

# The Stanegate

Newbrough, Fourstones, Warden  
and surrounding hamlets

\* \* \* \* \*

## Parish Produce Show Saturday 6th September

If it wasn't planted or sown weeks or months ago you have missed the boat. Entries for the show close at midnight on 4 September and no entries will be taken after that. There is still time to knock up a quick sandwich cake or four ginger snaps, decorate a bottle or snap a local view.

We have never distributed so many schedules through the Garage – two reprints – so we hope this means bumper classes. People have moaned that the classes feature the same products every year. It is a local show and the nature of the classes reflects what is grown or made locally. It would be senseless to have competitions for globe artichokes or saffron cakes and expect a host of entries.

The committee do review the schedule every year and there are always some tweaks. In the gardening sections this year there are new classes for a bunch of herbs, a plate of soft fruit and a single stem of any flower. Most importantly the family and fiancée of the late David Renwick have donated a trophy which will be awarded for the best exhibit in the potato section. Standing out in the home-baking section are classes for coconut ice and butterfly cakes while that for a home-made alcoholic drink is always competitive.

The standard recipe on the back of the schedule this year is for Walnut Fudge Cake. This feature is there to test baking skill rather than whether the judge prefers your granny's cake to her aunt Sybil's version. The Crafts' Section has had a complete re-vamp with classes ranging from a Christmas decoration (any craft) to a Highland cow (any craft). Children are invited to enter a pressed flower, a family handprint picture and a decorated hardboiled egg.

There are a few trophies to be awarded but no cash prizes – except in the childrens' classes – but the upside is that there are no entry fees. Get cracking and be there on 6 September.

Rob Tindall

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## Celebrating John Wood

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October from 2 o'clock to 4.30pm at the Town Hall we are having a get together, with light refreshments, to remember John and raise a glass to him. For those of you who knew him we would love you to come and share stories, laughs and memories. If you only want to drop in, you are more than welcome.

It would be helpful if you could let me know, by Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September, if you are coming, so that I can give the caterer some idea of numbers.

Either by phone: 01434 674812 or email:  
[jackie.wood@gmx.co.uk](mailto:jackie.wood@gmx.co.uk)

Jackie Wood



### Drawing/colouring competition

We were disappointed that not one entry was forwarded for the competition. Prize money will be donated to charity.

Please send material or correspondence for The Stanegate to the editorial team

*Janice Baylis, Dave Spearman,  
 Sophie Straker & Chris Tolan-Smith*

at

**thestanegate@hotmail.com**

**Comments and/or feedback are also welcome**

**the deadline for the October edition is  
 Friday 12th September 2025**

### Calendar of Events

#### September

- 1st Back to school for Autumn term
- 1st Warden Parish Council Town Hall, 7pm
- 3rd Newbrough Parish Council, Town Hall, 7pm
- 6th Parish Produce Show Town Hall 2.30pm - 3.30pm
- 9th Messy Vintage Methodist Chapel 2.30pm - 4pm
- 11th Newbrough WI Town Hall, 7pm
- 25th Town Hall Quiz 7.15pm for 8pm
- 26th Macmillan Cancer Care Coffee morning Methodist Chapel 11am - 2pm

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## Newbrough Town Hall and Bunkhouse 3Rs campaign clocks up a major donation!

Sheron Robson, Town Hall Co-Chair

Our fundraising campaign the **THREE Rs** (repair/refurbish/redecorate) has scored a major success as a generous local donor has offered to cover the costs of repairing the Hall clock. A specialist company from Cumbria have been entrusted with the work and we hope it will be complete in the Autumn.

The "Friends of Newbrough Town Hall" scheme now has around 25 people signed up to support the Hall on a regular basis. If you've not signed up yet but would like to, watch out for a flyer through your door soon. These small regular donations really help us plan our refurbishment work and we will be compiling a costed list of future projects for the committee to prioritise.

So, if you are a user of the Hall and would like to make a suggestion email

[secretarynewbroughtownhall@gmail.com](mailto:secretarynewbroughtownhall@gmail.com)

or catch a committee member to make your voice heard.

Regular activities continue in the Hall:

**Pilates** - Monday 12.15 - Val Ravelle teaches this class and others across the Tyne Valley (so if you can't make an occasional Monday, you can pick up a class on a different day elsewhere).

See [www.valravelle.com](http://www.valravelle.com) for details

**Yoga** - Monday 6.30 Jane teaches an all abilities class and is skilled at making adjustments for both more bendy and less flexible members!

See [www.jiyoga83.com](http://www.jiyoga83.com) for more information and how to book.

**Bowls** restarts on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of September.

This is a friendly club that offers support and coaching and the opportunity to play in matches too. Come along on a Wednesday to meet Paula and hear about the schedule.

**Zumba** Friday 6pm, followed by **Line Dancing** at 7pm. Lively classes lead by Val Little that feel like a night out, but are a good workout too! Search for **dance.zumba.with.val** on Facebook or just drop in.

**Crochet Café** is on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 1pm in the Lounge. There was a new starter in August so there's a mix of beginners and people looking to extend their skills. Anne and Gill are on hand to support getting you started or bring along your own project to work on. Refreshments are provided and the 2 hour session costs £10. Email [riffic15@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:riffic15@yahoo.co.uk) for more details or just drop in on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The monthly **quiz** is back in its new slot 'LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH' so 25<sup>th</sup> of September. Only £2 entry, teams of up to 6, great value bar and food at half time. This is a valuable star in our fundraising efforts as it costs us just the volunteer time to prepare and run, so please think about fielding a team with friends/family or if you're solo there's always a group of "Helpers" that you can join to make up a team! Doors open at 7.15, quiz starts sharp at 8pm.

**NOTE: watch this space for a film/food night with a possible French theme in October and a ceilidh in early November. We also have 2 Highlights events in the Autumn and our Christmas Fair will be 6<sup>th</sup> of December – tables filling up already...**

After discussion at the Town Hall committee we have agreed that we will increase our Hall charges slightly to cover the higher costs we have for heating the Hall in the winter. This may mean that some of the classes in the Hall may need to increase their prices to users. It would really help the teachers if even a couple more people joined classes and events to make them more viable. Remember, by coming along to a class or event, you are supporting the future of the Hall and our ability to offer things like our **Warm Wednesdays** (back in November) and we thank you for your support.

## Musings on Warden

### Stanegate Local and Family History Section

If the stones could talk what tales they would tell.

Warden is built on rich gravelly ground and the river bed must have once been where the church now stands, and the Tyne has a habit of shifting its course. Who can tell how near the Tyne came to St Michael's at times? There was a ferry at the West Boat (The Black Book of Hexham records that in the mid-fourteenth century *Alice Coyk and Robert Bacward hold the boat at Warden for the term of ten years and render yearly 10/-*) The great flood of 1791 which swept away every bridge on the Tyne from Slaggyford to Newcastle (except Corbridge) would have had only a passing effect on Warden's communications but there would certainly have been flooding in the church on the river plain.

It would be surprising if life in Warden was not affected by the depredations of marauding Scots but evidently any damage or disturbance was so slight or such a common happening that it didn't merit recording. King David of Scotland sent his army under his nephew William, south from Wark-on-Tweed and on 25 January 1138 they camped at Waredun. There were a number of brawls in Hexham and Corbridge. "Horrid barbarities were committed through the whole neighbourhood" and the Scots "in the holy places perpetrated violent, indecent and abominable crimes." Two men broke into a religious house and carried away goods but as a consequence of their sin went mad and killed themselves. In November 1296 the Scots camped on Kingshaw Green, Warden, before moving on to raid Hexham and burn the Abbey. Perhaps the prospect of glittering prizes in Hexham always distracted the Scots from bothering petty Warden.

The reivers were active on both sides of the border in the sixteenth century and it is unlikely that the farmsteads and stock of Warden didn't attract the attention of the lawless bands. The native grayne (clan) inhabiting this area was probably the Forsters, however they and their adversaries seem to have left no physical or written traces of their activities in this neck of the woods.

The first recorded vicar of Warden is William who is referred to in the reign of Henry II (about 1170). John Shaftoe (1643) is the most colourful of Warden's vicars. He was notoriously frugal, but by this personality trait accumulated a considerable fortune. He found the western part of his charge in a pitiable state of ignorance and poverty, and through his own self denial acquired the means to found a school – Shaftoe Trust School at Haydon Bridge and also Alms Houses in the village (Shaftoe Terrace). He gave money to assist the church at Slaley "for purposes godlike and noble." But his parsimonious habits had their consequences. Records made by the archdeacon, when Shaftoe's wife left him, have his wife accusing him of severity and even starving her. His own sister testified against him. Mrs Shaftoe at one time was living in an inn at the Head of the Side, Newcastle but she appears to have gone back to him in 1664. Another vicar, John Ray (1730) seems to have been a bit of a snob. He was an antiquarian and wrote poetry as well as keeping a register book. The register is filled almost entirely with the doings of the clergy and gentry in the neighbourhood – not the 'common' parishioners.

**Rob Tindall**

### The Mobile Library

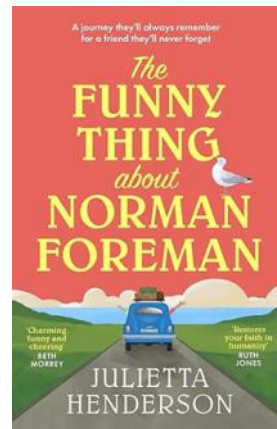
We have been advised that the library  
van is off the road indefinitely

## 'The Funny Thing about Norman Foreman' by Juliette Henderson

I first came across this book on audible. With audible books one is often swayed by the voice of the narrator as much as the storyline. However I had very much enjoyed listening to this book thus recommended it to the Stanegate readers and was more than happy to revisit it in the written format.

The story is about a twelve year old boy who embarks on a journey with his mum to the Edinburgh fringe to do stand up comedy set following the death of his best friend. They had made a five year plan but on his death his mum agrees to undertake the long journey from Cornwall. Also en route they decide to try and find his father (one of a number of possibilities).

The book is full of interesting often larger than life characters but are still believable.



The author deals with some serious themes but with tenderness and humour. This makes it easy to read and found one wanting to laugh at times, cry at times and sometimes wanting to do both at the same time.

This was the author's debut novel and she has written it with such poignancy telling of how friendship, love and kindness can help on the journey of achieving dreams.

In the words of one of my fellow Stanegate readers

“With the world in such a blooming mess this was a few hours of easy escapism”

So if you're in need of some escapism then this book comes recommended in any of its formats. Enjoy

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## Newbrough WI Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025

President Judith Kirby opened the meeting and welcomed the members and guest speaker present.

The deputy secretary Vanessa Ashton confirmed that everyone had received the email containing the minutes from last month's meeting and the current correspondence was outlined. This included an invite from Catton WI to a musical evening on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> October and a message from the Town Hall, thanking us for our donation raised from the proceeds of our August Raffle.

The President reminded the members of MyWiFi on the National Federation Website. This useful site contains information and instructional videos for free access, if anyone is interested or needs help navigating this facility she will hold a familiarisation session.

Our member Doreen Dood celebrated the landmark birthday of 90 years on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August, we all wished her the best and hoped she had enjoyed her birthday.

Val Johnston gave a brief outline of the Treasurer's Report. We then closed the meeting and the speaker was introduced.

The speaker this evening was author Emily Payne, talking about her very varied career from being a club singer to working for an Escort Agency. Emily was a very entertaining speaker, both hilarious and hair-raising in content, she certainly kept us spellbound for the rest of the evening.

The next meeting is Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm - anyone welcome

The speaker is Michael Gatherer talking about the Womens Land Army

The hostesses are Jennifer Clark & Catherine Grant

The competition is any smelly object

The raffle prize provided by Doreen Dodd

**Judith Kirby**

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# Methodist Chapel

Tuesday 9th September

Messy Vintage  
2.30 - 4pm  
Theme : rainbows

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday 20th September

Please leave food for our Harvest Festival service  
(Sunday 21st September) at the Chapel  
between 10am and 2pm  
Donations will go to the West Northumberland Food Bank

\*\*\*\*\*

Saturday 26th September

Macmillan Cancer Care coffee morning  
Methodist chapel  
11am - 2pm

Everyone welcome



## Fourstones and Newbrough Monthly Weather Information for July 2025

Lowest temperature was 7.7C at 2:52 AM on the 15th  
Highest temperature was 28.3C at 2:45 PM on the 11th  
Strongest wind gust was 34mph at 2:28 PM on the 4th  
Maximum daily rainfall was 7mm on the 19th  
Monthly rainfall total was 48.8mm

### BONUS BALL

July

5th	Lucy Dodd	15
12th	Colin Smith	14
19th	Lucy Dodd	15
26th	Cath Clark	18

### Newbrough Town Hall

200 CLUB : August draw

1st	Sheila Burrows	182
2nd	Susan Sutton	153
3rd	Sandra Lorencio	38



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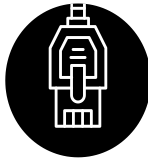
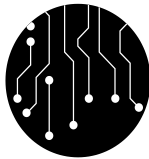
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## Green Notes

### What's your carbon footprint?!

*By Malcolm Newson on behalf of Climate Action Newbrough-Fourstones*

With COP30 due in Brazil between 10<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> November, it's not too early for Green Notes to be musing over the core diplomatic tool at these meetings: the NDCs or Nationally Determined Contributions, basically our national carbon footprints. These were set up by the landmark Paris COP in 2015 which also took the best scientific guidance to set a limit of global temperature rise to 1.5°C. Currently the respected Climate Action Tracker puts the likely rise by 2100 as 2.6°C, using the COP30 currently declared NDCs!!

Despite the ruling of the International Court of Justice on July 23<sup>rd</sup> that failure by countries to mitigate climate change 'may constitute an international wrongful act .... attributable to that state', we are unlikely to see the annual 'increasing ambition' dreamed of in Paris. The NDC becomes a loophole for nations to delay, avoid or substitute any action of the strength shown by the UK's Net Zero policies. Substitution uses the 'offset' principle - Switzerland improves its NDC by funding electric buses in Bangkok. In the words of one commentator, 'across the world people are now fighting the solutions, not the science'.

As we often rehearse in these Notes, half the global greenhouse gas emissions derive from the wealthiest 10% of the population - perhaps the best justification for a wealth tax? Climate change

(and nature degradation) are both upsetting the UK national and domestic budget. The Green Alliance has calculated that we are paying £233.49 (how exact!) per year for the impacts; some economists are calculating 'climateflation', for example to explain the current persistent rise in food prices, both home-grown and imported. In 2023, storms and floods raised vegetable prices by 12%. Watch out for the price of broccoli and cauliflower as the 2025 drought kicks in! 2025 has given us the driest Spring on records and four regions of the country are in 'official' drought.

So, what about my provocative title? Carbon footprints can be calculated at a variety of scales: a recent review of online carbon calculators totalled 14, available for households, business including farms and parishes/communities. The Open University have a good one. My latest count is just over 2 tonnes of carbon per year, well under half of the global personal average. However, not to be complacent, even though I'm disabled and don't travel overseas, I still need to reduce by 231kg every year to meet Net Zero by 2030!

I won't be going to next year's World Cup in the Americas. The event will have a carbon footprint of 9 million tonnes, or if air travel is recalculated (e.g. between venues) 15 million tonnes.

---

### AB9, a Countryside Stewardship option in the UK

AB9, a Countryside Stewardship option in the UK, provides winter bird food plots that offer a valuable food source for farmland birds during the colder months when natural food is scarce. These plots, typically sown with a mix of seeds, help support bird populations by providing both seeds and cover.

Here's a more detailed look:

*Food Source:*

AB9 mixtures contain a variety of seeds that are particularly beneficial for farmland birds during the "hungry gap" (December to March) when other food sources are limited.

*Habitat:*

The plots also provide cover and nesting sites, which are important for bird survival and breeding success.

*Biodiversity:*

AB9 plots can also benefit other wildlife, such as insects, by providing nectar sources for pollinators like bumblebees and butterflies during the summer months.

*Specific Bird Species:*

AB9 mixtures are designed to support a variety of farmland birds, including finches, corn buntings, tree sparrows, and grey partridges.

*Environmental Benefits:*

By providing a consistent food supply, AB9 plots can help reduce the need for birds to forage in agricultural fields, potentially minimizing their exposure to pesticides and other risks.

# NORTHUMBRIAN WINDOWS

Our services include:

Windows, Doors, Conservatories & Sunrooms

Please contact David on:

Tel: 01434 601882    Mob: 07762 718125

## Frankham Farm Storage

Up at Frankham Farm we are delighted with how quickly our eleven storage containers have now filled up. We appreciate the support and help of the village to spread the word.

We are always open to any enquiries in relation to our storage facilities, be it our containers or our vehicle storage space.

Please get in touch with Bertie on 07801 507543.



**sycamore boiler care**  
servicing & repairs

07940 797242 | 07394 354 884

[graham@sycamoreboilers.com](mailto:graham@sycamoreboilers.com)

## BOILER SERVICING AND REPAIRS

Day time/evening hours and On Call

Local Experienced Engineer

Gas, LPG – Domestic and Commercial

Oil and Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP) - Domestic

Tel: 07394 354 884

Email: [graham@sycamoreboilers.com](mailto:graham@sycamoreboilers.com)

## September, From the Garden

Iain O'Brien

September is the time to start your autumn lawn care, and this month is also the best time to seed a new lawn. Soil temperature is higher this time of the year so you will find a lawn started in September will do much better than those started in the spring.



Now is the time to rake, scarify and aerate your lawn. Raking and scarifying breaks up the old dead thatch that builds up on our lawns while aerating allows oxygen to penetrate deeper down to the roots.

Applying a last autumn feed to the lawn after aeration and scarifying will help keep strength in the lawn to take into winter. Do not use your leftover spring or summer feed as this has too much nitrogen which encourages leggy growth. Stick to an Autumn feed which will be rich in Potassium and Phosphorus which is better for root growth and hardiness.

If you're starting a new lawn prepare the ground a good couple of weeks before to let the soil settle again before seeding or laying turf. The best way to prepare the ground is to fork over, weed and then level firming the ground lightly. Grass seed doesn't like to sit touching lawn feed or plant feed so it's best not to use any before seeding. To level and to create a fine crumb to seed onto just keep walking over the soil and raking again. The more you do this the finer the crumb will be.

While seeding try not to have clumps of grass seed together you want a good spread of seed lightly raked in or walked over. Grass seed needs to be touching soil but also needs oxygen to germinate. If you're laying turf a good tip is to make sure you roll your joins downwards together and not just butt the two edges together. As the turf dries and settles it will shrink exposing gaps if the edges have just been butted together. Rolling the edges down and then butting the joins together allows for the turf to shrink back while not exposing gaps.

If you are wanting or planning to plant bulbs in your lawn now is a good time too especially if you are seeding a fresh lawn.

### Late September

The back end of September is a great time to plant more perennials due to the warm soil and because of the increased moisture we usually get that time of the year.

If you're lucky to have a greenhouse it's worth bringing inside any tender perennials such as Fuchsias and Begonias.



Make sure to keep your ponds clear of debris and cut out and dead leaves from the waterlilies and thin out those oxygenators that will have now taken over the whole pond.

If you have any drought stressed plants including newly planted shrubs, give them a good soak through. As the weather becomes cooler and more damp the soil will better absorb moisture. Giving them a decent soaking now will help them recover.

Keeping the garden debris free is a good idea pre winter. This helps control the spread of diseases.

maple ↓



## Church Pages

### Who's Who

#### Church of England

Parishes by the Wall (East)

The Reverend Ollie Dempsey  
The Vicarage  
Station Yard  
Haydon Bridge  
NE47 6LL

Tel: 01434 671649

#### Methodist

Reverend Michael Holland  
Tynedale Methodist Circuit  
Fern House  
Catton  
Hexham  
NE47 6QS

Tel: 01434 683732

#### Roman Catholic

Parish Priest : Fr Jeffrey Dodds  
Assisted by Fr Paul Kilduff  
St Mary's Catholic Church  
Hencotes  
Hexham  
NE46 3EB

Tel: 01434 603119

### From the Registers

#### August

##### Funerals:

*If we have been united with Christ through baptism into death, we will certainly be united with Him in his resurrection.*

On Thursday 7th August at St Peter, Newbrough :  
Susan Smith of Newbrough

### Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

#### Preachers for September

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 7th  | Service at Haydon Bridge<br>Holy Communion taken by<br>Reverend Michael Holland |
| 14th | Mr Tom Dodds  |
| 21st | Harvest Thanksgiving with<br>Reverend Michael Holland                           |
| 28th | Miss C Thompson   |

All services at 10.30am  
Everyone welcome

### St John of Beverley Haydon Bridge

If you have any queries about service  
times please contact:

St Mary's Catholic Church,  
Hencotes, Hexham

or call 01434 603119

## ***Letter from Reverend Michael.....***

Dear friends,

It's now September. Summer is over, our children are back at school and students are preparing to return to college. Summer holidays are behind us and we're beginning to notice the nights drawing in and nature's colours changing.

Early Autumn is a season that we mark with harvest festivals, when we pause and give thanks to God for his goodness towards us symbolised by harvests and food. But we see also that, like much in our world, harvest celebrations are changing. In today's world with changing agricultural methods and mechanisation, fewer and fewer of us are actually involved in bringing in the harvest. In days gone by a large part of Fourstone's harvest would have been in coal. This too has gone in the passing of the years

Our diets are no longer seasonal, changing as different fruits or vegetables become available, as we now grow (or import) foods all year round. There is no more waiting to enjoy the new potatoes or first tomatoes or strawberries. There is a risk that we lose our connection with and awareness of all the work and effort that goes into bringing our food from field to fork. Just consider your dinner today - how many people have been involved in its production, processing, transportation, retail and final cooking!

I invite you, this month of harvest festivals, to take a moment when you look out of your windows at the fields, or drive down the lane, maybe behind a tractor, or pop to the shops, to take a moment to give thanks for all who bring our food to our table. I invite you also to take a moment to give thanks to God, the one who provides abundantly for all our needs.

All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above;  
then thank the Lord,  
O thank the Lord,  
for all his love.

With every blessing.

Michael Holland

Rev Michael Holland is the minister for Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

## Pattern of Worship across the Parishes by the Wall (East)

### St John Lee, Warden with Newbrough and Haydon Bridge

	0800	0930	1100
1st Sunday	no service	St Aidan's Fourstones	Haydon Bridge
2nd Sunday	no service	St John Lee	Haydon Bridge
3rd Sunday	no service	Newbrough	Haydon Bridge
4th Sunday	no service	St John Lee	Haydon Bridge
5th Sunday ***	-	Fourstones	Haydon Bridge

\*\*\* 30th November 2025

#### Weekday Services

Morning Prayer	0800	Monday—Thursday at <i>Haydon Bridge</i>
Evening Prayer	1630	Monday—Wednesday (Monday & Tuesday at Haydon Bridge. Wednesday at Fourstones)
The Eucharist	1000	Wednesday at <i>St John Lee</i>
The Eucharist		On festival days as advertised

**NB** our Harvest Festival Service will be held on Sunday 5th October at 9.30am at St Aidan's, Fourstones

The Reverend Ollie Dempsey    Tel: 01434 671 649    email: [fr.oliver.dempsey@outlook.com](mailto:fr.oliver.dempsey@outlook.com)

Roof repairs at St Michael's, Warden have not been completed and Services will continue to be held at St Aidan's, Fourstones