

The Stanegate

Newbrough, Fourstones, Warden
and surrounding hamlets

Stanegate Distribution

The editors are pleased to report that there have been very few dissenting voices to the use of strategically placed boxes. By targeting the uptake in this way, we have been enabled to significantly reduce the size of the print run and thereby the cost of each edition.

The location of each box is set out below.

Settlingstones : by the notice board at Settlingstones road end

Allerwash : by the finger post road sign at the end of Church Lane

Newbrough Town Hall : at the front of the building

Newbrough C of E Primary School : by the door to main reception

Fourstones Filling Station : to the right of the entrance door and also a small supply in the shop

East Fourstones Bus Shelter

Warden – on the bench opposite The Boatside

However, this can only be an interim measure and to ensure the survival of The Stanegate it will be necessary to introduce a modest subscription.

We have taken soundings on this proposal and have found there to be widespread support. Details of the proposal will be provided in the November issue, with a view to implementation in the New Year.

While an electronic copy of The Stanegate is no longer available on the village website which has been shut down, it is available under NEWS by courtesy of Warden Parish Council:

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

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Please send material or correspondence to the editorial team

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at

thestanegate@hotmail.com

the deadline for the September issue is

Friday 16th August 2024



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Calendar of Events

AUGUST

- 3rd Newbrough Cricket Club
Home match (see p6)
- 5th - 9th
Sports Week : Newbrough
Town Hall (see p2)
- 7th Afternoon Tea and Cakes at
The Town Hall, 12noon - 3pm
- 9th Methodist Chapel Coffee
morning, 11am – 2pm
(see p22)
- 10th Newbrough Cricket Club
away match (see p6)
- 13th Messy Vintage
2.30pm (see p22)
- 23rd Methodist Chapel
Coffee morning, 10am – 3pm
(see p21)
- 22nd Senior Citizens' Trip
- 31st Parish Produce show (see p3)
- 31st Newbrough Cricket Club
tbc (see p6)

Advertising

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year (11 issues)

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Save the Dates



Thursday 22nd August	Senior Citizens' Trip
Saturday 31st August	Parish Produce Show
Saturday 7th December	Christmas Fair

PARISH PRODUCE SHOW



Have Fun and Test Yourself

The Parish Produce Show will take place on **Saturday 31st August** in the Town Hall.

Apologies to established residents for going down the road you know but for new residents

The show is open to residents of the parishes of Newbrough and Warden, and those having a demonstrable connection to the parishes e.g. a child at Newbrough School. There are +no entry fees and similarly no prizes other than red, blue and yellow tickets (and kudos of course!).

There **are** trophies to be won in various areas e.g. most points accumulated in a section or for an outstanding exhibit. Remarkably the show manages to be light-hearted and fun, but competitive at the same time. It is an ideal 'novices' show. Red tickets are spread around, and seasoned exhibitors are more likely to tell you of the times their entries came in distant seconds rather than when they annihilated the opposition. Last year, in particular, there was a pleasing number of novices earning a red ticket – but being welcomed in rather than sent off!

Schedules have been printed and are available from Fourstones Filling Station and online.

Get feeding that marrow and practising your blueberry muffin-making now.

If you have any questions, committee members (Michelle Bridges, Vicki Curry, Mandy Perrie, Margaret and Rob Tindall, and Catherine Whaley) will try to help.

Andy's Man Club

Many people are struggling with mental health, and if only they would talk.

Andy's Man Club is a new service for men that started on Monday 15th July at The Mart in Hexham. The meetings are every Monday at Hexham Mart Café from 6.30pm to 9pm and there will be free tea, coffee and biscuits on offer.

#ITSOKAYTOTALK



This is the last time that I will be writing for the Stanegate as I am leaving my post as Headteacher of Newbrough CE Primary School at the end of this summer term.

I have been at the school for over 8 years, and Head for most of that time. There have been many memorable moments through those 8 years- and some significant and unexpected challenges too.

It seems hard to believe now but in 2017/ 2018 the school was under threat of closure by NCC during their consultation about education in West Northumberland. Then there was the pandemic, bringing with it the most disruption to schooling I think any of us have ever seen, with repeated lockdowns during which schools were open to some and not others and we had to all suddenly become experts in online teaching and learning.

But these are not the things that I will remember from my 8 years. Working in a school is a totally immersive experience and it is the children and their total engagement in their learning which sticks in your mind. The excitement with which the children describe their practical investigations into the digestive system; or reflect on a book which has really grabbed their attention, pleading with me to buy the next in the series; the pride with which they show you an amazing piece of writing or explain a complicated bit of maths;

the fascination they show when learning about the Ancient Egyptians or the Grand Canyon - all of these make the job of Headteacher one of the most rewarding that you can imagine. And then there are the extras - the residential that we have been on, the art projects we have been involved in and all of the extra-curricular activities like the climbing wall and gymnastics clubs.

I can honestly say that it has been a pleasure and a privilege to be the Headteacher of Newbrough Church of England Primary School for the past 8 years.

And when I think about the threat of closure now, what comes to mind is the huge and unwavering support from our community - writing letters of support, attending public meetings and seizing every opportunity to get our point across.

So thank you to all of you for your fantastic support for our primary school - buying raffle tickets at Christmas and in the summer, attending our summer fair, visiting our art show or donating used clothes to our clothes bank - all these help to keep the school the busy and amazing place that it is.

Thank you!

Jo Trotter
Headteacher

Bonus Ball Draw

JUNE

4th	Doreen Dodd	10
11th	Neville White	22
18th	Clare Arthur	29
25th	George Bernard Shaw	13

200 CLUB

JULY

1st	A Stanley	172
2nd	Brian Penny	92
3rd	Nick Whitaker	157

A huge thank you from Newbrough Primary School

What a fantastic day we all had for this year's Newbrough Summer Fair!

Expertly opened by the Rev. Dempsey, we managed to successfully dodge the (many!) rain showers and enjoyed a huge range of activities, food and drink. Firm favourites such as the dog show, tombola, bottle stall, cake stall, nature play, face paint, glitter hair, penny drop, adopt a teddy, plant stall, guess the weight of the cake, football game, BBQ and Mrs Bridges' teas and cakes, were as popular as ever, and new additions of the Nerf Target wars, human fruit machine, preloved stall and the bran tubs meant that there was something for everyone. The raffle had some incredible prizes, and we hope that all of the winners enjoy their days/ meals/nights out.



We couldn't let the moment pass without celebrating Jo Trotter's incredible leadership and contribution as the Headteacher of our school over the last eight years. She has had a hugely positive impact on all staff and pupils, both past and present, and will be greatly missed. We presented her with a small gift on behalf of all parents and friends of Newbrough, as a token of our gratitude and to wish her the very best of luck for the future.

The Summer Fair was of course all for a very good cause and we're delighted to say that this year's event raised almost £2,000 (£1,970.25 to be exact) after costs, for the School, which will go towards providing vital supplies and facilitating school trips to support the learning of all children.

And so, it just leaves us a to say an enormous thank you to everyone that so generously gave their time, made cakes, moved tables, lent gazebos, donated raffle prizes, bought raffle tickets, supported by coming along on the day, and most of all entered into the spirit of our wonderful, rural community. It really was a fantastic team effort and we hope to see you next year!

The Newbrough PTA Committee

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Newbrough Cricket Club Update

Midway through the season, Newbrough is currently sitting in 2nd place in the league after a couple of handy wins in June. The highlight of the month was a mammoth 370 runs scored against Stocksfield, which was built around a career high innings of 134 from captain Bertie Spence.

In a high scoring month, Newbrough was unlucky to be knocked out of the second division cup in a close game that came down to the wire. Fielding errors were ultimately the difference between the teams as a total of 332 runs were scored by both sides in a 20 over match.

Game 7 Result - Wylam Won by 10 Runs

Wylam	171 for 2	M. Forster 2-29
Newbrough	161 for 4	L. Reekie 59, B. Spence 56

Game 8 Result - Newbrough Won by 249 Runs

Newbrough	370 for 6	B. Spence 134, M. Forster 78
Stocksfield	121 all out	S. Foot 3-17, P. Forster 3-29

Game 9 Result - Haltwhistle Conceded

Newbrough	W
Haltwhistle	L

August Fixtures

Saturday 3rd August	Home vs Wylam
Saturday 10th August	Away vs Riding Mill
Saturday 31st August	TBC



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July Meeting

Our July meeting on the 11th took the form of our “summer” outing. In fact we were lucky with the weather as it stayed fine after several wet days.



The more adventurous members set off early to walk to Hareshaw Lynn, a waterfall starting from Bellingham. The falls were in full spate after all the rain. Catherine Grant who works for the National Park was well informed about the area. It was hard to believe that the site of special scientific interest was once the site of mining coke ovens and an iron foundry. The paths had been much improved by the National Park Rangers. There were many more points of interest including two large trees brought down in storms which had coins pushed into them.

Some members visited the very fine Heritage Centre in Bellingham and we all met for a very generous “Tea on the train” in a ‘posh’ carriage at the Heritage Centre in Station Yard. Most members went home with a box of ‘goodies’.



The afternoon saw some members visit the First and Last Brewery and they enjoyed a really good talk by Sam who owns the brewery with his wife. They were told about the different beers and how Sam and his wife went locally to source elder-flower, gorse and damson for different flavours. Beer takes only a week to ferment whereas lager takes about 10 weeks. They were treated to samples of the different beers. The visit was very much enjoyed by those who went.

The next meeting was meant to be our coffee morning but because it was sandwiched between two other similar events in the village the committee decided on a Strawberry and Pimms event on 8th August 2024 for members only. The committee will provide some savouries and the competition “Best homemade biscuit or cupcake” will provide more in the way of sweet items if needed. Look forward to seeing members there.

Teresa Bessant and Val Johnston.
Photographs by members.



Town Hall News

Sheron Robson, Town Hall Co-Chair

August is a quieter time for regular events in the Hall with only Yoga continuing every Monday during the school summer holidays. Personally I am glad it continues as it helps keep me supple and I don't feel I lose flexibility during a break. Not everyone can make every week but there are usually 6-8 of us, so always space for new joiners. Please contact Jane at Jiyoga83@gmail.com for details and how to join.

Otherwise the Hall is in use for children's parties (only £35 for hire) and adults events. We are hosting a surprise birthday party, a ceilidh and a wedding in August so think of us if you are planning an event.

Also if you are having family to stay over the summer and are a bit pushed for space, why not think about using the bunkhouse? Have a look at the facilities on the website and at only £26 a night - it's a steal!
<https://www.newbroughbunkhouse.co.uk/>

We can also book out the whole of the bunkhouse for a group booking, we are hosting the Hawick Brownies in August. If you'd be interested in a block booking please email the secretary for prices :
secretarynewbroughtownhall@gmail.com

And finally if anyone has some free time over the holidays to help us do some running repairs at the Hall we'd appreciate it. Just a couple of hours painting or tidying would really help us out. Again, please email the secretary with availability:
secretarynewbroughtownhall@gmail.com

We will be starting to publicise the Highlights drama and workshop events that are coming to the Hall soon as dates are confirmed. Look out on social media (Facebook and now Instagram too) and here of course.

Book of all shapes and sizes

When we started the Warm Wednesday initiative two years ago we started to make available some books in our lounge so that people could have a flick through while they were sharing lunch or even take them away to enjoy at home. Numbers have grown as people donate and we have quite a wide selection of fiction and non fiction available. If you don't attend one of the regular groups, feel free to ask one of the committee to open up so that you could borrow some summer reading!

We are also considering starting a similar scheme for jigsaws, perhaps having a small joining fee and then doing swaps. We'd welcome your feedback on this idea as we try and find new ways of supporting community use of the hall.
secretarynewbroughtownhall@gmail.com

Did you know.....

If anyone in Warden, Newbrough or Fourstones is wishing to sell anything, or looking to buy, you can do so, free of charge, through joining the **Newbrough and Fourstones Buy, Sell, Swap and Share** Facebook page.

Warden Parish Council

Warden Parish Council (WPC) meeting held on Monday 1st July 2024 in Newbrough Town Hall

The first item on the agenda always provides an opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter. It was noted that the bin at the level crossing was overflowing. Cllr Martin agreed to report this to the County Council. A parishioner asked about the significance of the 'Unsafe Building' signage that has appeared on the Railway Inn. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to the owner and the County Council for clarification.

The Clerk confirmed that non-residents of the Parish can request a plot at the allotments. Those who have done so will be added to the waiting list. Cllr Liddle confirmed that the allotment pump will be reinstalled in the next few days.

The Parish Council has received numerous favourable comments regarding the road works carried out between East Fourstones and Warden Bridge. Cllr Morphet was asked to pass on thanks to the relevant department at the County Council. It was confirmed that the sections of the road between Warden Bridge and the A69, and alongside the Paper Mill (not undertaken due to weather conditions) will be completed in August 2024.

Network Rail has also undertaken to remedy blocked gullies on their land at the bottom of the Mossy before winter. It was also noted that a number of trees were removed alongside the Mossy because damaged tree roots meant that they were potentially unsafe. The design brief to calm traffic speeds in the vicinity of the Paper Mill is awaited.

A number of seats in the Parish are being repaired. It was agreed not to repair the seat at the top of Station Bank and to remove the concrete sides to make the area safe. It was agreed to contact the Church Warden of St Aidan's Church to ascertain whether the Parish Council seat donated by Cllr Morphet could be installed on the Church forecourt.

Cllr Foot advised that an application for funding to refurbish the MUGA will be submitted when the Green Rigg Windfarm fund reopens. Cllr Morphet said that he may be able to provide supplementary funding.

Cllr Kaye said that she has received permission from the Vicar to use St Aidan's Church for defibrillator training courses that will be organised soon.

Cllr Morphet advised that the County Council Climate Action Plan has been agreed, and that a Climate Change adaptation strategy will be produced during this financial year. A new County Council Climate Change website has also been launched.

The Clerk reported that B4RN have requested a meeting with the Parish Council ahead of holding a public meeting. B4RN has recently been awarded Government funding to build a new full fibre gigabit broadband network in and around Warden and is committed to connecting every property within the area to the network, not just the 'easy to connect' ones. The Clerk is to invite B4RD to the next Parish Council meeting.

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

The next meeting of Warden Parish Council will be held on Monday 2nd September 2024 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>



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Warden Hill Iron Age Hill Fort

Chris Tolan-Smith

Occupying a commanding position overlooking the confluence of the Rivers North and South Tyne, the hill fort on Warden Hill is the most conspicuous and extensive prehistoric site in the neighbourhood. Most hill forts throughout the British Isles date from the Iron Age which began by about 500 B.C. We may assume that the site on Warden Hill dates from around this time or a little later.

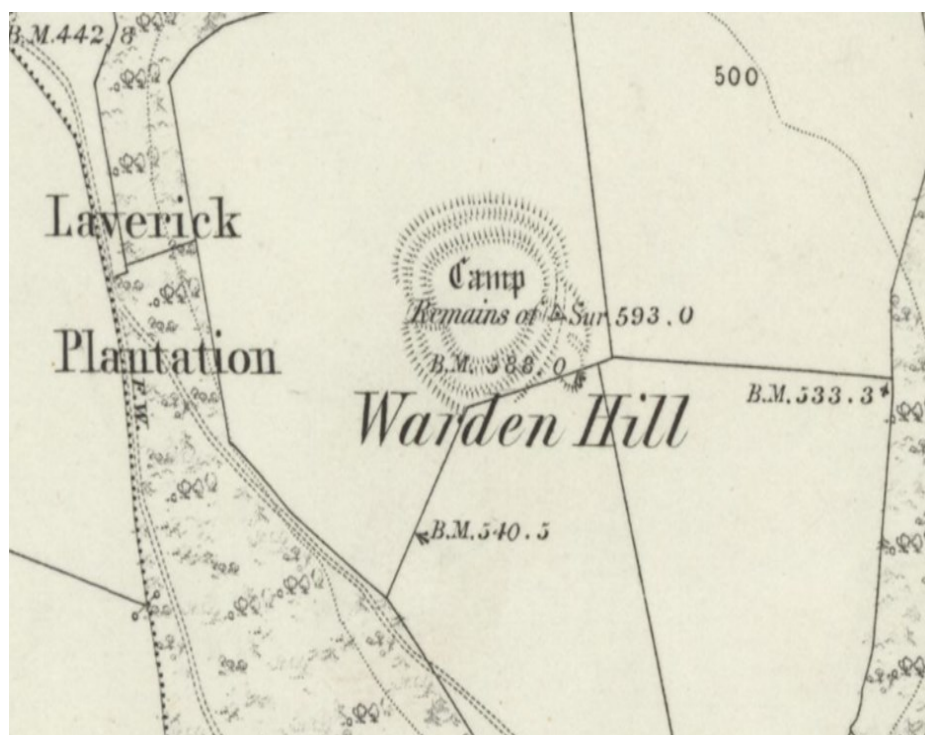
The remains visible today consist of three earth and stone ramparts which encircle the summit of the hill and enclose an area about 85m across. Collapse, erosion and quarrying for building stone have greatly reduced the height of these ramparts but they would originally have represented a formidable barrier to any would be attacker or intruder. The innermost rampart was the most substantial and still stands in places to a height of two metres. It appears to have been built mainly of stone with large facing blocks and a rubble core. All three ramparts were probably surmounted by a wooden palisade behind which the defenders could shelter. An original, slightly in turned, entrance lies on the western side of the fort while a breach in the ramparts on the eastern side is probably the result of quarrying.

In Iron Age times the interior of the fort would have been occupied by houses, probably round

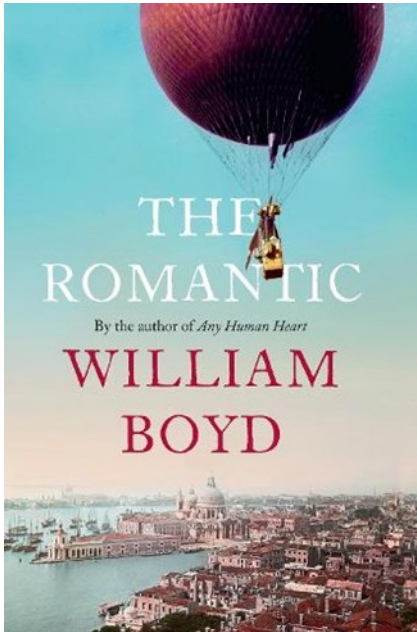
in shape with conical roofs and built mainly of timber. Surface quarrying has removed any visible traces of such structures, but by Iron Age standards this is a fairly small site and was probably the home to no more than three or four families. These people were mainly livestock farmers, but a 19th century record of a number of querns, or millstones, having been found on the site testifies to some crop growing. Slight earth-work traces of prehistoric fields can still be seen to the east and south of the fort

Although there have been no archaeological digs on Warden Hill, work at other sites in Northumberland suggests that the site may have had quite a complex history with the ramparts being added successively over a period of time. At all events the life of the hill fort would have been brought to an end when the Romans occupied the area in the later 1st century AD. Indeed, the Stanegate, the original Roman frontier, skirts the north side of Warden Hill and the authorities of the time would not have allowed a heavily defended site to remain in use so close to the frontier.

This site may be visited by following the public footpath to the trig point on the summit of the hill.



'The Romantic' by William Boyd



The Real Life of Cashel Greville Ross by William Boyd is a “whole life” novel, set in the 19th century. William Boyd is author of sixteen best selling novels and five collections of short stories. His ‘Any Human Heart’ was long listed for the Booker prize and was adapted into a television series for Channel 4.

William Boyd’s ‘The Romantic’ is disguised as an historical biography of Cashel Greville Ross but is in fact an engrossing adventure story.

The novel blends fictional real life events and characters with a creative description of the social, political and romantic upheavals in the 19th century but is completely fictional.

Boyd tracks the adventures of this 19th century traveller from County Cork in Ireland to London, from the Battle of Waterloo to Zanzibar. Cashel seeks his fortunes across continents in war and peace. He faces a moral choice in Sri Lanka as part of the East India army. In Italy he meets Raphella who is the love of his life and stays in his heart for the rest of his life.

Traveling the world as a soldier, a farmer, an explorer, diplomat and surviving life’s ups and downs through the accelerating turbulence of the 19th century, he finally discovered who he truly is.

Members of the book group on the whole enjoyed the novel and felt it was well written and agreed that Boyd is a great storyteller and appreciated the amount of research that had gone into the book, he had packed everything he admired about the 19th century into one novel.

A visit from Brock

In mid-June twilight what looked like a large grey stone standing among meadow butter cups in a Park Shield field suddenly moved and ambled off into the adjacent wood. It was a foraging badger from one of the several long-established setts in the Whinny Hill Plantation.

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 with Bertie Spence on 07801 507543.



Newbrough Parish Council

Extract taken from the notes on Minutes of the Meeting of Newbrough Council held on Wednesday 3rd July

This meeting was held in the Town Hall,
Cllr MW Gibson opened the meeting at 7.00 pm

Miscellaneous Matters

The new portrait of His Majesty King Charles III is now on display in the Parish Meeting Room of the Town Hall.

Members of the public attending the meeting identified concerns about the spread of Japanese Knotweed by large forestry vehicles, especially on the Stanegate

Some Farm Watch posters and DNA property marking kits were distributed by courtesy of Northumbria Police.

Local Transport Plan Capital Programme 2024-2025

The Council identified its top three priorities to include in the Northumberland County Council draft programme. 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 Pater's Church, to replace the original. The Council could contribute to this project and also attract other funding.

NCC Response was, *"Due to the distance involved, the likely cost of this is beyond the scope of the LTP Programme"*.

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.

NCC Response was, *"This scheme scored well but we have been unable to include it in the programme due to budget limitations. It can be reconsidered for future years if it is still considered a priority"*.

General Reports

Sportsfield Association

Annual Return for Newbrough and Warden Sportsfield Association is now due and the Lease needs renewing. The cricket team is in a healthy situation, recently beating Stocksfield and, by the narrowest of margins losing to Wylam.

Newbrough Church of England Primary School Cllr Bell, school governor, reported on the school's latest success - having achieved "Schools games mark Gold award" in recognition of commitment to physical education and school sport.

Northumberland County Council (NCC)

A full written report was submitted by County Councillor Morphet; it included;

A new climate change team leader, Leanne Wilson (PhD in climate change) will be starting on 2nd September.

The licence has yet to be received from Network Rail for the bench in Crow Wood.

There is an inter-change between the manager of the Flooding and Coastal Erosion Risk Management team with the owner of a property at the south end of Church Lane, concerning drainage issues.

NCC has decided to extend the Environment and Climate Fund for another year. There'll be £50,000 available in grants of up to and potentially over £5,000 for community groups with eligible projects. Applications haven't opened yet, but I'll let you know when they do. Cabinet also agreed to produce a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Northumberland by the end of this financial year.

Nobody has applied for RAMP (Rural Asset Multiplier Pilot) funding for a feasibility study for a greenway alongside The Mossy yet, which is disappointing. It's not too late to submit an application, and anyone who's interested would be more than welcome to use the county councillor's RAMP application for inspiration.

Notice of an all-day Community Energy Conference in Newcastle.

Grant Aid

The Parish Council agreed to donate £100 for the cost of fuel for testing the generator.

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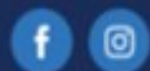


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Recipe from an Orchard Kitchen

Iain Bennett

Strawberries are a member of the rose family and are named for the habit of placing straw underneath the plants to protect the fruit from rotting. An alternate explanation is from the word strewn which describes their straggling growth.

The modern strawberry is the result of cross-continental breeding. Wild strawberries are found naturally throughout Europe, whilst being tasty they are very small, around the size of a broad bean or less. Strawberries were discovered during the conquering of South America and a variety was brought back from Chile. Another variety was brought from Virginia in North America and the resultant cross produced the modern Strawberry.

Strawberries are not a true berry but are an *accessory fruit*, the flesh is an enlarged flower receptacle and the true fruits, the seeds, are embedded within it. It is the only *fruit* that bears its seeds on the outside. Unlike many fruits they do not continue to ripen after picking so make sure they are fully ripe before you harvest.

The strawberry, being red and roughly heart shaped, is of course taken as a symbol of love. In France newlyweds were served a soup of strawberries, sour cream, borage and sugar. Legend has it that if a double strawberry is split and shared then love will follow. The Romans ate them for medicinal purposes as well as pleasure, believing that they could cure many complaints from melancholy to kidney stones. I just think that they are a pleasure to eat and eat many through the summer.

They need not be a guilty pleasure as 5-6 strawberries supply your entire vitamin c requirement for a day. A 100g/4oz portion of strawberries contains only 50 calories and they are rich in nitrates, fibre and folic acid.

Today's recipe is a Mary Berry recipe for "Strawberry Slices". It is basically a Victoria sponge cake filled with strawberries, double cream and crème fraiche but served in individual slices which makes it ideal for a tasty nibble to pass round guests at a garden party.

Strawberry Slices

Cake

Butter	25g/8oz, softened
Eggs	4
Caster Sugar	225g/8oz
Self-Raising Flour	300g/10½oz
Baking Powder	2 tsp
Milk	4tbsp

Filling

Strawberry Jam	2tbsp
Lemon Juice	1tsp
Strawberries	300g/10½oz, hulled and cut into small pieces
Double Cream	300ml/10½oz
Full Fat Crème Fraiche	200ml/7fl oz
Icing Sugar for dusting	

Pre-heat the oven to 180°C/160°F Fan/Gas 4 and grease and line a 30x23cm/12x9in baking tray. Put all the cake ingredients in a bowl and whisk until well blended. Place the batter in the prepared tray and place in the oven. Cook for about 35 minutes and then leave to cool in the tin.

Remove the cake from the tin and cut into three equal strips lengthwise. Then cut across each strip into 2.5cm/1in slices. Cut each slice in half, horizontally as you would for a sandwich cake.

Prepare the filling by mixing the jam and lemon juice together and then tossing the strawberries through it. Whisk the double cream until peaks are formed and then fold the crème fraiche into it.

On the bottom slice of the sponge fingers arrange the strawberries and then pipe the double cream/ crème fraiche mix over the top place the top half of the sponge over the filling and dust with icing sugar. Repeat for all the remaining slices



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.

Green Notes

Is climate change down the public agenda now?

During the six weeks of the General Election build-up we had no named storms, heatwaves or widespread floods *in the UK*. Oh yes, we had long, low-impact climate change which put the Jet Stream in the wrong, Winter, position (see April Stangate) but no weather extremes to impact what journalists call the 'issue-attention cycle'. YouGov's 'most important issues tracker' for the Election ranked cost of living, followed by health and immigration as the top issues; climate change came 5th. One political group even felt able to campaign in the Election against 'net zero' carbon and the whole science project of recent years - and they got 4 million votes - echoes of David Cameron's November 2013 pledge to 'get rid of all the green crap'!

It seems that, in the public and political mind, money is the main issue - we have to grow the economy to be able to 'throw money at' climate, cost-of-living, health, social justice..... However, many doubt whether cash alone is the answer and the usual measure of growth (Gross Domestic Product) has a very bad environmental record. 'Green growth' has not been properly, practically defined and may still threaten planetary limits; 'degrowth' is not a vote winner in issues of the moment!

Post election community groups such as CANF need to make us aware of how the climate and nature crises permeate the issues that delivered the Election results:

- The cost of living *IS* increasingly influenced by climate (EU predicts 3.2% per year food inflation by 2035 - coffee prices may double this year due to drought in Brazil and Vietnam) and energy use will rise, whether for heating, cooling or powering Cloud/AI computers;
- Health *IS* already affected by climate (The Lancet proves that heat-related deaths in the elderly were 85% greater in 2020, compared with 1990-2000);
- Migration *IS* increased by weather disasters (33 million people displaced in 2022, mostly internal but becoming international and rising to 1.2 billion by 2050 because of desertification and sea-level rise.

Where climate change and loss of biodiversity are almost stand-alone as public issues is that the most hopeful remedies work through social justice and transformative, not shape-shifting, politics. Climate sceptics deny the issue, claiming 'people can't afford it' but the brutal truth is 'people can't afford it' *in the short term*. Recent research by economists shows that, by 2050, the costs of climate damage will be 6 times the cost of mitigation (carbon control) or adaptation. Try telling that to the 22% (adult) and 31% (children) in England who are in fuel and food poverty (Joseph Rowntree Foundation).

Our new government has promised more honesty, directness.....and Labour's six post-election priorities include cleaner rivers (well done Feargal Starkey but water bills will rise on average by 21%!) but perhaps the most optimistic sign in political terms is the arrival of Sir Patrick Vallance, the 'Covid Tsar' as *Science Minister*: let's have a few of his Powerpoint/Excel slots during Prime Minister's Questions! We'll need even greater brain power in the social and economic sciences to develop a just transition to save the planet.

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



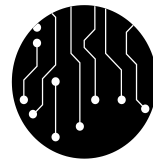
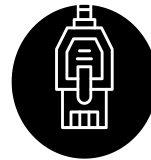
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Nature Notes

The last of the firsts

After an outstanding early flowering season cow parsley set seed well before mid-June, by which time it had been succeeded in roadside verges by lesser numbers of the smaller white flowerheads of other carrot family members, including ground elder and rough chervil. The creamy-white umbels of their much larger relative, common hogweed¹ were first noted on the 15th of June at West Boat.² With favourable growing conditions dozens more burgeoned in verges within a week or two, some reaching up to seven feet and more in height, while coarse grasses, stinging nettles and other verge vegetation ran riot. Where it grew, rampant stands of bracken swamped all beneath a mass of fronds. Later, towards verge fronts, yellow meadow vetchling scrambled among tall grasses, while bee-friendly white clover and creeping yellow silverweed flowered on their edges; the silvery sheen on the underside of its leaves giving the latter its name.



Creamy-yellow clusters of frothy meadowsweet flower were first noted in a ditched verge mid-way up the Long Bank on the 18th of June.

This was the earliest flowering date on Nature Notes record and since it was just before the summer solstice on the 20th it was the last of the many earliest Nature Notes flowering dates in this year's truly remarkable spring.

Early appearances were not entirely confined to wildflowers. A peacock butterfly, wings splayed at brief rest on a house wall, was seen on March the 18th, just over two weeks ahead of the previous earliest sighting of two in 2016. Newly emerged horse chestnut leaves were noted on the 30th of March. This was not quite as early as in 2012, but it was the fourth time in the last eight years that bud burst had begun before the end of March.

The first pink-purple flowers of developing rosebay willowherb spikes were noted beyond West Boat on the 27th of June and within a matter of days they were showing in stands across the parishes.³

At the same time clumps of pale mauve field scabious flowers and billows of white hedge bedstraw joined the colourful display of garden escapees; red, pink and white valerian rooted in the cracks of the stone retaining wall opposite the Fourstones filling station. Other wildflowers survived and even prospered in even more arid places. In late June and early July golden yellow ragwort, feverfew and sow thistles were growing from the base of the dry-stone walls at the back of the tarmac footpaths from the Boatside Inn to Hardhaugh. Several pure white-flowered musk mallows were more conspicuous and nearby, very unusually, were a couple of showy large-flowered evening primroses (*Oenothera glazioviana*).



Musk mallows are native to Britain, but the large-flowered evening primrose was introduced in 1858 and first found in the wild in 1866. In more recent years it has spread to northern England, but it is not yet featured in our area in either the 2020 Online Atlas of British and Irish Flora or the current National Biodiversity Network Atlas.

¹ So-named because hogweed was once used as pig fodder..

² Earliest Nature Notes flowering record: 26th of May 2019.

³ Earliest Nature Notes flowering : 19th of June 2017.

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June Weatherwatch

After last year's record-breaking June warmth, it was hero to zero this year for June weather as it was the coolest of 20 Weatherwatch Junes. It was also the first time in this 21 year chronicle that the May monthly mean was warmer than June's although, in fairness, it was the warmest May on local and national record.

The month began pleasantly enough with three warm, sunny and dry days, before a northerly airflow brought a short spell of cooler conditions until the 7th, including a Park Shield run-of-the-mill lowest daily maximum of 12.6C on the 5th. Daytime temperatures then recovered and up to the 18th daily maximums were around the seasonal average. The night of 3rd was mild, but after this the nights up to the 16th were on the chilly side for mid-June. An unexceptional monthly minimum of 3.4C was recorded early on the 13th.

The little over 4mm of rain in the late evening of the 13th was more than all that had fallen previously in the month. A few incidental showers fell in the days up to the 17th when the two hours to sunset brought 10mm of driving rain, including 5.6mm up to ten o'clock. After nearly 5mm was added on the gloomy 18th the remaining days of June were dry, except for the 27th and 28th, which contributed a minor amount to the Park Shield June total of 31.0 mm. This made June the fourth driest in a 27-year series. As a point of interest, the top four driest Junes have occurred in the last seven years.

The beginning of a welcome spell of warmer June weather coincided with the start of dry conditions on the 19th. The maximum of 20.6C on the 20th; the first 20C+ daily maximum since the 1st of June, was followed by 20C+ maximums on the 21st and 23rd. On Midsummer Day, the 24th, the weather was suitably summery as the sun shone brightly, at times in an almost cloudless sky. Park Shield recorded a maximum of 24.8C, while a generally

overcast 25th still mustered a maximum of 23.6C. Early cloud on the 26th dissolved to bring a clear blue mid-afternoon sky and a respectable June maximum of 25.4C in a late-afternoon that developed a few small mounds of cumulus cloud. Residual warmth led to the warmest June night, when 14.9C was recorded in the early hours of the 27th. Temperatures returned to around average in the closing days of the month, with briefly unsettled conditions on the 28th, when gusty breezes blew overnight and into the late afternoon.¹

Grumbles about awful June weather seem to have abounded and yet our neighbourhood monthly mean matched the long-term average, the month was sunnier than average and rainfall was half the average amount. Perhaps one reason for the complaint was that June weather failed to live up to unrealistic expectations after last year's record-breaking June warmth. And, not unreasonably, it would have been expected that June would be warmer than May. In fact, May was warmer than the average June. The 2012 June monthly mean matched this June's, but its record June rainfall of 173.6mm was over five times as much as this June and there was only two-thirds of the average sunshine. In light of this, perhaps this June's weather was not quite so bad as it seemed.

June Weatherwatch Factfile.

Temperature. Park Shield mean monthly maximum : c.17.8C. Mean monthly minimum : c.7.9C. Monthly mean: c.12.9C. E&NE England monthly mean : 13.5C and equal to the 1991-2020 average. UK Maximum : 30.5C at Wisley (Surrey) on the 26th. UK minimum : -1.6C at Kinbrace (Sutherland) on the 15th.

Rainfall & sunshine. Park Shield average rainfall: c.65mm. Butt Bank rainfall : 38.8 mm. E&NE England rainfall and sunshine : 57% & 111% of the 1991-2020 average respectively.

Winds. Mostly westerly. Breezy in the first week or so, then more settled. ¹Maximum wind gusts : 35 mph at Butt Bank & 30 mph at Park Shield on the 28th

July 2024

Hello

I'm delighted to inform you that bus operators across the North East (Tyne and Wear, Northumberland and Durham) will now offer free travel for up to three children aged 11 and under, when travelling with an adult with a valid ticket or concessionary pass holder during school holidays over the next year.

I've been working to bring together public transport operators to launch a region-wide Kids Go Free offer during school holidays – a move which will help to significantly reduce travel costs for families during the holidays.

Combined with a long-standing Kids Go Free permanent price promise across the Tyne and Wear Metro and Shields Ferry and some previous bus operator promotions, families can now travel on virtually all public transport across the region during school holidays in an affordable and sustainable way.

The Kids Go Free promotion will run across the vast majority of North East bus services including Arriva, Go North East and Stagecoach routes over the school summer holidays, from Saturday 20 July until Sunday 1 September.

I believe that everyone should have access to affordable, sustainable public transport and Kids Go Free is a great way to help families enjoy their holidays together and of course our amazing region - without the worry of extra transport costs.

Kids Go Free is great news for all but for those on low incomes, I hope this really helps to lighten the load. This is just the start of my plans to improve public transport for everyone across the North East.

I'd ask for your support in helping us spread the word to your networks so as many families as possible can benefit over the summer.

Full details can be found at: www.northeast-ca.gov.uk/bus

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Kim McGuinness
North East Mayor

Go North East 687 Bus Timetable

The GoNorthEast website and the timetables available on the buses show conflicting information.

Please contact the GoNorthEast website for up-to-date information

<https://www.gonortheast.co.uk./services>

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

July

There were no Christenings or Weddings
in the Parish during June

Funerals

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

On 1st July at St Michael's and All Angels,
Warden : Joy Brennen

On 2nd July at St Peter's, Newbrough:
Ian Knights of Newbrough

On 19th July at St Peter's, Newbrough :
Mark Charles Liddell of Newbrough

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

Messy Vintage

Tuesday 13th August at 2.30pm

Crafts and afternoon tea
Everyone welcome



Methodist Chapel

August Coffee mornings

Friday 9th and Friday 23rd

11am - 2pm

Sandwiches and cakes and a chat
Everyone welcome

Letter from the Reverend Michael.....

As I write Wimbledon is drawing to a close and we are hoping that football might, just, maybe, possibly be coming home. We have hopes and dreams that we hope will be fulfilled. We have a new government which might, just, maybe, possibly come with new hopes. We are hoping that we might, just, maybe, possibly have a few days of warm sunny and dry summer. You may have your own hopes and dreams, some shared with friends and family, and the wider community, others deeply personal.

It leads me to reflect on the things we put our hope in, that we give our times and energies to. At this time, I'm reminded of the humorous yet hopeless sentiment, "It doesn't matter who you vote for, the government always gets in". Are our hopes and dreams founded on a solid foundation or on things that turn out to be shifting sands.

The ancient wisdom of the Biblical writers tackled this question, the Psalmist in particular cries out in the midst of personal despair in Psalm 42:

Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Saviour and my God.

And later in the Book of Lamentations, writing after the destruction of Jerusalem and the taking of the people into exile in Babylon, the writer acknowledging his despair continues:

Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:
Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

These writers were able to express themselves this way because they could look beyond their current situation and imagine an alternative future, one that was based on the word of a faithful God who keeps his promises. That though the world may say that things never change, we can imagine that one day they will. This is not just wishful thinking, but these wise writers look back to the stories of God's people down the ages and the interactions of a real God with real people. God has done great things in the past and so we can trust him to do great things in the future.

It is the same hope that lead the hymn writer, Joachim Neander to pen the words:

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.

So we *can* have hope, we can dare to imagine a different future. But place your hope in the right things; and may all your hopes and dreams be fulfilled.

With grace and peace
Michael

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

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

Preachers for August

4th	Local arrangement
11th	Vicky Herod, Joint Service with Haydon Bridge
18th	Michael Holland (Holy Communion)
25th	Haydon Bridge

All services at 10.30am All are 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