

# The Stanegate

Newbrough, Fourstones, Warden  
and surrounding hamlets

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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 August issue is **Friday 12th July 2024**

## From the Editorial Team.....

Thank you to all those who have taken a copy of our May and June editions of Stanegate.

Following the brief trial we're reviewing the location of the Warden box which, with effect from 1st July, will be placed on the bench on the north side of the bridge and opposite The Boatside Inn.

An electronic copy of The Stanegate is no longer available on the village website, as the website has been shut down. However it is available courtesy of Warden Parish Council : <https://northumberlandparishes.uk/warden/community> under NEWS.

### NEWBROUGH SUMMER FAIR

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July, 12noon to 2pm  
Newbrough Primary School Playing Field

Come and join Newbrough C of E Primary School for our annual Summer Fair, it's **FREE ENTRY** and everybody is welcome!

Activities will include favourites such as **face painting, glitter hair, adopt a teddy, bottle stall, football goal challenge, penny drop** and **nature play**.

The **dog show** will also be returning and there are lots of prizes available like waggiest tail!

**NEW** for this year are **nerf target wars, human fruit machine** and a 'Vinted' stand.

There'll also be a **BBQ, ice creams** and **Mrs Bridge's teas and cakes**, so it's definitely worth popping in.

**Raffle tickets** are available before the event in the Fourstones Service Station and also on the day and we have more fantastic prizes this year!

We hope to see you there!

All proceeds from the day will help support learning at Newbrough Primary School by funding much needed books, art supplies, science equipment, technology and school trips, none of which would be possible without events such as this.

Thank you for supporting the Friends of Newbrough PTA.

### Calendar of Events

#### JULY

- 1st Warden PC, 7pm  
Town Hall
- 3rd Newbrough PC, 7pm  
Town Hall
- 4th **General Election**
- 6th Newbrough C of E Primary  
School Fair, 12noon—2pm
- 11th Newbrough WI monthly  
meeting, : an outing (see p6)
- 12th Methodist Chapel Coffee  
morning, 11am — 2pm  
(see p9)
- 19th School closes for Summer  
holidays
- 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th  
Flower festival  
Methodist Chapel  
(see p19 for details)
- 26th Methodist Chapel  
Coffee morning, 10am — 3pm  
Supporting Tools for Self  
Reliance (see p9)

### Advertising

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I often talk about our creative projects in school but this month we are celebrating our achievements in PE and sports. This is because we have just been awarded our School games mark GOLD award for this year in recognition of our commitment to PE and school sport and we are absolutely thrilled!

When I look back over this year, our pupils have had some amazing opportunities in PE and sport - starting with the mobile climbing wall in September. They have had the chance to try out boxing, and after school clubs in Zumba and gymnastics. There has been dodgeball, golf, basketball and all the usual school sports like rounders, netball, cricket, swimming and rugby - to name just a few. This term there will be athletics as well.



We run 'early bird' PE sessions every 2 weeks through the summer term, when the children arrive at school 15 minutes early and take part in different circuit-type activities on the field to music to warm up before school - and our brilliant 'sports crew' (young sports leaders) set up different PE activities at playtimes. We also have a dance club run at lunchtimes by one of our teaching support assistants. And these are just the ones I can remember!

So, does this matter? Well, of course it does. It's not just about the physical fitness aspects but about the proven mental health benefits of being engaged in physical activity. And the variety matters too - because children need to find the activity that they really enjoy and that works for them.



A huge thank you to our PE lead teacher, Mrs Graham, who is behind all of this. For a small school, in rural Northumberland, I think we've done pretty well!

If you would like your child to be part of our lovely school, we currently have a few places available in nursery for September. Just get in touch with school if you would like to come and look around.

Jo Trotter  
Head Teacher

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## Senior Citizens' Trip

Rob Tindall

This year's trip will take place on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August** and will be Reghed and Keswick.

The trip is free to all those of pensionable age living in the civil parishes of Warden and Newbrough. It is generously supported by the Tom Benson Charitable Trust, and this year also by a local couple who wish to remain anonymous. When we last made this trip six years ago it was very popular, and space was at a premium.

The coach is being supplied by Amble Coaches who served us so well last year. The trip will start from the Red Lion at 9am prompt and pick up at the usual pick-up points. The anticipated return time is between 5 and 6pm.

You can reserve a place and indicate where you wish to be picked up through Facebook Messenger, emailing me at [robmtin@aol.com](mailto:robmtin@aol.com), stopping me in the street or as a last resort telephoning me on 674324.



### Save the Dates



Thursday 25th - Sunday 28th July  
Thursday 22nd August  
Saturday 31st August  
Saturday 7th December

Flower Festival  
Senior Citizens' Trip  
Parish Produce Show  
Christmas Fair

## Newbrough Cricket Club Update

### Game 3 Result

Newbrough	158 all out	M. Forster 5-6,	J. Forster 2-10
Riding Mill	212 all out	M. Forster 39,	H. Ballantyne 27

### Game 4 Result (1st Division Cup)

Newbrough	77 all out	H. Ballantyne 27,	P. Forster 14
Wylam 1st XI	80 for 2	T. Howarth 1-15,	B. Scott 1-22

### Game 5 Result

Newbrough	184 all out	L. Reekie 62,	J. Christer 38
Stocksfield	161 all out	L. Reekie 3-20,	O. Foot 2-26

### Game 6 Result

Newbrough	105 all out	A. Taylor 20,	M. Forster 17
Wylam	106 all out	D. Forster 1-5,	A. Taylor 1-13

### July Fixtures

Saturday 6th July	Home vs	Haltwhistle
Saturday 13th July	Away vs	Wylam
Saturday 20th July	Away vs	Riding Mill



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**Newbrough Women’s Institute June Meeting**

Vice President Susan Sutton welcomed 18 members and Jerusalem was sung. The business of the evening was conducted by The Secretary, Teresa Bessant. There were application forms from The Federation for some interesting events which included needle felting, pastel painting classes, a two day course on Crewel embroidery, an evening stroll around Ponteland, programme planning for our members who compile our list of speakers for the year, a tour of Trinity House, and a Literary Lunch to be held at The Mart in Hexham with a speaker Dr Mel Gibson who will take us back to our youth with a talk about the history of girls comics.

We received many compliments from the D-Day afternoon tea and a sum of £130 was raised to go to SSAFA, an organisation which supports armed personal both serving and retired.

Our speaker this month was Dave Richardson from Canny Candy Gadgies, a business based in Seaham who make fudge. We were very surprised at the many different flavours of fudge available, all based on the basic butter and cream recipe that his grandmother used to make.

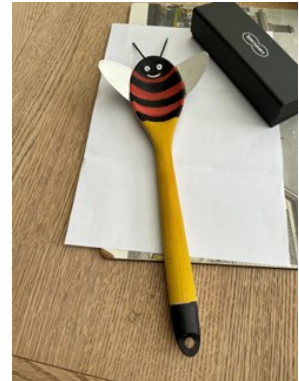
We had the opportunity to taste some of his flavours including the clotted cream best seller, a singing hinnie flavour which was very christmassy with cinnamon and fruit and a cinder toffee called

Coals from Newcastle which was very black and very sticky. The till was ringing at the end of the evening as we were all keen to buy some of the delicious fudge on offer.

The competition was a decorated wooden spoon in any theme. There were many varied and clever creations ranging from a fairy to a nun with flowers, bees and ladies in between.

Our next meeting is an outing to visit Bellingham Heritage Centre, Afternoon Tea in The Carriage then a visit to the local First and Last Brewery.

In August we will have our annual coffee morning when all are welcome and after that we are back to our usual 2nd Thursday in the month at Newbrough Town Hall when we would love to see anyone interested in joining the W.I.



<b>Bonus Ball Draw</b>		
<b>MAY</b>		
4th	Doreen Dodd	10
11th	Neville White	22
18th	Clare Arthur	29
25th	George Bernard Shaw	13

<b>200 CLUB</b>		
<b>JUNE</b>		
1st	Sandra Martin	63
2nd	Dennis Bowman	21
3rd	Vanessa Ashton	163
(prize money was donated to		



## Town Hall News

Sheron Robson, Town Hall Co-Chair

As the summer holidays approach some Town Hall regular events take a pause, but other types are in full swing.



Monday night yoga class continues at 6.30 and there is a good, regular attendance of between 8-10 of us who are all growing in confidence in our practice under the guiding eye of Jane, our teacher, who is adept at adapting the moves to the differing abilities of those attending.

Contact [JJyoga83@gmail.com](mailto:JJyoga83@gmail.com) for more details or look on the website [www.ijyoga83.com](http://www.ijyoga83.com).

There will be no quiz over the summer but we are offering a film and food pairing night on Friday 12th of July. The film will be Mamma Mia! and the food will be delicious Greek delights - we may even barbecue some kebabs if the weather is on our side!



A fabulous, exuberant feel good movie, ripe for singing along to the Abba classics and perfect to get us in the mood for holidays and balmy summer days.



Meryl Streep stars alongside Julie Walters and there is plenty of male eye candy for those who like that kind of thing!

Our Afternoon Teas will continue from 12noon to 3pm on the first Wednesday in each month until September.



During the summer we also get bookings for childrens' parties and adults parties in the Hall. It's a great venue for these kind of events, so please get in touch if you would like to book the Hall for this - our rates are very competitive but we will need to increase our prices in the Autumn due to increased running costs.

**HELP!** Over the Summer we will also be looking for volunteers to help us with some basic upkeep at the Hall. Nothing too technical -

we are looking for people who could spend a couple of hours painting fences/shed and someone with some basic woodworking skills to repair our A board that we use to advertise Town Hall events. We'd supply all the materials.



If you can help, please contact [secretarynewbroughtownhall@gmail.com](mailto:secretarynewbroughtownhall@gmail.com) and we'll get you booked in.

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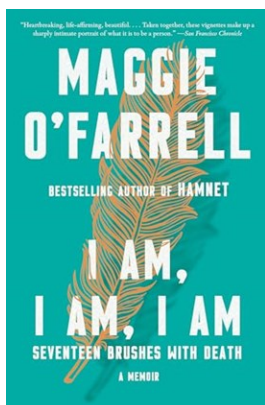
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## Book Review

review by Anne Boulton

### 'I am, I am, I am, : Seventeen brushes with death'



I am I am I am, Seventeen brushes with death by Maggie O'Farrell was suggested for the book club as 'Hamnet', one of her novels was enjoyed by the book club in the previous year.

Maggie O'Farrell is one of my favourite authors.

This book is an astonishing collection of essays, collected as a non chronological memoir, in which each essay is titled by a body part or system followed by the year in which the event happened. The memoir is described as the near-death experiences that have punctuated and defined her life. Whilst non fiction it is as beautifully written as her novels and reads easily with compelling and lyrical prose.

"We are, all of us, wandering about in a state of oblivion, borrowing our time, seizing our days, escaping our fates, slipping through loopholes, unaware of when the axe may fall."

The book is dedicated to her daughter and the daily struggle to keep her safe is outlined in one of the essays.

Upon rereading the collection, it was the first story in the book, which I remembered so well. As a younger woman I spent some time traveling overseas alone. The fear of knowing one is being followed, or worrying about traveling or simply walking home alone, has an added frisson or consideration for both one's own safety and female friends and family members. This chimes with the current reality where violence by men against women is a daily concern.

While she writes about some very personal experiences that happened to her, many of these events are relatable : childhood illnesses, miscarriage, the heartbreaking emotional difficulty of acceptance and understanding. There is a sense of impending danger in many of the tales whilst the telling of them remains emotionally restrained, understated and not self pitying.

Maggie O'Farrell captures the perils running just beneath the surface, and illustrates the preciousness, fragility, beauty, and mysteries of life. This made me consider my own appreciation for life, heartbreaking and terrifying at times, it recognises the vulnerability we face throughout the complexities of life.

### Methodist Chapel July Coffee mornings

Sandwiches and cake and a chat  
All are welcome



Friday 12th, 11am - 2pm  
Friday 26th June, 11am - 3pm

Our coffee morning on Friday 26th is for **Tools for Self Reliance** so please sort out your shed, look in your garage and re-organise things you don't want, rusty and broken, and bring them to the coffee morning.

I am also collecting haberdashery so please bring this along too.  
All money raised will be for the Chapel and Tools for Self Reliance  
Margaret Bogie : 01434 674207

## Fourstones and Newbrough village website

The village website is very out of date, needs a complete re-write and is expensive.

The usage statistics are very low so I have decided to close it down.

The Fourstones.info email service will still be available as will the Fourstones and Newbrough Facebook page, both of which are well used and provide a functional and ready means of sharing and distributing information.

Iain Bennett

## Just Passing Through

Mid-June, and it was that time of year again.<sup>1</sup>

Having set off from Carlisle Castle at 7 am a field of the organisers estimated 1,500 entrants jogged and walked through the villages over the afternoon of Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> on their way to the finish line on the Gateshead Millenium Bridge, 70 miles to the east, where they would complete *The Wall*, 'the UK's most iconic ultramarathon'.



Thirty-eight miles in, the layby at the north end of Crow Wood doubled as a check point and feed station. Diverted up the bank out of East Fourstones and along a route taking in Homers Lane, to avoid a dodgy descent down the Mossy Bank, participants missed out on the impressive sight of the newly tarmacked and just white-lined road to the Boatside Inn. Those taking in the sounds as well as the sights of their challenge might have heard the song of a skylark and the wheezing song of yellowhammers as they passed along the lane beyond West Boat.

<sup>1</sup> Except for 2020, *The Wall* has been staged every year in June since 2012.



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# Newbrough Parish Council

## Notes taken from the Chairman's Annual Report May 2024

Meetings were held quarterly in Newbrough Town Hall and the Council is grateful to the Town Hall Management Committee for being able to use such a splendid building. There are many people to thank for their contribution to the Council and to the Parish. It was good to have members of the public present at meetings throughout the year. Thanks to Newbrough Councillors Jen Annan, Malcolm Newson, Hugh A Walton, Karen Bell (Newbrough Primary School governor) and Andy R Smith.

We said farewell and a big thank you to Cllr Ian S Hunter who moved out of the area and resigned; he was replaced by Justin R Orde who was co-opted in July. I thank the Council for their trust and confidence in electing me Chairman for another year. I must thank Cllr Morphet whose attendance and advice continues to provide strong links between Parish and County. I also have to thank Steve Davies for his grass cutting and tidying. Thanks to Mrs Sandra Gibson for plants and planting, Andy Smith planting at Whitebeam, Martin Smith for the bus shelter repairs, new Locality Coordinator Delia Faran and the Council auditor GD Scorer. It's good to see an active Sportsfield Association. Thanks to Wes Foot for his energy and enthusiasm with Newbrough Cricket Club and Cllr Walton for his continuing support for the club for his regular up-dates to the Council.

Our new King gave two Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace this year to celebrate his Coronation. I was greatly honoured to be invited to represent Newbrough Parish and was accompanied by my wife Sandy. Newbrough and Warden Parish Councils provided all the school children with Coronation Mugs to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. A new portrait of the King will hang in the Parish Council Room in the Town Hall.

As part of the Local Transport Plan Capital Programme (LTPCP) 2024-2025 the Council was requested to identify its top three priorities to include in the Northumberland County Council draft programme and the following were submitted :

Footpath to St Peter's running parallel along the north side of Stanegate.

A gravel/ash path from Newbrough Bridge to St Peter's Church, to replace the original.

The Council could contribute to this project and also attract other funding.

Strengthening and drainage of Church Lane.

Pedestrian Safety - The extension of the footpath on the south side of the Stanegate C227 road, from the "T" Junction with B6319 Butt Bank, to Newbrough CofE Primary School. The Council also supported Warden PC with their LTPCP 2024-2025 request, "Mossy strengthening and drainage; and Mossy road resurfacing"

To date, the NCC LTP has accepted no requests for Newbrough. Some work is expected down Church Lane; scraping and widening of the road.

Cllr Morphet, Cllr Newson and Laura Waugh have kept council informed and up-dated with "Climate Change and Green Issues" and CANF meetings. Cllr Morphet has informed us that Storm Arwen recommendations have been accepted and we look forward to implementation and a designated website. Cllr. Malcolm Newson acted as the Council's representative with West Northumberland Primary Care Network, which is basically a consumer watchdog for our GP Practices and has reported back from their virtual meetings.

Various parishes have looked into maximising the usage of the AD122 Bus Service. There is some merit in the AD122 Bus service visiting Newbrough, Warden and Haydon Bridge but it would have to take into consideration the weight restriction on the bridge at Allerwash Mill. However there are reservations about omitting Carrow and Brocolitia from the route.

Sadly we have lost and are to lose two prominent figures for our community. The Rev. Jeremy Thompson, Rector of St John of Beverley, Vicar of Warden with Newbrough (Hon. Canon of Newcastle Cathedral) has retired. He will be a great miss. Our Headteacher, Jo Trotter, is leaving Newbrough Church of England Primary School at the end of the summer term. She has served in that role for eight years and the school, in that period of time, has experienced some testing challenges. Firstly threats of closure in 2018. Then the global pandemic, two years later. More recently Jo has led the school through a successful transition into the multi-academy Trust, (Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust). Thank you Jo.

## Bletchley Networks

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Bletchley Networks is an Internet Service Provider set up and managed by Justin Orde and Harry Robson from Langley. Bletchley Networks uses Openreach and BT Wholesale to link homes and businesses to the Bletchley Network which is accessible from all of BT's 5,500 exchanges in the UK.

Bletchley Networks is local, competitive with the major providers, and is offering a personal 'hands-on' service with the router being delivered, installed and tested on site.'

## Messy Vintage

We are sometimes asked "what is Messy Vintage" ? It began in a Methodist Church in St Peter, Jersey and is fun and fellowship to share with Christ with the older generation.

In the Methodist Chapel in Fourstones we set out tables and chairs, tablecloths, fine china, serviettes and cake stands laden with small cakes, sandwiches, scones and fancy cakes. People come, men and ladies, some live alone, others come for fellowship, friendship and some just to watch what goes on.

Sandra Martin opens with a welcome, explains what the theme of the month is and we sing some hymns, have a bible reading, a craft and then tea.

There is always a lot of chatter and laughter as some of us struggle with glue, scissors, sequins and felt pens. We all show one another our efforts, mostly different, at the end before we have tea.

Messy Vintage makes space for friendship and conversation.

We meet once a month in Fourstones Methodist Chapel, usually the second Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm. We are not meeting in July but do come and give us a try in August. Everyone is very welcome.

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## The Barber Bus

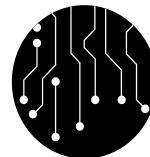
**Susan Wray**, who owns the Mart Barbers and the Barber Bus, has returned to work on a limited basis for now. She will be at the Mart Barbers shop on Tuesdays from 3pm to 7pm.

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## Nature Notes

*Even more dates for the record book*

Although it was never entirely plain sailing, a spring that began with March weather in February continued to conjure up more of the earliest floral dates on Nature Notes record as it ended with June weather in May. Following the earliest cherry plum and blackthorn blossom, cherry trees provided bright bursts of fleeting spring blossom. The twin pink ornamental cherries at Whitehouses were approaching full bloom by the 15<sup>th</sup> of April and on the same day the cherries by the cricket pavilion were decked in pure white blossom.

Shortly before this, on the 11<sup>th</sup>, white blossom was beginning to show on the trees opposite the layby at the north end of Crow Wood and on the 12<sup>th</sup> it was showing on the two cherries at the rear of the layby above St. Aidan's terrace. Except for the St. Aidan's cherries, which blossomed a whisker earlier on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April in 2017, the above blossomings were the earliest on a relatively short Nature Notes record. The dozen and a half or so introduced native bird cherry trees lining either side of the northern section of Homers Lane were at their splendid best on the 26<sup>th</sup>, although the blossom on the sheltered bird cherry by the foot-bridge over Newbrough Burn between Crow Wood and the Allerwash Mill Plantation was not fully out until the 20<sup>th</sup> of May. In the memorable spring of 2011, it was in full blossom there at the end of the first week of the month. However, bird cherry blossom in a hedgerow above Crow Wood on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April was the earliest on Nature Notes record.

The annual sequence of late winter and spring blossoming ends with elderflower, which chalked up another in the long list of Nature Notes earliest appearances as small white umbels were noted on bushes at Fourstones Paper Mill and the Mossy Bank on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May; six days ahead of the previous earliest flowering date of the 22<sup>nd</sup> last year. Before the end of the month elderflower was conspicuous on bushes across the parishes.

As the name indicates, meadow buttercups are wildflowers of grassland, but they also occupy roadside verges, where slender branches on tall stems hold their flowers above competing herb-  
age. They usually first appear around mid-May, but this spring they were first noted in a West Boat verge on the 8<sup>th</sup>; the earliest first flowering

date on Nature Notes record.<sup>1</sup> Soon after, others were peppering local pasture, including that surrounding the now fenced-off Warden dew pond and the field adjacent to the electricity substation at Whinny Hill.

The delicate white and pink flowers of dog roses on scrambling briars are always an appealing sight in late spring and early summer. Their flowers are



usually first seen in June, but were first noted before the end of May in 2017 and 2020. A large bush beyond the layby above St. Aidan's Terrace was covered in a flush of pinkish flowers on the 27<sup>th</sup>. This was the same date they were first noted at East Fourstones in the spring of 2011, which made them the joint earliest flowering dog roses on Nature Notes record. Bushes elsewhere in the parishes quickly followed suit and in early June the flowering of pink and white dog roses along way-sides was profuse.



Meadow cranesbills have a much longer flowering season than dog roses, although like them this normally begins in early to mid-June. Two clumps of their striking blue

violet-blue flowers were noted in a Homers' Lane verge on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May. Premature as this was, it did not join this spring's impressive chronicle of Nature Notes earliest flowerings. In 2016 Nature Notes reported a flowering clump in a 'sheltered verge' on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May. As this was close by the A69 Constantius bridge at Kingshaw Green, radiated heat from the mass of concrete might have been a factor in its very early appearance.

Note. Earliest bird cherry note: Mary Wilson.

<sup>1</sup> A creeping butter was mistaken for a 'meadow buttercup.'

## Cooking with the help of children

As school holidays are fast approaching, cooking and making food fun for the children will foster a love for cooking and baking at an early age and can help picky eaters and create a love for food and creative cooking. The recipes are ideal for a school lunchbox and some ingredients can be substituted for what is available. Children will love putting their own ideas and extras or substitutes

\*\*\*\*\*

### Buttercup Scrambles

- 2oz butter
- 4 slices of bread
- 3 eggs
- 6 tablespoons milk
- 2 oz chopped hot dogs
- 1 spring onion, chopped
- 1 stick of celery, chopped
- 1 oz grated cheese



Melt butter and cool slightly. Trim crusts from bread. Line bread into deep bun tins leaving corners uppermost. Brush with a little butter. Bake at gas 6, elec 200C for 15 mins.

Meanwhile whisk eggs, milk and a little salt and pepper. Melt some butter in a pan. Add egg, milk and sliced hot dogs, onion and celery. Cook on low heat until set. Put into bread cups when ready.

### Peanut Butter Cookies

- 3oz butter
- 1oz peanut butter
- 2oz sugar
- 2oz brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 5oz flour
- Pinch of salt
- Chopped nuts



Mix butters, sugars and a little egg together. Add flour and salt. Mix to firm dough. Roll into balls, flatten, sprinkle with chopped nuts. Bake gas 5 or 190c for 10 – 15 mins

### Nutella Slice – no bake

Attention all Nutella lovers!

This no bake slice is a dream come true with a Nutella and biscuit base, topped with more Nutella and chocolate.

#### Ingredients

- 250g plain sweet biscuits crushed (I used Arnott's Marie)
- 100g salted butter cubed
- 250g condensed milk
- 110g Nutella

#### Nutella Topping

- 225g dark chocolate melts
- 3 tablespoons Nutella

#### Instructions

Grease and line a 20 x 20cm (8 x 8") baking tin and set aside.

Place condensed milk (250g) and butter (100g – cubed) in a large bowl.

Place bowl in microwave and melt in 30 second bursts until butter is melted.

Add Nutella (110g) and mix to combine.

Add crushed sweet biscuit crumbs (250g) to Nutella mixture and mix until combined.

Press mixture into tin and smooth the top.

#### For the Nutella topping

Place dark chocolate melts (225g) in a small bowl and microwave in 30 second bursts (mixing in between) until melted

Add extra Nutella (3 tbsp) into melted chocolate and mix to combine.

Pour chocolate and Nutella mixture evenly over base and refrigerate until the slice is set.



If there are any recipes that you would like to share, or if you would like a suggestion for a recipe, please contact Iain Bennett via e-mail at [iain-bennett@orchardkitchen.co.uk](mailto:iain-bennett@orchardkitchen.co.uk).

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## May Weatherwatch

So much was made of the dull, wet spring weather in the mass media that it must have come as a surprise to many that nationally it was the warmest spring in a series stretching back to 1884.<sup>1</sup> The spring of 2011 was a touch warmer in our part of the world, but like the country as a whole our May was by a wide margin the warmest on record.<sup>2</sup> This was a result of consistently above average daytime temperatures and night-times that were unseasonably mild under insulating blankets of cloud.

After a dry opening to the month light rain fell towards the end of the first week, while thunderstorms affected an unsettled southern Britain and other parts suffered heavy downpours. The showery 5<sup>th</sup> brought Park Shield's lowest May daily maximum of 13.1C which was, as a piece of meteorological minutiae, warmer than all previous 19 lowest Weatherwatch May daily maximums.

The next day's maximum was a much warmer 17.8C and it turned warmer again on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> when Park Shield recorded a joint monthly maximum of 23.4C. A daily maximum of 21.4C followed on the 12<sup>th</sup>, when the build up of heat led to lightning flashes at around 9.30pm; soon followed by heavy rain. Almost fourteen millimetres fell in the three hours after this, including a substantial 11 millimetres in the two hours up to 11pm.

A pleasantly sunny 13<sup>th</sup> produced a daily maximum of 21.3C and the days from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> were all under a degree less warm, while the 18<sup>th</sup> reached a higher 22.7C. However, besides spring warmth these days had something less welcome in common; gloomy and sunless mornings, which extended through cooler following days to the 24<sup>th</sup>. Afternoons were also largely dogged by cloud, although on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> late-afternoon sun did shine brightly with little or no cloud in the sky. On the 20<sup>th</sup> grey stratocumulus cloud dissolved in the evening to leave a clear blue sky, which led to a monthly minimum of 3.3C in the early hours of the next day; the warmest May monthly minimum in a twenty year Weatherwatch record.

Despite the frequent cloud cover, the only rain recorded in the period from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> was a negligible 0.4mm before noon on the 21<sup>st</sup>. It was a very different story the next cheerless day as rain fell throughout from nine-thirty in the morning until ten o'clock that night. This brought a daily total of 23.2mm,<sup>3</sup> which was just under the 25.0mm running total for the month registered on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Rain in varying amounts fell over the next eight days, including nearly ten millimetres each on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, to bring a Park Shield total of 83.6mm. What had looked to be a dry May in prospect not long before, ended as the ninth wettest in a 27 year record.

Notwithstanding the wet end to May temperatures held up above the average, although the Spring Bank Holiday Park Shield daily maximum on the 27<sup>th</sup> was a modest 16.8C It was a day of sunny periods punctuated with showers in late morning and early afternoon. In common with many May days the 31<sup>st</sup> began by being overcast, but the clouds cleared into the afternoon and a distinctly dull month ended with a blue sky dotted with small pieces of ragged cumulus cloud.

### May Weatherwatch Factfile

#### *Temperature*

Park Shield mean monthly maximum: c.17.9C. Mean monthly minimum: c.9.0C. Monthly mean: c.13.5C. E&NE England monthly mean: 13.2C and 2.5C above the 1991-2020 average. UK maximum: 27.5C at Chertsey Abbey Mead PS (Surrey) on the 12<sup>th</sup>. UK minimum -1.1C at Kinbrace (Sutherland) on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The previous warmest UK spring was in 2017.

<sup>2</sup> The previous warmest UK May was in 2008, but here it was in 2018.

#### *Rainfall & sunshine*

Average Park Shield rainfall : c.60mm. E&NE England rainfall and sunshine : 151% & 75% of the 1991-2020 average.

<sup>3</sup> Honister Pass (Cumbria) recorded 122.4mm of rain on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*Winds.* Light, with an unusually high proportion of easterly winds. Park Shield & Butt Bank maximum gusts: 22mph & 24mph respectively on the 27<sup>th</sup>.



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## 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

#### June

There were no Christenings, Weddings or  
Funerals in the Parish during June

### 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

### Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

#### Preachers for July

7th	Sandra Martin
14th	Local arrangement : Action for Children
21st	Michael Holland (Holy Communion)
28th	Local arrangement

### Fourstones with Warden Methodist Chapel

#### Flower Festival in the Chapel : Thursday 25th to Sunday 28th July



We are having a Flower Festival in the Chapel from 25th to 28th July.  
Setting up will be on Wednesday 24th, 10am onwards. There are 12 window  
sills which we hope to fill with wonderful flower displays.

Refreshments will be served on each viewing day :  
Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10am - 3pm, and on Sunday from 1pm - 4pm.

## Letter from Fr Paul.....

By the time this article is published I will have just celebrated a year of being ordained to the priesthood and will have been in the area for ten months following my appointment as assistant priest to St Mary's Hexham and St John of Beverley in Haydon Bridge.

It has been a wonderful year in which I have met so many outstanding people. Not only in the parishes that I serve but in the wider community, our beautiful county and beyond. It is a timely reminder to thank God for how good and generous, God's grace is and without it we could not be.

We do not thank God enough for our existence. Having the opportunity to be who we are, what we have - life, and have it to the full. We are part of the wonderful creation that we see around us and are part of. Not only has God given us the ability to help us shape its future, to be part of the great thanksgiving of love, which is poured into our hearts with the ability to love and share this goodness with others. But we also share in the responsibility to protect and make it grow in each other.

So let us continue to grow and shape the lives of others, ourselves and influence the world for good and thank the Lord who has given us the love to do it.

Thank you.

### 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

\*\*\* 30th June 2024, 29th September 2024 and 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](mailto:fr.oliver.dempsey@outlook.com)