are not shared by all, but let's please all count our blessings.

NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP

This is the first History Group report we have been able to produce since last February, because, of course, all talks and meetings have been suspended. As time wore on and it became clear that things would not resume as normal after the summer, Jean Wilkins began to make enquiries about what other groups were doing to meet via Zoom.

No one was quite sure if this would work out, but it gradually became clear that Zoom lectures were the way forward. They are not the same as a real live talk, of course, but they are a very good way of keeping information flowing. They have proved to be interesting and stimulating for those who are able to utilise the technology.

Crediton U3A had been Zooming talks successfully during the late summer, and Crediton Library held a successful Zoom local-history day in July. Given this, it seemed sensible that we should follow their example with some of our talks. It soon became clear that others were also interested, especially the Crediton U3A history group and Sandford Heritage Group. So we decided to combine, with the Crediton Area History and Museum Society joining in too.

The Crediton Library have very kindly agreed to host the meetings and one of the librarians, Mark Norman, will be the February lecturer. All the lecturers are giving their services free.

The first Zoom talk, on Friday 11th December, was by Mike Brett, who had been booked well before Covid struck, to talk at our Christmas meeting. Mike Brett will be familiar to anyone who has attended our meetings. He is from Sandford Heritage Group and has recorded most of our talks for some years now, and showed us some old films on Farming in Devon at our January meeting two years ago. Mike's subject this time was – "The Sandford Woollen Industry and 'Perpetuana".

The manufacture of good quality woollen cloth from the fleeces produced from the farms of Mid Devon was a staple industry in Crediton and many surrounding villages 350 years ago. Sandford was one of these villages, and it specialised in a particular serge cloth called 'Perpetuana', which was widely sold throughout Europe, and was exported as far as China via the East India Company. However, there are few records of the industry in the village, and so Sandford Heritage Group have been trying to find out more about this important aspect of the village's past, and the cloth known as 'Sandfords' or 'Perpets'.

Serge is a twill cloth woven on 2:2 which is taking the weft two over and two under the warp and alternating the rows. There was rivalry between Crediton and Sandford, both known for the best cloth, and Mike quoted a newspaper report from 1713, which says that 'Sandford' cloth was worth 23½ pence per lb whereas 'Crediton' cloth was 22½ pence per lb. What was known was that 'Perpetuana' was a type of woollen serge which was fine, with a good drape (which means it would fall in soft folds and was not thick and heavy), and yet was very hard wearing, hence its name. So in 2017 the Group commissioned Louise Cottey, a West Country textile specialist, to recreate a piece of Sandford 'Perpetuana', and Mike held up a piece of her work to show us. It had also been featured in April 2019 at the Sandford Village Hall Heritage exhibition, which some of you might have attended. There is a video of her work at https://youtube/7ynug3sgznq. Mike thanked Crediton History Society and the Incorporation of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen of Exeter (Tuckers Hall is on Fore Street and can be visited when open and when Covid restrictions no longer apply), who helped to finance the commission.

The process of transforming raw fleeces into fine cloth was long and labour intensive. Mike told us about each stage, using well-chosen slides for illustration. After shearing, fleeces were sorted and graded. This became a specialised and skilled, relatively well-paid job. The wool was then prepared for spinning by carding, which separated and rolled short stapled fleece for the weft, or combing, which used 'longwool' to produce long straight slivers ready to be spun into the strong warp.

In Exeter, long days of 14 hours were worked, and a comber could earn 9/- a week. A spinner in Exeter would on average be paid 9d per lb of wool spun. The yarn was now ready for weaving on looms that would have been built by the village carpenter. Once the cloth was produced, it had to be 'finished'. The expertise used and resulting quality of the cloth made all the difference in the competitive cloth trade, to command the best prices.

The finishing process was called fulling, or tucking, and involved a number of stages. These required a great deal of water, skilled workers, and equipment. The nearest centre where cloth was processed on a large scale was Exeter. The woven cloth would have been transported by horse into town. Here it would first be scoured or washed in large vats to remove the grease and dirt, using chemical cleansing agents (a smelly and messy job, producing a great deal of effluent). Next came the fulling, originally done by treading the cloth, then later in a mill with water powered hammers, which beat the cloth in troughs of urine, fullers' earth then soapy water, in that order, thickening and shrinking it. The cloth was restored to shape by being stretched out to dry on large frames in fields outside the city.

The dry cloth was then checked over (burling) to remove any last imperfections or burrs, before napping. This involved rubbing the cloth with teasels, which had to be grown and collected and put in a suitable wooden frame, to raise the surface fibres of the cloth.

Lastly the raised surface would be sheared down to a smooth finish, using enormous, heavy metal shears. This was a very skilful job. The napping and shearing was repeated to ensure a smooth finish. After this, the wool could be dyed, or else sold on in its natural colour. Again, this was a skilled job involving chemicals to fix the dye, large vats of boiling water, and creating large amounts of effluent. Madder and woad or indigo were the most commonly used dyes.

An extra process gave the wool its status as a 'Perpetuana'. This was 'hot-pressing'. The cloth was folded, with sheets of paper in each fold, then placed on a hot metal sheet with a top plate tightly screwed down. Crediton and Sandford are named as towns where this was done. This raises a question, though, because it would mean that either the wool was finished in those towns, which on the face of it did not have the necessary waterpower and skilled workers, or else it was transported back there for the hot pressing. This would add considerable transport costs and seems unlikely. Until further evidence emerges, no one can say for certain what actually happened.

'Sandfords' and 'Perpets' and all other types of finished lengths of cloth, were baled up, wrapped in canvas or 'tillet' cloth, stamped with their manufacturer's name and other information, then shipped out around Europe and the world.

Relating all these processes to Sandford village is difficult. However, Mike did find references to individual workers, including John Pope, a 'Woosterd Comer' and 'Weaver' who lived in his house in 1664/1668. Mike's house is outside the village and he thinks it likely that many people in

February 2021

outlying farms and buildings were involved in the weaving trade. 'Serge maker' or 'serge master' was often used to describe an occupation, but does not indicate exactly what job was being done. Simon Tucker is also recorded in a lease of 1764, but it is not known if he really was a tucker, rather than a weaver.

New evidence has recently come to light. Todd Gray found, by chance, a sample book of specimens of Exeter cloths, including examples of 'Sandfords' in near-perfect condition. He has edited the book with essays from various contributors. 'The Exeter cloth dispatch book 1763-5' is published by the Devon and Cornwall Record Society. He also found a merchant's record book, 'John Hern's Work Book 1771', which records details of Sandford serge, and discussion of this is included in 'The Exeter cloth dispatch book'.

Many thanks go to Mike for a really interesting talk on such an important former local industry.

Finally, the History Group has not been idle during lockdown. Many of you will have seen or bought the booklets on Newton St Cyres in the 1940s & 50s by Stella Cork, and Newton St Cyres and The Civil War by Jean Wilkins. Brian Please has done a great deal of work on Tithe Apportionment in 1843, Censuses, and Births, Deaths and Marriages in the village from the C18th on.

Isobel Hepworth

NEWTON ST CYRES HISTORY GROUP ZOOM TALKS SPRING 2021

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 linkage is sent to Roger Wilkins in plenty of time. Roger has a long list of people to whom he regularly passes these linkages 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 linkage) 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.

The three meetings remaining in this series are:

February 12th The Folklore of Thomas Becket and his Murderers – Mark Norman. March 12th Thomas Bodley and the Exeter Cathedral Library – Ian Maxted April 9th The Spanish Armada. An Alternative View – Tony Gale.

All these meetings are at 4pm on a Friday. We hope you enjoy them!



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)

The Helmore family saga

A Devon tale of wealth, incarceration and more

When my four-times great grandfather Mark Helmore (b.1763) died in 1825, he was a wealthy man. He had bought Castlands (aka Casslands), which in 1793 the "Exeter Flying Post" had advertised for sale by auction, 'adjoining the Turnpike road leading from Exeter to Crediton, and about four Miles from Exeter, in the Parish of Newton St Cyres, and then in the several Possessions of Mr. Wm. Couch, the proprietor, and of Samuel Adams, his Tenant'. It consisted of 'two dwellings, Garden in Front, one Orchard containing about two Acres, and two fields adjoining, containing about four Acres and Three-quarters'.

Among other property, Mark Helmore owned a 'moiety' (half share) in the Crown & Sceptre in Newton St Cyres (sadly burned down in 1962 and replaced by a nondescript modern building) and another in Marsh Tenements, as well as 'leasehold Cottages Lands and Hereditaments situate in Newton Saint Cyres aforesaid or elsewhere'. His grave, along with those of several relatives, still exists in Newton Church graveyard.

His will was long and convoluted, reflecting the style of the time. He left a lifetime interest in his property and money to his wife Penelope (nee Ellis 1763-1835) and substantial legacies of several hundred pounds each (a great deal of money then) to his two eldest children, the by-then married daughters Mary Carter (1788-1853) and Abigail Gould (1789-1847). The main thrust of his will though, was to ensure that his wealth stayed with the eldest son of the eldest son in perpetuity and should that line die out, then the estate should go to the next eldest son and his eldest son and so on.

In fact there were five sons in all: my ancestor John Helmore (1791-1838) maltster, William Helmore (1794-1883) auctioneer, Mark Helmore (1796-1863) ironmonger, Thomas Helmore (1799-1833) yeoman farmer, and James Helmore (1800-1825) vet.

So it came as quite a shock to find his eldest son John's eldest son, John Helmore Jnr. (1817-1877), incarcerated in the Devon County House of Correction in the 1841 census, just 16 years after his grandfather's death and only three years after the death of his own father. While I am descended from John Jnr.'s younger brother, Mark Helmore (1821-1899), this discovery fascinated me, and I decided it was time to brush up my knowledge of the Poor Laws and try to find out what had happened. How could it all go so wrong in such a short length of time?

After Mark Helmore died in 1825, John Snr. continued to trade as a maltster in Newton St Cyres. In 1826, his wife Grace Helmore (nee Reed 1789-1826) having died earlier that year, probably during or after the birth of their fifth child, Ann Maria, John, with a large family of whom John Jnr. was the eldest but still only 9, married Sarah Read (nee Beedell). They in turn had a further six children. In 1828 the "Exeter Flying Post" reported an accident 'descending the hill near Mr Helmore's Maltster, Newton St Cyres'. Worse was to come. Tragically, in 1834 'a fire broke out on the premises of Mr Helmore, maltster, in the parish of Newton St Cyres'.

The report goes on to describe how the fire engines of the various insurance companies were called out from Exeter but that while the malthouse was saved, the dwelling house was destroyed. It is not clear if this was at the maltings at Castlands or another property. On a visit to Newton, I could find neither any trace nor awareness of a maltings, and what seemed like a hill in 1828 probably went unnoticed in our modern cars. John Snr. died of consumption at Castle Street in the St. Sidwell district of Exeter on 20th August 1838, so it might be reasonable to assume that he was receiving medical care or nursing, and that he had the wherewithal to pay for it.

So Mark Helmore's grandson, John Jnr., should have been a wealthy young man and quite a catch for Harriett Skinner (1816-1886), the daughter of William Skinner, a mason, when they married at St. George's Church Exeter on 29th October just two months after his father's death. Both John and Harriett were educated, signing their own names in the register. On the marriage certificate John was also described as a maltster although both his and his new wife's address was given as Butcher's Row, not the Newton St Cyres maltings address that might have been expected.

Now the mystery really begins. John and Harriett's first child, Abigail (sic) Mary Jane Helmore, was born in Smithfield, London, in early 1840 but baptised in Thorverton Parish on 9th February when John Helmore was described as Atty Clerk, presumably meaning an attorney's clerk. Quite a change from a maltster and why had they been in London? You would have expected Harriet to want to be close to her own parents for the birth of her first child.

The Newton St Cyres Overseers of the Poor Record for 1841 (preserved in the Devon Heritage Centre archives) revealed that John had been living in Thorverton parish and had applied there for relief but examination showed that his parish of settlement was Newton St Cyres and he and his family were to be removed there so that the Newton Overseers could look after them. Apparently John had lived with his own family until the age of 11, then with another relative in the same parish for eight years. Five years previously, he had gone to Thorverton at the age of about 18, living with a Mr Gervis for about 18 months.

Searching the censuses revealed several Gervis families, all professional people, suggesting that this is why he stated that he was an attorney's clerk. Then for the balance of the last five years, he had lived at different places, during which time he had of course married and now had two children, as a second daughter, Harriett Helmore, was baptised on 16th May 1841, again in Thorverton parish, when John was described as a servant.

Clearly something had gone seriously wrong, and six days after the baptism on 22nd May John was committed to the Devon House of Correction for three months and there he appeared in the 1841 census, his offence being 'leaving his family'. The same 1841 census revealed his wife living in Three Horseshoes village, Upton Pyne as a 'laundress' (sic). It must have been their eldest child, Abigail, who appeared as Jane Helmore in Thorverton with an elderly woman called Sarah Parker and the five-week-old Harriett Helmore, who was recorded in Silver Street, Thorverton, as Harriett Helmer, in the home of a John & Eliza Mortimore. Next door were 80-year-old William and Ann Skinner, strong candidates to be Harriett senior's grandparents.

So it looks as if the family had had to call on the goodwill of friends and relatives. We forget that these were small and close-knit communities where everyone knew everyone else and where neighbours would help each other out. No social services in those days! Nevertheless it must have all been quite an ordeal and not the life for which his grandfather Mark had left such comprehensive instructions.

Nevertheless things did eventually look up for the family. In 1843 a third child was born, John Helmore, baptised on 19th September, again in Thorverton parish, when his father was described as a shopman. The 1851 census shows the family, with three more children, Lydia Ann Helmore (b. Exeter 1845), Mark Helmore (b. Exeter 1848) and Alfred Helmore (b. Exeter 1850), living at 1 Dukes Place, Fore Hill Street, Exeter. John was described as an itinerant bookseller. The eldest child Abigail was living with her mother's brother, William Skinner, a mason, and his wife Mary at Jericho Street, Thorverton.

The family has grown again by the time of the 1861 census, when they were living at Friernhay Street, Exeter, with another two children, William Skinner Helmore (b. 1852 Exeter) and Francis Helmore (b. 1855 Newton St Cyres), John still being described as a bookseller.

I could find no trace of the family in the 1871 census and it transpired that they had emigrated to Australia, where John and Harriett headed up a large family of descendants down to modern times. Abigail however appeared to have initially stayed in England as she married Henry Alfred Smith in Kensington on Christmas day 1865. This couple also emigrated but sadly she must be the Abigail Smith who was involved in a street accident involving a tram in Sydney on 4th May 1896 and died as a result.

Making contact with one of the family in Australia, I was able to establish what had happened and why John Jnr. had not inherited his family's wealth. It transpired that when John Snr. (the maltster) remarried after Grace's death in 1826 and had another family, his second wife, Sarah Read (nee Beadell), wanted the family wealth to go to her children. For the next couple of years she made life for John Helmore Jnr. very unpleasant, so he left to live with another relative when he was 11 as recorded in the Poor Record. So Sarah was the wicked stepmother of fictional fame!

However retribution was swift and severe as she herself died, before her husband, on 14th November 1837, probably as a result of childbirth problems when their youngest child, William Helmore, was born. John Snr. must have held Sarah in high esteem as her obituary in 'Woolmer's Exeter and Plymouth Gazette' on 18th November waxed lyrical about her (*Nov 14 after a long illness borne with patience and Christian fortitude and much regretted, aged 36, Sarah wife of Mr John Helmore of Newton St Cyres maltster*).

What is not known is John Snr.'s view of the treatment of his eldest son and whether or not he went along with it. Maybe father and son had also fallen out. John Jnr. may have been at just the wrong age to survive losing his mother and finding her replaced in his father's affections. Presumably, after 10 years of being made unwelcome, the damage had been done and there was no way John Jnr. would or could rejoin his father in the last year of his life.

After 200 years, I don't think it is right to judge or criticise what took place so long ago. It was a different world then, with different attitudes and standards of behaviour. Just imagine what they might think of the way we lead our lives today! However, while we can't possibly know all the circumstances, these events don't appear to put Sarah in a good light.

Disappointingly there is no trace of a will or death duty record for John Snr. Castlands itself had been let to a William Fisher in 1833 and by the time of the 1842 Tithe apportionments it was owned by Mark Helmore, probably John's uncle the ironmonger, also a wealthy man who lived at The Sanctuary Shobrooke.

As the years went by, some members of the family led ordinary lives, some became wealthy and some have been famous. One married a pop star, another was a Member of Parliament. The Helmore family has always proved full of interest.

An earlier version of this article was published in the 'Devon Family History Society Historian Journal', but more information has become available online, enabling it to be updated.

© Peter F Cope

peterfcope@hotmail.co.uk

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.



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 51



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.

This month one of our readers would like to find out moe abou this man and his family. Please contact the editor if you have any information about him - editor@newtonwonder.net

February on the Farm

NATURE

There's a tension between the inexorable turning of the year and the last blast of winter. The days are lengthening, cheering up plants and animals alike. At the same time, winter can throw surprises, with the arbitrary moving of cold or warm air masses giving spring-like warmth or icy blasts that nip any springing in the bud. There are the early signs of growth – catkins starting to lengthen, snowdrops, even the odd primrose. I look out for frogspawn, the gelatinous evidence of a riotous party in the reptile world. The birdsong builds in the morning – the birds need to pair up for Valentine's Day, needing some singing action. We find antlers shed in the woods, as the males get rid of their elaborate headpieces. It's now all about birth.

COWS

We wait for the soil to firm up to spread manure – composted straw bedding with all the lovely animal wastes priming it to work miracles on the soil. The spring crops provide stubble for overwintering birds, makes good use of the manure, provides feed and bedding for animals next winter, and next spring's manure: that's a cycle that is humming.

The spring-calved cows start coming in off the crop, and into the barn for a last bit of TLC before they calve at the end of the month. The calf grows visibly bigger in their bellies, and the cows rest, hang out and eat in preparation for the big day. We've spent the winter improving buildings. Now we'll see how the changes land with the cows: they are mostly outside, and these few weeks can make all the difference.

Now the benefits of being outside all winter, keeping toned and fit, show up. The animals calve easily with exercised muscles and vigorous little hybrid calves. Calves that have an easy entry to the world are more vigorous and are able to suckle that valuable colostrum first milk, priming their immune systems for life. We keep the calves in a barn that we re-built last year after a fire. Our people showed incredible heroism in saving all of the animals. The calves kept running back into the building seeking the safety in their familiar pens. In the end, the last few calves needed to be carried out of the smoke -filling burning building.

The cows go out to grass joyously as the grass creeps forward in growth. At first, they eat the grass that was stored from last autumn, and the little that has grown over winter. At the first sniff of grazing, the milk starts to take on the gentle and alluring aroma of the precious volatiles of fresh grass. The milk comes into balance, lovely for cheesemaking.

DAIRY

We are making cheese for what we hope are pandemic-free times next year. The cheeses starts candle-like and glowing in their fresh cloths, and develop an exquisite pattern and aroma of mould over the months, until they are a rich grey-green colour, with flecks of interesting moulds. All of that gives a distinctive and unique flavour profile belonging to this farm.

We were delighted by the support people showed by ordering our cheese at Christmas time. We were literally overwhelmed, and stopped being able to take orders to make sure we could deliver on time. We are taking this time to get the capacity to provide cheese to everyone who orders. I'm sorry if we disappointed some people. We'll put it right for next time, and thank you for your support and encouragement.

RECIPE-MARTHA'S CHEESE BISCUITS

"These double cheese biscuits are the best partner to a glass of wine or bubbly that I can think of! Buttery Cheddar and Devonshire Red for that gorgeous colour, rolled in sesame seeds and baked until crisp. It's a great way to use up any leftover cheese – anything mature will work well." Martha Collison

Makes 12-16 biscuits

INGREDIENTS

- 175g plain flour
- 125g butter, cold and cubed
- 75g Quicke's Buttery Cheddar, finely grated
- 50g Quicke's Devonshire Red, finely grated
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp black pepper
- 1 tbsp milk
- 1 tsp sea salt
- A few tablespoons black and white sesame seeds

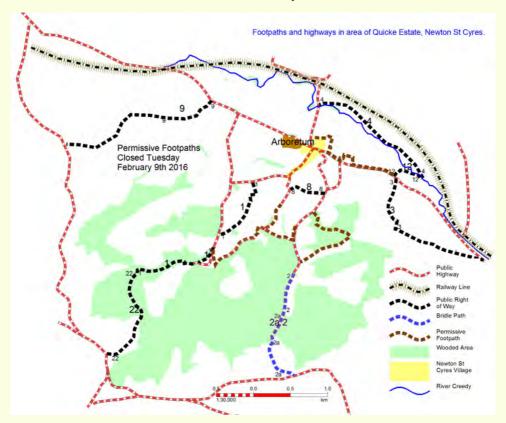
METHOD

- 1. Place the flour, butter, black pepper and paprika into a food processor or large bowl, and blitz (or use your fingers to rub the butter into the dry ingredients) until it begins to clump together (you may need to add a teaspoon of water if it doesn't look like it will hold!).
- 2. Add the grated cheese and briefly knead to form a dough, roll into a log and wrap tightly in clingfilm. Chill for at least 30 minutes.
- 3. Preheat the oven to 160C fan and line a large baking tray with baking parchment. Mix together the sesame seeds and salt, then tip onto a board. Brush the outside of the log with milk, then roll in the seeds until completely coated. Slice into 1cm rounds and arrange on the baking tray.
- 4. Bake for 15-17 minutes, until golden brown on top and baked through. Allow to cool before enjoying!

Mary Quicke



Permissive footpaths on the Quicke's estate will be closed for the day on Tues 9th February 2021



THE ARBORETUM

Newton St Cyres

We have been able to keep the Arboretum open throughout the Covid crisis and are delighted that the number of visitors has been higher than in previous years. The continued contribution of our volunteers to keep on top of requirements for maintenance has been much appreciated.

We plan some new planting this year as a bit of space has opened up through removal of stumps of fallen trees and also the loss of some massive branches from our old holm oaks. These are well over 100 years old and each tree may have a number of major trunks. As shown in the picture, rot is liable to set in at the base of some of the trunks. Regular inspections of the trees are made and a number of branches at risk have recently been taken down. Strong winds though may deal with some branches not picked up at inspection! Unfortunately the cost of tree surgery and clearing up fallen trees is guite high.

If you enjoy visiting the Arboretum, please consider joining the 120 or so Friends of Newton Arboretum. The Friends manage the Arboretum on behalf of the Parish Council and operate under a Licence Agreement with John Quicke, the owner. There is an annual subscription of £10 and this makes an important contribution to the costs of maintenance and improvement. The Friends determine how the Arboretum is developed and, in normal times, we organise some events specifically for Friends each year. The Treasurer, who loves to receive subscriptions, is Peter Watts (01392 851369; peterwatts369@btinternet.com).

It has been particularly great to have the Arboretum at our doorstep during this challenging year and the village owes much to John Quicke for permitting access to this great place. Thank you, John.

Roger Wilkins, Secretary, Friends of Newton Arboretum

Major limb of holm oak that fell in Autumn 2020, showing basal rot



It has been particularly great to have the Arboretum at our doorstep during this challenging year and the village owes much to John Quicke for permitting access to this great place. Thank you, John.

Roger Wilkins, Secretary, Friends of Newton Arboretum



Sweet and savoury pancakes

Pancakes with lemon juice and caster sugar are a favourite, but try adding currants to the batter for a change. If you prefer something savoury try this filling: mushrooms, thinly sliced and cooked in Devonshire butter, seasoned and finished with a spoonful of double cream and chopped chives. Spoon onto the pancakes before rolling or folding them.

Paul Cleave

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Newton St Cyres Tennis Club

A belated Happy New Year to all readers, and hope you are all managing in these challenging times. To look on the optimistic side, the days are getting longer, the snowdrops are coming out, and we are all getting nearer our vaccinations - indeed some of you will already have had one by the time you read this.





The tennis club held a Christmas tournament again this year, with 12 players running off the excesses of Christmas dinners in an American- style mixed-doubles event. This year there were no prizes for best fancy dress, but the sprouts boxer shorts would have won if there had been!

Not long after the tournament, we were back in lockdown with the courts and clubhouse locked yet again. We hope that it won't be too long until we can get back on court, and would encourage anyone interested in joining to check out our website at www.newtonstcyrestennisclub.co.uk. The membership year starts at the beginning of April; we have very competitive rates, a great new court surface, new LED lights and a refurbished and extended clubhouse.

Finally, here is a short tennis quiz to help while away lockdown!

- 1) In tennis what is a bagel?
- 2) Name the four tennis Grand Slams held every year
- 3) In which Swiss city was Roger Federer born?
- 4) How many Olympic gold medals has Andy Murray won?
- 5) In which year was Federer and Nadal's epic Wimbledon final that ended at 9.15pm, in the dark, the year before the roof was installed on the Centre Court?
- 6) What is the name of the electronic line judge used to help adjudicate close line calls?
- 7) What is the minimum number of points required to win a tie break?
- 8) Who was the youngest and the first unseeded player to win the men's singles at Wimbledon?
- 9) How high is a tennis net in the centre?
- 10) Where is the French Open held?





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Sally Baldwin

Answers: -

- 1) When a set is won 6-0.
- 2) Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, US Open.
- 3) Basel.
- 4) 2.
- 5) 2008.
- 6) Hawkeye.
- 7) 7.
- 8)Boris Becker.
 - 9) 36" or 90cm.
- 10) Stade Roland Gaross, Paris.

Newton St Cyres Gardening Club

A Happy and Healthy New Year from the Gardening Club. 2020 was a very difficult year for many, but, with vaccines now becoming available, we can all hope for a better year. I have said this before, but we could not have wished to live in a better part of the world during the lockdowns and restrictions. With gardens to keep us busy, and wonderful walks and scenery on our doorsteps, we were able to re-discover nature and wildlife all around us.

With lockdown restrictions in place as I write this article, we have no meetings or outings planned. We will continue to monitor the situation and make plans, as appropriate, for the Club during 2021.

We were fortunate to squeeze in our only indoor meeting of 2020 last February, when Jo Hynes from Higher Cherubeer Gardens, Winkleigh, gave us her amazing presentation on Snowdrops and Cyclamen in the wild and in the garden. Her knowledge and passion for these plants was apparent, and she also brought many snowdrop varieties with her for sale. Did you buy any?



Are you a budding galanthophile? If so, you have probably been eagerly awaiting snowdrops to start peeping through the soil! I listened to the Open Country programme on Radio 4 (14/01/21) entitled Snowdrop Country. It covered the background of Alan Street, from Somerset, who works for a family-run nursery where new varieties of snowdrop seed themselves around a little woodland. Alan found and named his first snowdrop 'Blueberry Tart' back in the 1970s, when he was still at school. Over the years, he has discovered and named many more varieties – often named after people that he has known and who are no longer alive.

It takes many years for new varieties to become established and ready to be shared, and the programme tells of Alan's journey and love of snowdrop landscapes, which this year will be even more meaningful. The programme can be listened to again, via BBC Sounds, if you missed it.

The first primroses in our garden flowered well before Christmas, and they remain my favourite. The ideal spot for primroses are cool damp banks and hedgerows and woodland settings and they reproduce easily. There are two separate types of page 34 www.newtonwonder.net

primrose, each with both male and female organs, the only difference being the lengths of these organs. These are known as Pin-eyed, with a greenish disc at the centre, and Thrum-eyed with a cluster of bright yellow anthers.

It is possible to create your own primrose hybrids by using a small brush to move pollen from one onto the stigma of another. Established primrose plants should be divided every 2-3 years, when the flowers are dying back. Last year I replanted around 100, so am looking forward to seeing how well they have done on the banks where I replanted them.



If you have ventured out, then you will have seen seed

potatoes on sale. Another indication that the year is on the move, with treasures ahead!! Most gardeners have favourite potato varieties that they have grown for many years. Our favourite first early variety is Lady Christl. Last year produced a bumper crop, some of which we allowed to grow into larger potatoes which were very good roasted. The description often given for Lady Christl is that it produces good yields of very early, firm, oval, smooth yellow-skinned tubers. The flesh has an excellent flavour as a new potato, and remains firm on cooking. It was also given the RHS Award of Garden Merit. Early planting in February and March will give a harvest in May, alternatively planting in April will give a June/July harvest.

Another job which should be undertaken now, if you have not already done it is cutting back the canes of Autumn fruiting raspberries. These are the simplest to prune as all you need to do is to cut each cane down to the ground. Once this has been done, you can take the opportunity to weed along the rows. This should be done carefully as the raspberry roots are fairly shallow. Once you have weeded, finish with a handful of fertiliser lightly forked into the surrounding soil and then a layer of mulch to keep the weeds under control. This will encourage new growth, to form strong new canes, and for new buds to develop and fruit later in the year.

Please continue to put out food and water for the birds within your garden, I am looking forward to seeing the results of this year's RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch (29th-31st January), as I think that many more people will have been involved in submitting sightings from their gardens.

Something new to try this year

Some time ago I saw a local news item about Knighthayes National Trust growing luffa plants in their greenhouses. For younger readers, the fruits from these plants are known as loofahs and are what people used for washing in the bath, before the days of plastic! I thought that sounded interesting and fun, so decided to have a go.

I sowed the seed in March indoors in small pots. The large seeds germinated quite easily and then were transplanted on into bigger pots as needed. Like any vine, they need lots of room to climb as well as supports, so additional strong string was fixed around the greenhouse roof.



Lufas grow really fast and the tendrils wrap around anything they can find - all necessary to support the weight of the fruits, which grew up to 35cm long. I limited the number of plants to just two in a large pot, or they would have taken over completely. Lots of water and tomato feed, as well as good heat, are needed.

By October I had three large and two small fruits. Once the skin goes hard and brown, they are ready to harvest. I found the skin broke off easily once they are really dried out. Shake out the copious seeds and get ready for a bath!!

I have lots of seed saved, so if anyone wants to try growing them for themselves, I'm at 07519620978.

Sue Rowell

Sherwood House,

Newton St Cyres EX5 5BT 01392 851622

In these difficult times when we all need some space and calm, Nikki and Mark Chambers would like to invite you to come and walk around our beautiful garden of 25 acres. We can only accommodate 20 cars, so first come first served! Please observe social distancing rules. At own risk. No charge. No dogs.

EVERY WEDNESDAY ONLY - OPEN 10am to 1pm - Sturdy footwear required.





Medical Detection Dogs - The Super Sniffers and Covid-19

As the threat from Covid grows, Newton St Cyres residents may be interested to learn about the latest recruits to the effort to turn back the virus.

Medical Detection Dogs are super sniffers, using their incredible sense of smell to save lives each and every day. The charity trains two different types of dog. These are Bio Detection Dogs and Medical Alert Assistance Dogs.



Bio Detection Dogs use their nose to find illnesses such as cancer, Parkinson's disease, bacterial infections, and malaria in samples of bodily waste products such as breath, urine, and sweat. The ultimate goal of these wonderful dogs is much earlier diagnosis through less invasive and less expensive methods, saving the NHS hundreds of thousands of pounds each year.

Medical Alert Assistance Dogs support individuals with complex health conditions who have limited awareness of an impending life-threatening medical event. Using their amazing sense of smell, these dogs can be

trained to identify minute odour changes emitted prior to an emergency and alert the person to take preventative action.

In April 2020, the team at Medical Detection Dogs began to consider whether they could help with the Covid-19 pandemic. With over 12 years of scientific evidence telling them that diseases each carry their own odour, it seemed likely that the same would apply to Covid-19. The charity joined with two partners, Durham University and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, to begin the project.

The summer and autumn of 2020 saw the project partners collect samples and train the dogs to tell them whether Covid-19 has an odour. Most recently, the charity has been working further to train the dogs to detect the virus and measuring the success (accuracy) of this detection.

The goal of this project will be to have dogs at points-of-entry, such as airports, to passively test individuals entering the country, indicating whether they need to go on to have a swab test and then self-isolate. As this fascinating project is ongoing, please do keep an eye on the charity's website if you would like the latest information.

From the charity's humble roots back in 2004 to where they are today, it's exciting to see the bio-detection projects progress and the number of assistance dogs rise each year, even with limited funds and fighting through a pandemic. Medical Detection Dogs are hoping to continue to grow and save more lives now and into the future.

If you would like to make a donation towards their work, please visit medical detection dogs.co.uk/giving.

If you would like to learn more about the charity, please join one of the Super Sniffer webinars by visiting medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk/super-sniffers-webinar/

Thank you.

Rebecca Pearce page 37

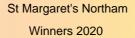


South Tawton Winners 2018

All Saints Church East Budleigh with the Bishop of Exeter Winners 2019









Could your local churchyard be the best in Devon this year?

During the pandemic, Devon's residents have appreciated the green spaces around their churches like never before, and now Devon CPRE is inviting churches of all denominations to enter this year's competition to find the 'Best Churchyard' in the whole of the county.

Following a year with little to celebrate, Devon CPRE applauds the volunteers helping to maintain and 'green up' Devon's churchyards. During the challenging months of lockdown, many churchyards have become real sanctuaries for the local community – and not just for churchgoers. In some places, they are the only public spaces people can walk to for exercise and to observe nature.

This is the fourth year the Devon countryside charity has held its churchyard awards, and it's hoping to receive more entries than ever by the end of March. The judges are not seeking the most pristine or manicured churchyards. They are looking for those which are well managed to provide a peaceful haven for people and wildlife.

Each entry is visited by the judges and assessed on a range of criteria, including the measures put in place to increase biodiversity.

Penny Mills, Director of Devon CPRE, says: "Devon has hundreds of beautiful churchyards and they've really come into their own during the challenging circumstances of 2020. Residents the length and breadth of Devon have appreciated their local churchyard like never before, so we want to really celebrate these special places in 2021 – and celebrate the people who look after them, because they are all volunteers and do a fantastic job."

CPRE Devon trustee and fellow churchyard judge Ivan Buxton has been impressed by the standard of entries year on year: "We were particularly impressed by the careful management of these ancient burial grounds to create sanctuaries for the living," he says. "Measures to encourage wildlife and biodiversity have included bug hotels, mini-beast trails, ponds, bird boxes, composting areas, wildflower meadows and even gardens producing fruit, vegetables and herbs for parishioners to enjoy."

Because of Covid-19 restrictions, last year's competition had to be run differently to previous years. The judges waited until after lockdown travel restrictions were lifted in the summer to begin their on-site inspections. There was no official prize-giving ceremony in 2020, but the winner and runner-up were presented with their trophies in person, in informal visits observing strict social distancing. This year's competition will be conducted along similar lines.

Which Devon churchyards will make the shortlist in 2021? As well as the kudos of winning, there's a top prize of £200 and a beautiful oak plaque, made in Devon from sustainable wood, to display to locals and visitors.

Devon CPRE is the Devon branch of the countryside charity CPRE. The local charity is the go-to organisation campaigning to protect Devon's precious countryside, green spaces and unique landscapes for the benefit of all. Part of the national CPRE network, it is, however, a separate body.

Bert Jewell writes Rhymes and Ways about Gardens and Gardening

February

Many of you will know by now that Margaret and I have moved from Penrose House, which we had built about 10 years ago in the garden of Penrose, a bungalow that we bought in 1982 with a very large garden. We were sorry to leave the garden that we had created over the years and will miss the open days that we held, raising funds for Hospiscare and other charities. While thinking of these things, a few lines came to me, so I sat down and wrote this poem about the homes we have had.

Our first house was tiny, one up and one down, A tin-covered kitchen where the rain played a sound, But blocks soon arrived, unloaded by hand, The new kitchen was born using concrete and sand.

The next house was bigger, ten rooms all in all, With a long flight of stairs leading up from the hall, But the poor house was tired, in need of some care, There was no time for sitting in a nice comfy chair.

Our next home was different, twas a bungalow you see, With a very large garden which was just fine by me, But it was so overgrown with bindweed and briar, My worry at the time was what if I tire!

But the garden was sorted within four years or so, With a beautiful lawn that I would happily mow. When the builders moved, in the lawn was no more, The caravan we lived in had mud at the door.

The new house was lovely, though too big by far, There was room in the garage for our trailer and car, But the garden was smaller, a joy to behold, Then, what do you know, the whole lot was sold.

As we thought of our future, our aches and our pain, Away from the centre, near a quiet country lane, In a place we can manage, one day at a time, Regardless of the weather, come rain or come shine. Yes as I mentioned earlier, we have moved to a bungalow with a smaller garden, not too small though. The bungalow has to be modernised and extended and the garden has to be cleared of the overgrown conifers, brambles and a very large unpruned Apple tree, creating a blank canvas, which we hope to turn into another garden for other people to enjoy. In the meantime, we would like to thank all of you that have supported us over the years and supported our fundraising open days.

Now ...

Things to do in the February garden

This is the month when we get itchy feet, shall we go out and do some digging! Is it too wet? Is it too cold? Shall we just stay indoors and look out of the window, wondering what if. Well there are things you can do. Like finish off the winter digging in the veg plot, unless your soil is very wet, if so leave until March.

Hoeing the garden at this time of year will not kill off any weeds because the soil is wet and the sun is too low to dry them out, and you could cut off the top of any emerging bulbs. So now could be a good time to spruce up beds and borders by hand weeding. I tend to use short bits of plywood say $18'' \times 12''$ to stand on as I move around the beds. In the veg garden I use plywood planks $36'' \times 12''$.

If you have containers with perennial plants or shrubs, now would be a good time to give them a top dressing. Remove the top two or three inches of old compost and replace with a good quality potting compost. Use John Innes No 2 or No 3 or Ericaceous compost for plants like Rhododendrons and Azeleas. Bays and Skimmias can also benefit from Ericaceous compost or feed.

Plant of the month

"Cyclamen Coum"

This hardy cyclamen flowers in late winter and early spring, from little flattish tubers just below the soil surface. They will self-seed and grow in well drained soil in light shade.

Enjoy your gardening



News from our Mid Devon District Councillor

Eco Flex and Other Green InitiativesWhat you need to know

I hope that the guidance below will assist you if you have any concerns about contractors calling or visiting to talk about Eco Flex or other Green energy initiatives.

In recent years, successive governments have created initiatives to improve energy efficiency in homes that currently experience fuel poverty. The funding for Eco Flex and other Green energy initiatives has been created by the government. It requires the major energy companies to pay a levy that is then used to encourage people living in fuel poverty to insulate and heat their homes.

A large number of contractors across the UK are trying to identify households that are currently living in fuel poverty and are encouraging them to consider insulation and heating. The main method of identification is by checking the EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) rating for each house/flat.

Eco Flex Criteria Clarification to Contractors

- 1. Income The combined annual income of the household must be less than £38k.
- 2. Property tenure If the property is tenanted, then the contractors must get the owner/landlord's permission.
- 3. Household needs are prioritised for children under 16, adults over 60, pregnant women, and qualifying health conditions/disabilities (which must be specified).
- EPC Band Only accept properties with an Energy Performance Certificate rating of D, E, F or G, and not A, B or C (higher bands may be considered in certain circumstances, for example if a boiler is broken).
- 5. Insulation and oiler Installations Grants are not available for a new boiler unless the boiler is broken. The government require local councils to check the criteria in the declaration forms submitted by contractors for each property to ensure that all the conditions are met. The Local Authority Declaration (LAD) should be completed by the contractor (not the customer), setting out the criteria the applicant meets and the measures to be installed. We will then assess the application and if approved return a completed LAD form to that contractor.

Contractors must comply with the following:

- 1. Must ensure that each LAD complies with all the criteria listed above
- 2. The current statement of intent can be found at https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/housing/energy-efficiency-advice/eco-flexible-eligibility/

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3. When marketing in Mid Devon, contractors must not use the council's logo on their materials nor infer that there is an association or arrangement between their company and the council. Any complaints or cases of misrepresentation, or hard selling should be referred to Devon Trading Standards and may result in the LAD not being approved by MDDC.

Current issues

- 1. The way many companies target potentially eligible households is by cold-calling via telephone or in person. This can be intimidating for many residents but this is not illegal and we do not have the power to stop this.
- 2. Some companies employ agents or 'lead generators' and employ hard-sell tactics, which can be upsetting to residents. This type of approach needs to be reported to us or to trading standards, making sure full details of the person attempting access are taken.
- 3. Some companies are implying that they work for the council (see point 3 above). This is misrepresentation. This is illegal and should be reported to us or trading standards with all the details of the company and person making this statement.
- 4. COVID-19 and national lockdown Contractors must not make any physical cold calling to any domestic properties or enter those properties during the national Covid lockdown.
- 5. Work can be carried out at the property as long as the contractor has a sufficient risk assessment in place and adheres to the industry guidelines.

If you have experienced cold calling, hard selling or misrepresentation, please provide names and contacts details, and also identify the name and contact details of the contractor and salesman. These details should be emailed to health@middevon.gov.uk or contact Devon Trading Standards on 01392383521. They are based at Devon, Somerset and Torbay Trading Standards Service, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 4QD www.devonsomersettradingstandards.gov.uk

If you receive any enquiries about the Devon Solar Together initiative, they should be directed to Devon County Council (0345 155 1015), who are administering.

Cllr Graeme Barnell Newbrooke Ward Mid Devon District Council 01392 851308 07564541572

Facebook messaging:- https://www.facebook.com/Graeme-Barnell-District-Councillor-476396543103535/

Web Page:- https://www.newtonwonder.net/mid-devon-district-councillor.html

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A New Challenge for the New Year Join the Crediton Heart Project Team

Are you looking for a new challenge in 2021? How about joining the Crediton Heart Project, the local charity that created the Crediton In&Around community website? We are looking for enthusiastic people to help us develop this unique resource and work on other projects that will help keep the heart in Crediton and the surrounding villages.

Do you have experience in website management, social media or advertising? Or do you have expertise in building development or planning? In the medium to long term, we hope to fund and build a new facility or repurpose an existing building, with room for community activities, cinema, theatre, events and small business units.

In 2019 we commissioned a Feasibility Study which you can read on our website. You can also take a look at our Project Plan and see what is involved. In a Covid world there is great uncertainty, a lot to think about and some re-assessment to do. We are all moving into uncharted territory.

Perhaps there are innovative solutions which would help our communities in the short term, such as a temporary structure to host events in a safe way, mobile touring facilities or resources to support local groups to put on events. Working with local partners is essential. Do you know about fundraising, consultation and publicity? Could you help develop these ideas?

We are looking for trustees to join our board and help run the charity. We are also keen to recruit associates to our various working groups. If you feel enthusiastic about our projects and want to turn the challenge of Covid into an opportunity, please contact our Chair, Rosemary Stephenson, to arrange a chat. rosemary@creditonheart.org

More details about these posts can be found on our website www.creditoninandaround.co.uk

The Crediton Heart Project is a registered charity no 1189549. It is supported by Crediton Town Council, Mid Devon District Council, Devon County Council and the National Lottery.

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Exeter Community Energy helping households save this Big Energy Saving Winter Exeter Community Energy (ECOE) will be helping people reduce their energy bills and save money as part of Big Energy Saving Winter.

Local staff and volunteers from ECOE will be supporting local people to follow three simple steps to prepare for the winter ahead.

- Check to see if they are eligible for discounts, grants and support
- **Switch** their tariff or energy supplier to get the best deal
- Save money by becoming more energy efficient

The Healthy Homes team at ECOE will be holding virtual outreach sessions during the next months to take the check, switch, save message out to the local community. These take place on 17th February 2021, 15:00 - 16:00 and 18th March 2021, 16:30 – 17:30.

Full details can be found at https://www.ecoe.org.uk/healthy-homes-clinic-information/.

This year, Big Energy Saving Winter is also calling on energy super savers, who have made savings to their own bills, to help their relatives, friends and neighbours to check, switch and save on their energy bills. Free resources and advice will enable energy super savers to help protect the UK's most vulnerable people.

As Big Energy Saving Winter 2020 kicks off around the country, new research* shows that one in three (35%) bill payers say they are using more energy than they usually would at this time of year.

Tara Bowers Healthy Homes Project Manager said:

"Many people are spending additional time at home and may need support with how to stay warm and safe; while those who are ill or self-isolating may also have concerns about practical challenges in paying for their energy, particularly if they have a prepayment meter. Our online energy cafes are one of the ways we have adapted our usual services to be able to reach out to the local community. We are asking everyone to share support information with their friends, families and neighbours who may be sitting in cold or damp homes. Our advisers are also on hand to help make sure people are getting any extra grants and benefits they might be entitled to and to look at ways to make people's homes more energy efficient."

Do You Remember... January & January/February 1971 February?

The Parish Hall announced that a new system of hire fees will take effect for 1971. Village residents will pay a lower cost than hirers from afar. There are separate costs for using heating, changing rooms and use of the kitchen, plus an extra fee for use of a licensed bar. Charges will be calculated to the nearest half hour. Heating is operated by a slot meter and hirers are advised to have plenty of 10p pieces. This method of charging is experimental and will operate in 1971 only.

Crediton RDC has purchased a street-cleaning machine. This will be available for a village volunteer to use for up to 2 hours a week to clean certain roads in the village

The death is reported of Miss Marjorie Rogers, one time head teacher at the school up to her retirement in 1957. Her successor in the school was Mr Reg Mear.

January/February 1981

A new cycle stand for the bikes of children who cycle to catch the school bus proved to be too expensive at £400. However, the Parish Council hopes to get help from parents.

A planning application by Wellson (Developments) Ltd was put to the Council. It involves converting Newton House into eleven residential units.

News broke over Christmas that the headmaster of the village school, Mr Reg Mear, is to take early retirement.

This month saw the first round of the Devon Cup skittles tournament. The NSC men's team went to the Royal British Legion club at Alphington. The outcome was a win for the home team by 35 pins.

The Parish Council learnt that Devon Highways are to downgrade the A377 to the status of a local route in anticipation of the effect of the new North Devon link road. The Council will enquire what action Highways intend to take to reroute HGV s off the A377.

January/February 1991

Chinese painting was the subject of a talk given by Mrs Owen Tolley to the Art Group. A detailed explanation was given regarding the training and style art students were expected to follow.

January/February 2001

The school will be presenting their Millennium Musical in the Parish hall.

The Recreation Ground have had to postpone several football matches due to flooding, but indoor games are unaffected.

The Newton Wonder's On the Farm notes the winning of the Royal Agricultural Society 'Excellence in Practical Farming' award, and the NFU 'Woman Farmer of the Year' award.

The Parish Hall AGM will be on 4 April, when a new chairman and secretary/booking secretary will be required. A grant of £500 from the Parish Council will be used to sand and polish the stage floor.

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The recreation ground has had to repeat a reminder to dog owners that if their pets foul the ground, heavy fines can be levied by the football and cricket leagues.

January/February 2011

The Parish Council responded to complaints of over-full dog waste bins by taking the matter up with MDDC again.

The Newton Ramblers will be taking another of the Tarka line walks, starting from Copplestone.

Following an affordable housing survey, it was found that two shared ownership and four social rented houses were required. Work towards these will go ahead when the government's plans for funding are clear.

Parishioners were attacked by wild boar when out taking their dog for a walk. They now take a football rattle with them as it appears to frighten off the boar.

Stars in your eyes

A velvety black sky scattered with shining stars is a sight we should all have the chance to see. But, too often, light pollution obscures our view. Just 3% of people in England experience 'truly dark skies', and 61% of us live in areas with severe light pollution.

That's why CPRE The Countryside Charity need your help to map the nation's view of the stars, so we can better protect our dark skies in the countryside and our towns and cities.

By counting the number of stars you can see in the constellation of Orion this February 6th-14th, you'll help build a better picture of our view of the stars.

Find out more information at

https://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/dark-skies/

Here are five simple steps for doing a Star Count from home.

- Find a good spot to do your count. This could be your garden, balcony, doorstep or even bedroom window.
- 2. Turn off all the lights in your home so it's as dark as possible.
- 3. Look south in the night sky (the way satellite dishes face) to find the Orion constellation, with its four corners and 'belt'.
- 4. Let your eyes adjust to the dark. The longer you wait, the better. Count the number of stars you can see within the rectangle formed by

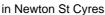
the four corner stars

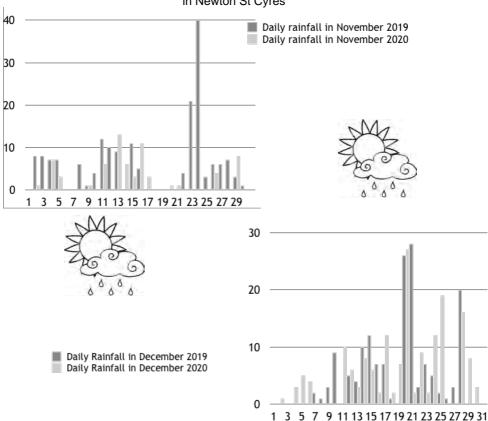
5. Head to the CPRE website to submit your count and help map the nation's view of the night sky.

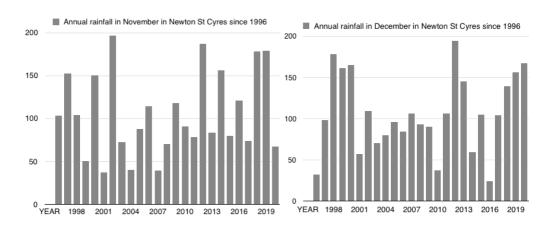
Happy star gazing!

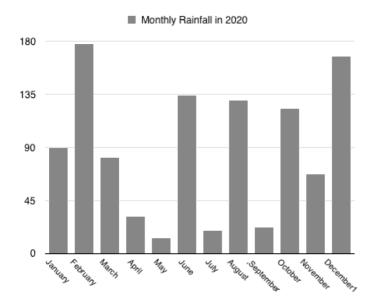
Nicola Baker

The Weather



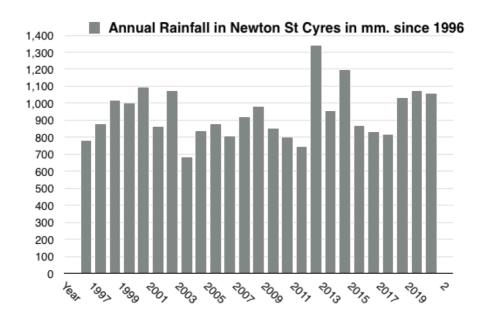


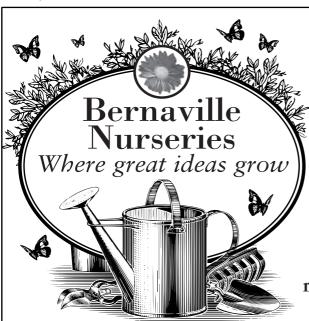




We are grateful to James
Walters and his family, especially his granddaughter
Alice for providing us with regular details of the rainfall in Newton St Cyres.









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The Parish Church of St Cyr and St Julitta



Private Prayer at Newton St Cyres Church.

The Church is open for

Private Prayer

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

Please wear a face covering. Sanitiser provided.

February 2021

Light in the darkness

The spring bulbs are beginning to emerge in Devon - always a bit ahead of the rest of the country, it seems, prompting us to look forward with hope of Spring.

Covid-19 has brought havoc on our nation. The prospect of Spring, the vaccine and the hope for a brighter future is a powerful reminder that this present time will pass, just as the seasons move on.

This recognition of turning seasons is also reflected in an old English poem which considers the changing weather and importance of light:

If Candlemas be fair and bright, Come winter, have another flight. If Candlemas bring clouds and rain, Go winter, and come not again.

Indeed, it prompted the now famous tradition in the quaint town of Punxsutawney, where the fate of spring is supposedly determined on whether the groundhog "Punxsutawney Phil" can see his shadow or not.

In the church we celebrate the feast of Candlemas. Candlemas falls 40 days after Christmas and for some marks the end of the Christmas season, it is a lesser-known festival in these parts but one that presents us with an opportunity to look forward with hope.

I used to know a former nun who would not take down her Christmas decorations until 2nd February. No twelve days of Christmas for her, and this may bring comfort to those of you who have kept the sparkling lights of Christmas up in your homes, bringing joy in this dark lockdown.

In church we hear once again the story of Jesus as a baby being presented at the temple to perform the special ceremony required by all Jewish families, where they encounter two elderly individuals who have been waiting for a special day; the day that God has promised to show them the foretold Messiah. As they meet Jesus, Mary and Joseph they proclaim that this young child will become the light of the world.

It is for this reason that light, in the form of candles, has long been associated with this day. Candles from the previous year are melted down to create new candles for the coming year.

A procession brings the candles into church where they are lit and blessed. At the end of the service, the congregation take the lit candles out into the community and their homes as a permanent reminder that the light of God is now shining through them.

February, Covid allowing, will also bring another change in the Netherexe churches as I move on to a new post in the Coventry Diocese. We will be sad to say goodbye to the communities and people we have got to know, but just like the hope represented by Spring, Candlemas and the vaccine, this change will mark a new future full of hope for these village churches.

Whether Spring comes slowly or quickly, whether the vaccine halts Coronavirus in its tracks or brings resolution more slowly, our hope for the future can be founded on Jesus, the light of the world.

So, perhaps during February, you might like to light candles at your dinner tables to remind you of this hope, Jesus who is the light of our world, the light at our table, in our homes, and in our lives.

Katie Cross Rector of the Netherexe Parishes

page 54 www.newtonwonder.net

THE NETHEREXE PARISHES

Private Prayer and Contemplation. Currently our churches will be open, or closed, as follows:

Brampford Speke

Remains closed at this time.

Cadbury

Open Wednesdays 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Huxham

Remains closed at this time

Newton St Cyres

Open Wednesday 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Poltimore

Remains closed at this time

Netherexe

Remains closed at this time

Rewe

Saturdays 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Stoke Canon

Thursdays 09:30 am -11:30 am

Thorverton

Wednesdays 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Upton Pyne

Remains closed at this time.

Please note that a face covering should be worn when entering our church buildings.

JH

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

KC Revd Katie Cross Rector 01392 759612

katie.cross@netherexe.org

JD Revd Julia Dallen Associate Minister 07484 773636

julia.dallen@netherexe.org

LF Mrs Laura Ford Reader 07741 491946

Curate

laura.ford@netherexe.org 07928 813333

julia.hocking@netherexe.org

TL Revd Tony Lane

TBC To be confirmed

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

Mrs Margaret Lowe [Administrator]

Tel: 07594 714590 - Tuesday & Thursday [09:30 - 15:30]

Email: Margaret.lowe@netherexe.org

Revd Julia Hocking

Correspondence: The Netherexe Parishes, Church Office, St Mary Magdalene Church,

Stoke Canon, Exeter, EX5 4AS.

JTA

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craft session and activities to try.
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newtonnappies@outlook.com
or see our facebook page
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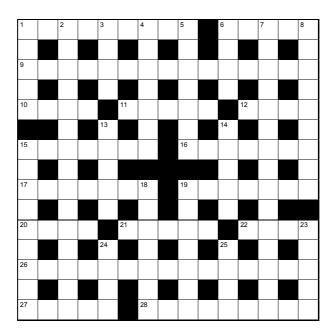
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Cryptic Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Military plane carrying soldiers from cargo ship (9)
- 6 Hospital department at first shows intensity (5)
- 9 Weird Polish perv could be a disciple of Beelzebub (5-10)
- 10 Nobleman is soon cut short (4)
- 11 Break off relations with European city (5)
- 12 Lover boy initially wants French water (4)
- 15 Horseman posted, we hear, to a city of old (7)
- 16 Issue title retrospectively at end of June (7)
- 17 Plentiful support given to Chinese dynasty (7)
- 19 On return, ensnares an austere character (7)
- 20 Singer featuring in phenomenal Tosca (4)
- 21 Murderer goes across river to find dog (5)
- 22 Woman eats oriental meat (4)
- 26 Mischievous little fellow involved in sex scheme, a Conservative it's obvious (4-11)
- 27 Elegance of street unknown by the French (5)
- 28 Observer treats cop badly (9)

DOWN

- 1 Sweet fellow dug out Elgar's first (5)
- 2 All money vintner distributed is for the ecology (15)
- 3 Girl wants a celebration (4)
- 4 Soldier falsified report, gaining nothing (7)
- 5 Take breath, about to go on tall building (7)
- 6 Dude arriving in station heads for platform (4)
- 7 That pipe stopped Rocky getting beaten at the last minute (6,2,3,4)
- 8 Rebuilding bottom of missile launcher is very difficult (9)
- 13 Sink in area drained by river (5)
- 14 Is a student able to find Suez, say? (5)
- 15 Wounded young women with swords (9)
- 18 Marine creature of little weight protected chiefly by America (7)
- 19 Top champion of wave-riding (7)
- 23 Hen party initially missed by actor? (5)
- 24 French sea with English lake (4)
- 25 Tempt one into club (4)

Set by Alberich

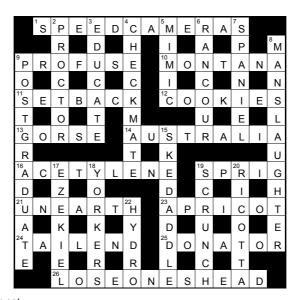
Sudoku

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.

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

© Web Sudoku 2021 - www.websudoku.com

Solution to the Dec 2020/Jan 2021 Cryptic Crossword



WHO'S WHO IN THE VILLAGE

Driegt in Charge	David Katia Crass Ikatia arasa @natharaya ara	
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
DOCTORS (Crediton)	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
NEWTON WONDER MAGAZINE & WEBSITE	Editor – Peter Hawksley Email: editor@newtonwonder.net	01392 851269
PARISH COUNCIL	Chairman - Jim Enright Clerk - Jane Hole	01392 851859 01392 851148
PARISH HALL	Chairman – Roger Wilkins Booking Sect - Mary Long, - maryglong@btinternet.com Caretaker - Chris Barlow	01392 851337 01392 851624 01392 851125
PRIMARY SCHOOL	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
RECREATION CLUB	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
	!	

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

The **NEWTON WONDER** is delivered within the Parish at a charge of only £5 per year.

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

If you move away it can be posted for an additional £5 p.a.

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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Full Page	£200.00	£200.00

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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