

The Stanegate

Newbrough, Fourstones, Warden
and surrounding hamlets

CHRISTMAS FAIR
TOWN HALL



Saturday 7th December
1pm to 4pm

Entry: Children Free, Adults £1

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Happy Christmas from the Stanegate Editorial Team

Letter to the Editors.....

Dear Eds

My thanks to you for relaying Cllr. Morphet's complimentary views on Weatherwatch and Nature Notes in last month's *Letter to the Editors* and to the Councillor for his thanks for these articles of mine.

The first January Weatherwatch appeared in the seventh issue of the re-launched Stanegate in February 2005, so the December and February editions will, DV, complete a full twenty years.

This seems an appropriate juncture to hang up my thermometer, so these will be the final couple of two hundred and forty months of Weatherwatch reporting on our local weather.

I trust that Stanegate readers will have found some interest hearing about their own unique weather through the Weatherwatch years.

Michael Guthrie.

Thank you for your kindness



to all the residents who decorated their homes and put out sweets for Halloween trick and treating. They were very much enjoyed by all !

* * * * *

to the Allerwash resident who has kindly made a box for the Stanegate which is now in place on the post at Church Lane.

* * * * *

From the Methodist Chapel

£100 was donated for Children in Need at the November coffee morning. Many thanks to all who came.

and
thankyou to everyone who donated food in the red bin.

Calendar of Events



DECEMBER

- 4th, 11th & 18th
Warm Wednesdays
Town Hall, 12noon—2pm
- 6th Methodist Chapel
Coffee morning, 10am - 2pm .
- 7th Christmas Fair, Town Hall
1pm - 4pm
- 8th Christmas Workshop,
Town Hall, see p13
- 10th Messy Vintage
Methodist Chapel, 2.30pm
- 10th Santa Sleigh visits Fourstones
and Newbrough : see p17
- 12th Newbrough WI Christmas
Lunch at The Red Lion
- 13th Star making and breathwork at
Naturel, Warden, see p14
- 19th Christmas Quiz,
Town Hall, 7pm
- 20th School closes for
Christmas break

JANUARY

- 6th Warden Parish Council
Town Hall, 7pm
- 7th School opens after
Christmas break
- 8th Newbrough Parish
Council, Town Hall, 7pm
- 9th Newbrough WI monthly
meeting, : 7pm, Town Hall



Please send material or correspondence to the editorial team
Janice Baylis, Dave Spearman, Sophie Straker & Chris Tolan-Smith
at

thestanegate@hotmail.com
the deadline for the February issue is Friday 17th January 2025



Warden Parish Council (WPC) meeting held on Monday 4th November 2024 in Newbrough Town Hall.

Colin Hall from the Environment Agency attended the meeting to update the Parish Council on flood risk and planning. He advised that flooding incidents were becoming more prevalent and having additional impacts on communities. To raise awareness of, and to mitigate associated risks, communities are advised to have a Flood Group and Plan. Group members would be trained to understand how to act on flood advisory messages. It was noted that the Flood Plan would be consistent with the provisions of the Warden Parish Council's Emergency Plan. A separate article in this edition of the Stanegate calls on local residents to volunteer as Flood Wardens. CLLr Heminsley has kindly agreed to act as Interim Lead Flood Warden until the Group is set up.

It was reported that Northumberland County Council had been clearing drains and gullies following recent flood incidents. The Highways Inspector and a Flooding and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) officer met with the landowner to discuss the recent flooding at St Aidan's Park. The FCERM officer is to signpost the landowner to sources of funding for changes to land management to slow the flow of water. The Warmer Homes scheme is still open for applications.

County CLLr Morphet reported that Network Rail had not actioned the drainage work they were responsible for at the bottom of the Mossy. Once this work has been done, NCC will be able to monitor the flooding situation and decide whether any changes to land management are also required.

An allotment holder attended the meeting to report that additional works are required to the water pump. CLLr Foot agreed to action. It was also confirmed that allotment holders should continue to maintain hedges, paths and plot edges.

Due to adverse weather conditions, the last litter pick had been cancelled. A further event is to be arranged Spring 2025.

The Clerk is to contact the landowner to request all overgrown hedging that borders public highways be cut back. A signpost to Frankham had been sliced off during hedging works. CLLr Charlton to report via FixMyStreet.

County CLLr report advised that another traffic speed survey had been conducted at Hardhaugh in the first week of October. Average speeds had fallen since 2022 however the average number of daily vehicles in each direction had risen from about 600 in 2021 to well over 900 in 2024. The design brief for traffic calming had not yet been prepared by the County Highways Department. If this is not available by the next meeting a chase up letter will be sent.

A number of seats in the Parish had been repaired by the Parish Council gardeners, and wood had been procured for the Coronation seat repair. St Aidan's Church had agreed to a new seat being placed in the churchyard, to replace the Jubilee seat, CLLr Foot and Liddle to action.

It was noted that the planning application to change the use of the Railway Inn into two dwelling houses, with a three bedroomed bungalow on the site of former car park, had been withdrawn.

County CLLr report advised the applicant for the reopening of Prudham Quarry had not submitted the required applications to discharge conditions, meaning that it is unlikely that quarrying will be able to start this year.

County CLLr report advised some progress had been made on the Joint User Poles issue (allowing WiFi network suppliers to share Northern Power-grid poles) however the issue has not been fully resolved. *continued.....*

Members agreed to grant £60 to Tynedale Hospital at Home, and £50 to the British Legion.

The Council approved the budget for 2024 and agreed that the precept for 2025-2026 be retained at the current level of £10,000.

County Cllr report advised the new County Council Climate Change Team Leader had been engaged, and that a shorter, more public-facing version of the new Climate Change Action Plan would be created. The North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub had just launched round three of its Energy Project Enabling Fund.

Grants of up to £245,000 are available to community organisations (including Parish Councils) and farmers for renewable energy, energy efficiency, carbon sequestration and resource efficiency projects. Go to <https://www.neynetzerohub.com/projects-and-events/> for more information.

Members noted the content of the High Warden Woodlands Management Plan.

Detailed minutes of this meeting can be found via: [Documents | Warden Parish Council \(northumberlandparishes.uk\)](https://www.northumberlandparishes.uk/Documents/WardenParishCouncil)

The next meeting of Warden Parish Council will be held on Monday 6th January 2025 commencing at 7pm.

The first item on the agenda for all council meetings is devoted to issues raised by members of the public. Please come along if you have any issues you would like to us to address. Alternatively, please contact one of the Parish Councillors whose details can be found via:

<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/warden/people>

FLOOD WARDENS NEEDED

Could you help your community to be more resilient to the impacts of flooding:

- Be the eyes and ears on the ground before, during and after a flood event
- Work as a link between the Environment Agency and your community - getting vital information out to local residents.

To volunteer for more information please contact - engagement_northeast@environment-agency.gov.uk

Northumberland County Council

Environment Agency

The poster features a large blue title 'FLOOD WARDENS NEEDED' at the top. Below it, a question asks if the viewer can help their community be more resilient to flooding. A bulleted list provides two key roles: being on the ground during and after floods, and acting as a link between the Environment Agency and the community. Contact information is provided at the bottom. The poster includes logos for Northumberland County Council and the Environment Agency, and an illustration of a person in a green raincoat standing in the rain.

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The advertisement features a row of colorful houses with chimneys at the top. Below this, the company name 'PREMIER CHIMNEY SWEEPING SERVICES' is prominently displayed. It includes contact details for Simon, including a phone number and website. A list of services is provided, along with a note about recognized certification and membership in the Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps.

Liz Branigan
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Box making, parchment and seal repair.
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lizbranigan@btinternet.com
07799 851967

The advertisement features a small crest logo for Liz Branigan. It lists her services, including bookbinding, book and paper repair, box making, and parchment and seal repair. Contact information is provided, including a website and an email address, along with a phone number.

Stanegate local and family history section

A Tragic Accident

An inquest was held in the Red Lion on 14 April 1894 into the death of David Lockhart, a game-keeper for Colonel W.L.B. Coulson. The jury heard how David, aged sixty-two, had been involved in an accident at Fourstones Station. A witness told the jury that as the 7.47 pm train, on 26 March arrived at the platform a carriage door opened while the train was still in motion. A man fell out. The faller cracked his head on the platform and lay there unconscious until carried to the stationmaster's office. He recovered and was accompanied home by some friends. The only sign of injury was a small cut on the back of his head which was bleeding. He died at home on 5 April from the cut which had become inflamed. The jury returned a verdict that David had died from laceration of the surface of the brain, caused by injuries accidentally received at Fourstones Station on March 26, whilst attempting to leave the train while it was in motion.

David was married to Mary and had been a game-keeper, or game watcher for over thirty years. He was born in Arthuret, Cumberland in 1833. He was the fourth son of Robert, a gardener and farmer of thirteen acres. He isn't given an occupation in the 1851 Census, even though he was seventeen so it is probable that he was helping his father. His first recorded job was that of game watcher at Featherstone Castle in 1861 which is the same year he married Mary Armstrong. By 1871 they had five children : James, William, Isabella, Robert and David. The first four were born in Kirkandrews in Cumberland, possibly because Mary returned to her parents' home for the births. David's birth was registered in Haltwhistle.

In 1881 the family had moved to High Warden where David was gamekeeper and son James was a groom. Sadly, in 1874 Mary had a daughter, Eleanor who was born on 12 October 1874 but died on 6 March 1875, being less than six months old. The children left home and the Lockharts' address in 1891 is given as the Red Lion, Humshaugh.

To fill the children's spaces in the house they took in two lodgers who were both working as stonemasons. From the newspaper account it seems that David and Mary moved back to Newbrough or Fourstones. David was buried in Newbrough Cemetery and shares his headstone with Mary, who died in 1924, James (1907), Isabella (1901), son in law Joseph Corbett and naturally, baby Eleanor. David left his estate to Mary; it was worth £151 6s 10d (equivalent to about £12,400 today)

Rob Tindall



Bonus Ball Draw

OCTOBER

5th	Carol Gradwell	19
12th	John Gradwell	37
19th	Billy Garth	25
26th	George Bernard Shaw	13





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Frankham Farm Storage

At Frankham Farm, we are pleased to have completed work on our expansion project for caravan and vehicle storage. Increasing outside storage space as well as beginning work on more indoor storage room too.

Alongside this, we have received delivery of five new 20ft Storage Containers which are available for hire. We would love to serve the needs of those who live locally before advertising further afield.

For any information or pricing, please get in touch

The logo for Sycamore Boiler Care features a stylized blue star with the text 'Dementia Friends' and 'An Alzheimer's Society initiative' next to it. Below the star is a large, vibrant orange and yellow maple leaf. In the top right corner of the logo area is a small yellow triangle with the word 'safe' in black. At the bottom of the logo, the text 'sycamore boiler care' is written in orange, with 'servicing & repairs' in white below it. The contact information '07940 797242 | 07394 354 884' and 'graham@sycamoreboilers.com' is displayed in white at the very bottom.

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Autumn Term Update

This term, while we have mainly been focussed on Christmas, we did have a super Halloween Cake Sale which raised a fabulous £232.00! Thank you to all those who baked and bought!

Early in the term, our fabulous teachers got into the Christmas spirit and the children decorated their own cards for purchasing. There were many fabulous displays of artwork and anyone who receives one will be very lucky! The earlier we order, the more commission we earn for the school, and we always try to optimise all fund-raising activities, even though that means doing Christmas cards in September!

A popular activity in the last two years has been our wreath making course, run by the fabulous Amy. We're sure that this will be thoroughly enjoyed once again on Sunday 24th November. Another well loved Christmas event is the Film Night that we run for the children after school – who wouldn't want to come to school in pyjamas with your favourite teddy and watch a film with hot chocolate and popcorn! It really does give you that Christmas feeling!

Once again, we will be running our well supported Christmas Hamper raffle, which will be drawn at the final performance of the School Nativity.

Generous donations of luxury food and drink items are given in exchange of a non-uniform day on Friday 6th December. Raffle tickets will soon be available from the school, the committee and, when the garage is open after its exciting renovations, we hope to pop them in there as well.

It will then be time for the Christmas break and in the New Year, we will be starting to plan the Summer Fair which is our big event of the year.

If you would like to help the Friends of Newbrough Primary School in any way, please do get in touch and we look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you for all your support of the Friends of Newbrough Primary School.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

Own Clothes Day in exchange for Hamper Item:
Friday 6th December

Film Night **Tuesday 10th December**

Hamper Draw **Tuesday 17th December**

Festive Menu at The Red Lion Inn

Available from Tuesday 3rd December

2 courses £24.95 3 courses £29.95
Includes a complimentary glass of mulled wine

Booking required

Please contact Andy or Sue on 01434 674226
or email redlionnewbrough@hotmail.co.uk

We met in Newbrough Town Hall on Thursday November 15th. After the singing of Jerusalem the President, Judith Kirby, welcomed members and introduced our Christmas craft evening.

Teresa Bessant dealt with the business. Members agreed that we should do the catering for the pantomime cast and helpers in February.

Menus were chosen and final arrangements were made for the Christmas lunch at 12 noon on 12th December at the Red Lion, Newbrough.

We will be doing our usual bag stall at the Town Hall Christmas fayre on 7th December. There will be a raffle and the proceeds will go to the WI Charity 'Association of Country Women World-wide.'

Arrangements were made for cleaning St Peter's Church and volunteers' names taken.

Judith was congratulated on laying a Wreath from the WI at the Remembrance Service in and outside Newbrough Town Hall.

Teresa collected ideas from members about the bus service to send to the Council.

The treasurer reported a healthy bank balance.

Members were then introduced to Christmas crafts using felt demonstrated by Susan Sutton and paper and card demonstrated by Judith.

The competition was for a hanging Christmas decoration and everyone was given a point.

The raffle was won by Maureen Carr, and the flowers donated by Lucy were won by Teresa.

The competition in December will be the most festive Christmas hat worn at the lunch (not necessarily home made).



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The Boatside Inn, Warden

CHRISTMAS MENU

Served from 2nd - 24th December (excluding Sundays)
£10 deposit per person required at the time of booking

2 Courses £27.50

3 Courses £32.00

Includes complimentary
glass of Bucks Fizz

TO START

Celeriac & Bramley Apple Soup with Parsnip Crisps, Crusty Bread & Butter (VG) (GFA)

Contains Celery, Gluten

Smoked Salmon & Mackerel Roulade with Cucumber Relish, Crème Fraîche & Sourdough Toast (GFA)

Contains Gluten, Milk, Mustard

Duck Liver & Cointreau Pâté with Spiced Fig Chutney & Rosemary Crackers (GFA)

Contains Gluten, Mustard, Sulphates, Milk

Beetroot, Rocket & Pickled Red Onion Salad with Warm Goat Cheese Bonbons & Balsamic Glaze (GF) (V)

Contains Milk, Soya, Eggs

THE MAIN EVENT

Traditional Roast Turkey Crown served with a Chestnut & Cranberry Stuffing, Pigs in Blankets, Creamed Mash, Roast Potatoes, Roasted Root Vegetables, Buttered Brussels & Turkey Gravy (GFA)

Contains Eggs, Milk, Celery, Sulphates, Soya, Gluten

Parmesan & Parsley Crusted Salmon Escalope on Crushed New Potatoes, Tenderstem Broccoli, Roasted Cherry Tomato & Basil Velouté (GF)

Contains Milk, Celery

Roasted Lamb Rump on Dauphinoise Potato with Celeriac Puree, Roasted Parsnips, Chestnut Mushroom & Rosemary Jus (GF)

Contains Milk, Celery, Sulphates

Tuscan Vegan Gnocchi - Soft Pillows of Gnocchi in a Creamy Sauce with Garlic, Vegan Sausage, Spinach & Sundried Tomatoes with a Rocket & Vegan Pesto Salad (VG)

Contains Sulphates, Celery, Gluten, Nuts

THE FINALE

Traditional Christmas Pudding with Rich Brandy Sauce (VG without Brandy Sauce)

Contains Gluten, Nuts, Sulphates

Warm Apple & Sultana Strudel with Vanilla Crème Anglaise

Contains Gluten, Milk, Eggs

Dark Chocolate & Raspberry Cheesecake with Raspberry Coulis & Double Cream (GF)

Contains Milk

Mixed Cheese Board with Chutney, Grapes, Crackers & Butter (GFA)

Contains Gluten, Milk

Please make the team aware of any allergies before ordering

GFA - Gluten Free Available - can be adapted to be Gluten Free. **GF** - Gluten Free. Please note dishes are prepared in the same kitchen, but no wheat products are used. **V** - Vegetarian | **VG** - Vegan

Please note a discretionary 12.5% service charge will be applied to your bill.

telephone 01434 602233 or email : crew@theboatsideinn.co.uk



Recipe from an Orchard Kitchen

Iain Bennett



Christmas is just around the corner and one thing that is synonymous with Christmas is fruit cakes and puddings. They were known as plum cakes or puddings because in the 16th to 17th centuries, when dried fruits were becoming more abundant, all dried fruits were just known as plums. The fruit cake itself goes back to the times of the Romans when mashed barley, pomegranate seeds, raisins, and pine nuts were combined to make a dessert called *satura*. In the 16th century families celebrated two festivals, 12th night and Easter and fruit-cakes were made for each occasion. For some reason the Easter fruit cake has ceased to be a custom perhaps because it became misplaced by the introduction of the simnel cake.

There had long been a tradition of making a rich fruit cake covered in marzipan for 12th night to celebrate the last day of Christmas. Oliver Cromwell thought that there was too much feasting and pleasure at Christmas and banned the 12th night celebrations. He did allow Christmas day to remain and as this was still a public holiday people made the 12th night cake and called it a Christmas cake!

Fruit cakes can either be eaten as a sweet indulgence (icing, marzipan) or as an accompaniment to a savoury food. In Yorkshire fruitcake is normally eaten uniced and with cheese. The fruit cake in this article is suitable for either, however generally uniced fruit cakes tend to have nuts in them for example a Dundee cake. In the Middle Ages marzipan formed the high spot of any feasts and tables would be decorated with tableaux, carved animals, ships, or even castles. Across Europe there are traditions of marzipan fruits and animals being given as gifts. In Germany marzipan is shaped into a miniature loaf of bread or small potatoes as a Christmas gift. The icing of cakes really started in the Victorian era. By the 18th century sugar technology had developed to the point that icing started to appear. Initially icing was spread over the top of the cake and the cake was then put back in the oven to set hard. It resembled a frozen lake and hence the name – icing.

As stated, before this cake is suitable for either icing or not. In an airtight container it will keep, and improve with age, for several weeks.

Rich Fruit Cake

Fruit Mix

Dried Mixed Fruit	550g
Dried Chopped Apricots	125g
Glace Cherries	125g, quartered
Brandy, Calvados or Dark Rum	75ml

Mix well and leave to soak for a week

Cake Mix

Plain Flour	200g		
Unsalted Butter	200g, softened		
Soft Brown Sugar	200g		
Eggs	4	Golden Syrup	2 tsp
Mixed Spice	tsp	Salt	pinch

If you cannot wait for the fruit to soak for a week at least leave it overnight.

Pre-heat the oven to 130Cfan/140C and grease and line an 8"/20cm cake tin. Cut out two pieces of nonstick baking paper, one for the base and the other to cover the cake mix in the oven.

For the top one cut a hole in the centre about the size of a 50p piece. With string tie, a double layer of either baking paper or newspaper round the outside edge of the cake tin.

Mix all the ingredients well, ladle into the prepared cake tin and smooth the top. Gently place the baking paper with the hole cut on top of the batter.

Put the cake into the centre of the oven and bake for 3½ to 4 hours until it is a nice rich brown colour, and a warm skewer inserted into the cake comes out clean.

Leave on a wire rack to completely cool in the tin. When cool store in an airtight container. It will taste better if it is left for a few days before eating. Serve as is or with a sharp and/or mature cheese.





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Town Hall Events

Sheron Robson, Town Hall Co-Chair



Our Christmas Fair is on Saturday 7th December, 1pm – 4pm, so please come along and support this event, or if you can't make it on the day, contact us for some raffle tickets to sell.

We have Santa visiting between 2-3pm and we are organising some other activities for children too, following feedback last year, so bring all the family along.

Our Christmas quiz will be on 19th December (always the third Thursday of the month, so January's will be on the 16th) and is always good fun and great value at just £2 entry, a great value bar and snacks provided at half time.

Remember, all details of events are shared on social media so make sure you follow us on facebook (search for Newbrough Town Hall) and instagram (newbrough_town_hall) for reminders of event dates and start times.

Warm Wednesday is back in full swing and will run weekly through the winter, 12noon to 2pm.

We had over 20 people at the first one who enjoyed two delicious home-made soups, a freshly baked roll and some sweet treats. All are welcome; come with a friend or make a new one while you're there. Warm Wednesday is fully supported by the Town Hall and its volunteers, but you are welcome to make a donation if you wish.

The Hall is closed for our festive break from 23rd - 29th December, but all our regular weekly groups continue:



Yoga, Badminton, Bowls, and the new addition, Zumba.

This got off to a great start and will run every Friday at 6pm up till 20th December.

On Sunday 10th November we hosted the first event through the Highlights Rural Touring scheme, which was a great success and much enjoyed by all. 'Love it if we Beat Them' wove together politics, class, and – as the title's reference to the 95/96 Premier League season and Kevin Keegan's famous rant suggests – football. While the core story was one of local politics and the tension between Old and New Labour candidates in a by-election contest, at the heart of the story were the personal relationships overshadowed by past tragedies. Moving performances examined the humour wielded in the face of grief and the ups and downs of friendships in the face of wider social challenges. A very welcome performance; we look forward to more!

The next offering from the Highlights programme is a workshop on Sunday 8th December and will allow you to create a metal embossed Christmas ornament and even personalise it, if you wish.

Only 2 places left so act quickly if you want a space. Bookings are through the highlights website:

[Creative Highlights – Metal Embossed Christmas Ornament - Highlights Rural Touring Scheme \(highlightsnorth.co.uk\)](http://highlightsnorth.co.uk)

be sure to pick the Newbrough date.

We have agreed to close the Bunkhouse for bookings in December, January and February but would open for a block booking so please contact us on

secretarynewbroughtownhall@gmail.com

if you would like to discuss this option.

200 Club NOVEMBER

1st	John Lowe	139
2nd	Rachael Charlton	34
3rd	Jane Veitch	122

Star Making & Breathwork



Winter is here and it is calling us to rest & restore. Let's get cosy with blankets and cushions and connect to our breath, seeing how it can support us through these darker days.

Through guided meditation, music and conscious connected breathwork we'll go within to ground ourselves during this busy time of the year, finding calm and stillness to help see us through.

We'll then get creative and make a bright festive star to take away to brighten up our home. A hot spiced drink, fruit cake & string lights are included.

Laura Waugh

<https://buytickets.at/natureconnectionwithlaura/1474382>

Newbrough Parish Council

Notes from the November meeting of Newbrough PC have not been forthcoming at the time of Stanegate going to print

Butterfly Update.

After July's lowest Big Butterfly Count Butterfly on record, late summer and autumn brought no upturn in fortune. Described as an 'absolutely disastrous year' for small tortoiseshells, the sole Nature Notes sighting was of one that briefly rested on a sun-warmed Park Shield flagstone on the 19th of September.



Small whites and green-veined whites also suffered their worst year since the count began; the only positive Nature Notes sighting of the latter being on 17th of September.

A garden is not complete without butterflies.

The odd large white was noted in the mild opening days of October; the last seen at Whinny Hill on the 7th.

Deep pink *sedum spectabile* flowering into October and beyond attracts butterflies and bees as it provides a late source of nectar, but no visits from either were noted from sporadic daily checks; just a solitary two spotted ladybird.

After a run of blank October days a red admiral was noted during the last cut of grass on the 26th and a final sighting was of one battling the wind on the gusty morning of November the 1st.

Nature is resilient, but sadly it seems that poor breeding this year will have a knock on affect, with expected lower numbers of some butterfly species next year.

Nature Notes

*Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it.*¹

Mild autumn weather allowed some wildflowers to linger on into November; the last vestiges of a summer long past. On the 7th several small groups of white dead nettles huddled in a wide West Boat verge, along with a dwarfish white umbelled common hogweed. Occasional small hogweeds also featured in roadside verges elsewhere, including the verge beyond the access track to Frankham Fell where half a dozen meadowsweets still sported frothy cream flowerheads.



A single pure white bind weed trumpet showed in the hawthorn hedge opposite South View, while nearby a number of forlorn-looking dandelion clocks stood in the verge west of the Millennium Beacon. Keen eyes might have spotted the odd yellow flecks of dandelions in the green roadside verges up to Whinny Hill, but the rich autumn colours of broadleaf trees and golden-needled larches were plain for all to see.

There were bright splashes of autumn colour before mid-October, but foliage was at its most colourful towards the end of the month and into the opening days of November. The vibrant golden yellow of the maples in the Butt bank sub-station and St. Peter's churchyard shone out on the 27th of October, but their glory days were short and within a week they were leafless. The lime trees across the road from St. Peter's Church were almost bare by the 27th; as they were two years ago, whereas last autumn they had a full canopy of yellow-green leaves on the same date and in 2021 they were still partially leafed as late as the 10th of November. Autumn leaf fall is a movable feast.

Of all trees, the beech provides the widest and most enduring palette of autumn colour. Displaying a medley of warm hues, those opposite Home Farm at the bottom of Lovers Lane showed their autumn best on the 26th of October.

Across the Stanegate the leaves of a tall beech at the top of Crow Wood, over the burn from Bridge House, stood out in a strong dark marmalade orange, while on the 30th the leaves on the beeches at the airy heart of the wood were a mix of pale yellow and a cool, fresh green.



In early November leaves began to fall in greater numbers, some blown by the wind to form a rusty looking fillet along the base of the roadside stone wall running from Newbrough School down to Sidgate, while bold autumn colours drained from remaining leaves bred more sombre tones. By mid-November trees were becoming increasingly bare as the autumn spectacle drew to a close.



With such a broad range of yellows, oranges, reds and golds unfolding from late September, through October and into November, autumn is the most colourful time of year. Small wonder, then, that for many this helps to make autumn their favourite season.

¹ George Eliot. *Letter to Miss Lewis*, October 1, 1841.



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Featherwatch



A small flock of two to three dozen fieldfare showed flashes of white underwings as they flew low, past the suckler shed at Park Shield in the early afternoon of the 13th of November. The first FW fieldfare sighting of the autumn.

Just Passing Through

Osprey sighting courtesy of Jan Eastwell

An osprey was spotted fishing at Watersmeet in September :
a pretty rare thing to see in these parts !

* * * * *

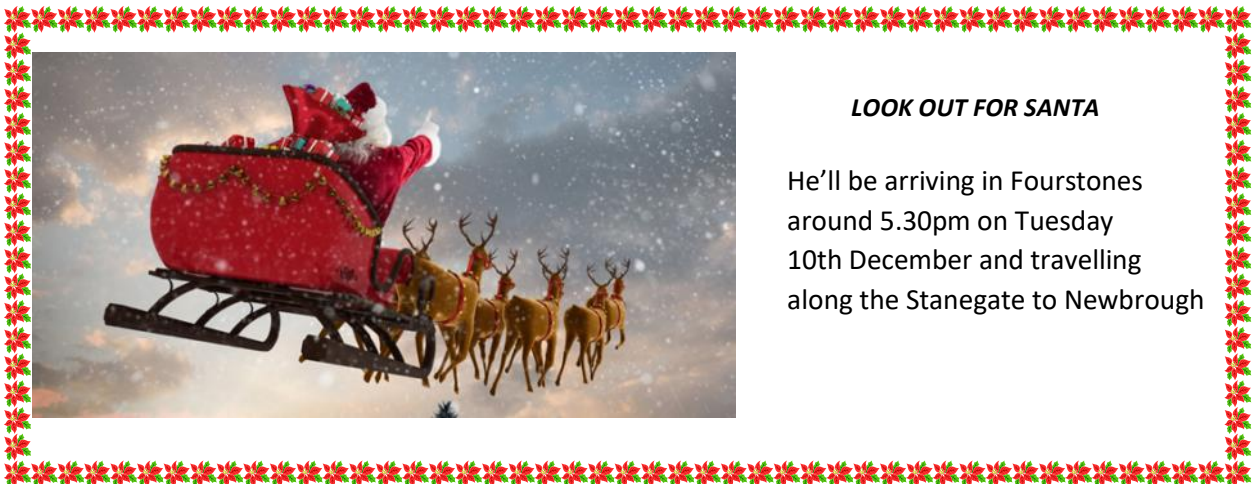
RAC Rally

With the throaty roar of exhaust pipes, a steady stream of sports and saloon cars climbed the Long Bank through the morning of Friday the 8th of November, before a sharp right and left turn at Tower Tye took them on the road north to Scotland. These were the eighty entrants in the twenty-second running of the three-day RAC Rally of the Tests; 'a historic rallying event' organised by motoring events company Hero-Era.

After setting out from Darlington, the field left the A69 at the Two Mile Cottages, drove up the Mossy Bank and the narrow lane from East Fourstones to Whinny Hill, from which a

Hero-Era 4x4 support vehicle bringing up the rear pulled out from around noon.

The next two days took them from Edinburgh down through Dumfries and Galloway to Carlisle and a finish in Windermere on the 10th. The cars were mostly 1960s to 80s models; among those noted passing through included rally favourites, Lancia Fulvias and Ford Escort RS 2000s, a Volvo Amazon, a Porsche 911, a Triumph TR4A and a VW 'Beetle'. With teams from eleven different countries and fifty competitors from outside the British Isles it was something of an international event.



LOOK OUT FOR SANTA

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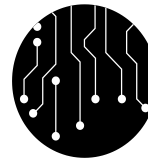
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Extinction, yes, but few signs of Rebellion at COP16 on biodiversity. More hope in Baku?

Malcolm Newson on behalf of Climate Action Newbrough-Fourstones

Most of us now realise that the global emergencies of our era, climate and nature, need to be **tackled together** because they share both causes and outcomes, such as the drastic reduction of life-supporting biodiversity and the extinction of species. An estimated one million animal and plant species are threatened by extinction, sometimes likened to the rivets popping, one by one, out of your airliner wing at 35,000 feet! You watch helplessly but know the outcome.

Nations come together in separate Conferences Of the Parties (see climate COP29 below) to hear the latest science but, vitally, to declare their national contributions to solving the global perils; these are legally binding for climate but voluntary for bio-diversity. So, the UK was able to 'cop' out of its updated biodiversity rules because of the change of government. More tragically, 85% of countries did not submit new 'nature pledges'; many of the most diverse and critical locations (eg the Amazon and Congo) did not make undertakings **through lack of finance**.

Any good outcomes of the Cali (Columbia) COP16? Two are being celebrated: a kind of 'genetic royalties' system for the many critical medicinal and other chemical products exploited in the developed world but derived from e.g. tropical forests, plus the UN's acceptance of indigenous communities in its decision-making. As with global climate, desirable outcomes depend on fairness and justice between nations, sectors and communities. The direct involvement of the private sector via a small but continuous levy on very valuable natural materials may preface developments at the Climate COP (also known as the Money COP!).

In Baku, COP 29 is halfway through as we go to press. It's already being called 'the Finance COP' because its major duty is to agree the 'New Collective Quantified Goals' of finding enough global finance to keep us to the 1.5°C temperature rise agreed in Paris. Tough, seeing as that limit will be broken by 2040 and carbon emissions are up 0.8% in 2024. It is even tougher because some estimates of the money needed are between \$5.8 and \$13.6 TRILLION by 2030. This is only aimed to cover mitigation and adaptation: 'loss and damage' for the current disasters is not guaranteed! Private capital is vital but, as the world's senior scientists are telling the UN, only seems to show up at COPs in the guise of new oil and gas deals! On a brighter note, COP29 has formalised international carbon credits, so now capitalists can calculate how much virtue pays!

If only....economic growth could be *decoupled* from carbon. The good news is that 30% regions (not nations) of the world have achieved this and China may reach 'peak carbon' this year. China's example is now quoted as a reason why Donald Trump cannot completely trash the world order in climate action: China then inherits world leadership! After COP26 in Glasgow, some said that the UK led the world (by example) and in Baku this week Keir Starmer (one of only seven G20 leaders at COP29) bumped up our emissions reduction target to 81% by 2035; this is scientific guidance from the Climate Change Committee, again in the interests of 1.5°C. He said the government would not 'tell people how to live their lives'.

The Barber Bus : update

I am easing back into work gradually using my new Barber Bus in a number of the villages, but will not be returning to Newbrough or Fourstones until at least January. Meanwhile, please continue to support me when I am working at the Mart Barbers shop and in the Barber Bus locations. as shown on my Facebook page, where I will continue to provide updates.

Many thanks, Susan Wray.

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October Weatherwatch

Such is the changeable nature of the British weather that in any month it can differ from year to year; sometimes widely. This past September is a convenient example as it was the second coolest Weatherwatch September, while last year's was the second warmest, although the rainfall in 2023 was half as much again as this year's. In contrast, however, this year's October monthly mean was almost identical to last October's, while rainfall only differed by a few milli-metres. The monthly mean and rainfall were both close to the long-term October average, making it overall a middle-of-the-road October.

The first week was relatively warm and sunny with daily maximums of 16.2C on the 5th and on the 7th after a moderate amount of rain had fallen overnight. Rain fell through much of the 8th to bring a wet three day total of approaching an inch, but to the east flooding caused by heavy rain disrupted the Tyne and Wear Metro, as it had done in July. A drier but cooler week of weather followed when temperatures dipped to bring the lowest October Park Shield daily maximum of 8.0C on the unlucky 13th. A monthly minimum of -2.3C and the first air frost of the autumn was recorded the next morning.

An otherwise undistinguished October provided a notable weather event when the 16th brought a whopping 34.6 mm of rain in the day. This included 10.0mm in the hour to eleven p.m. with a highest rain rate of a remarkable 118.8mm per hour. It turned roads into rivers and left them layered in mud and littered with small stones. The downpour also occasioned a fire engine visit to St. Aidan's Park and formed a small lake in the field opposite the east entrance to Sidgate. In mid November strips of fine silt still lay on parts of the road down the Mossy Bank straddled by tyre tracks. Thirty millimetres is a lot of rain in a day, but it is not unheard of as this was the twenty-seventh time in almost twenty Weatherwatch years that more than this amount fell in a day. The very first Weatherwatch reported a fall of 59.8mm of rain in the 24 hour period up to 7.30 a.m. on

Saturday the 8th of January 2005 and a biblical 72.3mm fell in the 24 hours up to 7.30 a.m. on the 13th of June in 2007. More rain fell overnight into the 17th, but it was a day of sunny periods that brought a monthly maximum of 16.6C (61.9F).

The first named storm of the 2014/25 season, Storm Ashley, blew overnight into the 21st with some near gale force gusts of 30mph+ in the early hours, but rainfall was minimal. In some northerly parts of the country where winds were stronger, fallen trees blocked roads and heavy rain caused flooding. Less than four millimetres of rain fell in the remainder of the month to bring a middling Park Shield October total of 79.8mm; a millimetre more than recorded at Butt Bank.

October nights were a touch cooler than average, but the days were generally milder, so that it was a slightly warmer than average October.

October Weatherwatch Factfile.

Temperature. Park Shield mean monthly maximum : c.13.3C. Mean monthly minimum : c.6.0C. Monthly mean : c.9.65C. E&NE England monthly mean : 10.6C and -0.7C above the 1991-2020 average. Butt Bank monthly maximum : 17.4C on the 7th. UK maximum : 22.5C (72.5F) on the 16th. UK minimum : -4.1C at Braemar (Aberdeenshire) and Aboyne (Aberdeenshire on the 3rd and 14th).

Rainfall & Sunshine Park Shield average rainfall : c.80mm. Butt Bank October rainfall : 78.8mm. E&NE England rainfall and sunshine : 104% & 111% of the 1991-2020 average respectively.

Winds. Variable. Light at first and then breezy at times. Maximum Park Shield and Butt Bank maximum gusts 35mph and 43mph respectively on the 21st. Highest UK wind gust: 82 mph at Aberdaron (Gwynedd) on the 20th.



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

There were no Christenings, Weddings or Funerals during
October or November

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

Preachers for December 2024

- 1st Advent Sunday, Ms E Goy
8th at Haydon Bridge with Mrs S Holland
15th Reverend Michael Holland
Holy Communion
22nd Carol Service with Mrs V Herod
29th Local arrangement

Preachers for January 2025

- 5th Mr N Fullard
12th Mr B Japes
19th Mrs S Martin
26th Reverend Michael Holland
Holy Communion, Covenant Service

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Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church



Coffee morning

Friday, 6th December, 10am - 2pm

Messy Vintage

Tuesday 10th December, 2.30pm

The theme is 'Messages'

Charge : £1 per person

Remembrance Sunday



The 10th November, 2024 saw people from the three villages gather at Newbrough Town Hall for this annual event. This year it was movingly led from the Hall by the Reverend Ric Whaite.

At the Memorial the names of the fallen were read, and the two minutes silence observed with the National Anthem being sung. Wreaths were laid by the two Parish Councils and the Churches, and this year for the first time by the W.I. and the Chapel.

It was pleasing this year to note the number of children present at this event.

Following the conclusion of the service coffee, tea and biscuits were served and enjoyed, and it gave those present time to talk to Ric and amongst themselves.

£144.10 was placed in the donation plate and this will be forwarded to the ROYAL BRITISH LEGION.

Ian Bell



← St Peter's Church,
Newbrough

The Methodist Chapel,
Fourstones with Warden →



The Parishes by the Wall (*East*)

Advent and Christmas Services

1st December	9:30am	BCP Holy Communion at St Michael and All Angels, Warden
15th December	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Peter's, Newbrough
24th December	6pm	Traditional Carols Service at St Peter's, Newbrough
25th December	9:30am	BCP Holy Communion at St Michael and All Angels, Warden
29th December	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Aidan's, Fourstones

Letter from Father Oliver Dempsey.....

Over the last few years there has been a development in the style and quality of Advent calendars. Gone are the days when a simple chocolate or picture behind the window would suffice. Nowadays Advent Calendars have become an entire branch of pre-Christmas enjoyment in their own right. Some examples I have come across recently include a tea calendar, various beers wines and spirit based calendars, and a chilli sauce advent calendar.

Advent Calendars are a wonderful way of entering into the spirit of longing and expectation which characterises the church's season of Advent. This longing and expecting are something that I think we can all appreciate during advent which outside the church is taken up by preparing for family, cooking, and buying gifts.

There is no doubt that Christmas can be an enjoyable and exciting time, especially for children (and children at heart). However, if we strip it back to what is at the heart of the Christmas story it is the promise of love, hope and peace which are all so necessary in the world at the moment. The simplicity and humility of the story of Jesus' birth is one that I think can remind us about how important it is to recognise and value the simple things in life and especially at Christmas. It is also a reminder to us to recognise those in our community and further away who have to do without or may be feeling lonely and isolated. Christmas is a time to share those simple gifts of love, hope and peace with those around us, it is an opportunity for us all to light in the darkness of midwinter.

After Christmas Day our minds begin to turn towards the New Year. Whilst we might have holidays or events marked in the calendar already, it is always hard to say what the new year will bring. My prayer for us all is that this period of Advent, Christmas and new beginnings will be an opportunity to reflect on all that has gone before us and look forward with hope too all that is to come.

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

St John Lee, Warden with Newbrough and Haydon Bridge

	0800	0930	1100
1st Sunday *	St John Lee	Warden (BCP)	Haydon Bridge
2nd Sunday **	Newbrough	St John Lee	Haydon Bridge
3rd Sunday	Haydon Bridge (BCP)	Newbrough	Haydon Bridge
4th Sunday	Warden (BCP)	St John Lee	Haydon Bridge
5th Sunday ***	-	Fourstones	Haydon Bridge

* 1000 The Eucharist or Morning prayer at Stagshaw Chapel (from Easter Day to Christmas Day)

** Storybook Church at St Cuthbert's, Haydon Bridge

*** 29th December 2024

30th March 2025, 29th June 2025, 31st August 2025 and 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

The Reverend Ollie Dempsey Tel: 01434 671 649 email: fr.oliver.dempsey@outlook.com