

The Stanegate

Newbrough, Fourstones, Warden
and surrounding hamlets



Inside this issue..

Christmas Wreath Workshop.....	1
Calendar of events.....	2
Letter to the Editors.....	2
Newbrough Cricket Club.....	2
Newbrough C of E Primary School.....	3
Red Lion Pensioners' lunch...	3
St Peter's Sword Stone.....	5
Suggestions for bus service Improvements.....	5
The Boatside Inn Christmas menu.....	6
Panto update.....	7
Featherwatch.....	7
Newbrough WI.....	8
Town Hall News.....	10
Warden Chain Bridge.....	11
Stanegate Readers.....	11
Nature Notes.....	12
Volunteers please.....	13
Conquering the Hellespont Turkey.....	14
Food for Thought.....	16
COP 29.....	17
September Weatherwatch...	19
Just Passing Through.....	19
Church Pages.....	20-22

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 December/January issue is
Friday 15th November 2024



Letter to the Editors.....

Nick Morphet, our County Councillor, would like to thank the anonymous author of Nature Notes and Weatherwatch for the excellent job that they do every month.

He considers both phenology (the study of the seasons) and meteorology to be very important in a world with a changing climate, and he always finds Nature Notes to be written in a style that's as relaxing as it is inspiring.

He's extremely grateful for the anonymous author's meticulous and diligent efforts.



On Friday 18th October we attended the annual dinner of the West Tyne Senior Cricket League. We came home with 4 awards for the amazing achievements our players have had this season.

The 1st award was the Division 2 Best Bowling Average which was won by Lewis Reekie.

Number 2 was the Division 2 Best Batting Average which was won by @martywforster.

Martin also won the Division 2 Best All Rounder award to make it a DOUBLE.

And finally, our very own captain @bertiespence41 won the Division 2 Best Individual Performance which was won with a magnificent score of 134.

It was a great night but we sadly say bye to the West Tyne League as we move to the Northumberland and Tyneside Cricket League next season.

Next Season will be a good one.
Up the Brough!!

Wesley Foot



Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

- 2nd All Souls' Day (see p20)
- 4th School re-opens after October half term
- 5th Bonfire Night
- 6th Warm Wednesdays start, Town Hall, 12noon—2pm
- 10th Remembrance Service Town Hall, 10.30am
- 10th Love it if We Beat Them. Town Hall, 7pm (see p11)
- 12th Messy Vintage, 2.30pm Methodist Chapel
- 12th Town Hall AGM, 7pm
- 14th Newbrough WI monthly meeting, : 7pm, Town Hall
- 15th Methodist Chapel Coffee morning, 11am — 2pm
- 21st Quiz Night at the Town Hall, 7.30pm for 8pm
- 22nd Methodist Chapel Coffee morning, 11am — 2pm
- 24th Christmas Wreath

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Dear Community,

I am delighted to write to you today with some wonderful news. It is my pleasure to announce that we will be running a new parent and child group, 'Tiny Tots', here at Newbrough Church of England Primary School.

This will begin on Friday, 8th November, and we simply cannot wait to welcome you and your little ones.

The sessions will be run by our fantastic staff member, Mrs Briddock, who has planned a wonderful array of weekly themes and engaging activities.

These sessions will take place every Friday during term time, from 10:00 to 11:30am, and the cost will be just £2.50 per session, which includes tea, coffee, and biscuits.

There is no need to book, so please feel free to come along and join us whenever you can. We very much look forward to seeing you and your family at our 'Tiny Tots' group.

Yours sincerely,
Mike Boucetla
Headteacher
Newbrough Church of England Primary School



Newbrough Tiny Tots

Newbrough C of E Primary School Hall

Friday mornings during term time - 10am to 11.30am run by Mrs Briddock

Age 0-5 years - All welcome!

Come and join us for fun activities and a chance to meet new friends, no need to book. We look forward to seeing you in school!



Tea, coffee and biscuits provided - £2.50

Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust is a company limited by guarantee (Company Number 10847279) and exempt charity registered in England and Wales at the Cai Building 4th Floor, Coble Dene, Royal Quays, North Shields, Tyne And Wear, United Kingdom, NE29 6DE.

Red Lion Pensioners' Lunch

Tuesday 17th December : 12 Noon
3 Course Lunch £19.95
Booking required

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The Stanegate Local/Family History Section

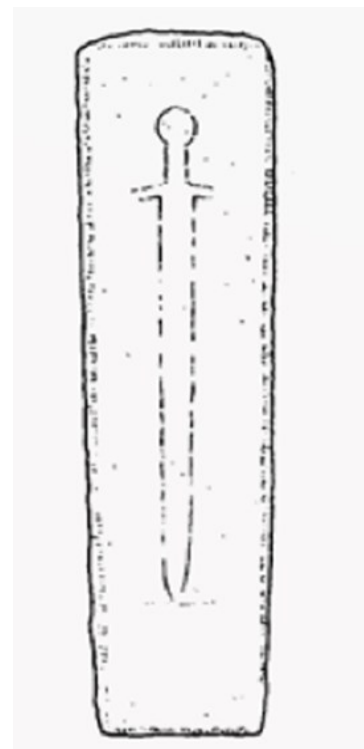
St Peter's Sword Stone

Standing in the porch of St Peter's church is a tapering slab of sandstone with chamfered edges and a carving of a sword. It is about 1.6m high and would originally have covered a grave, probably within the church. Differential weathering of the bottom suggests that it might at one time have stood erect. Grave covers of this kind are a common feature in Northumberland churches, over 600 examples having been recorded. Many have carvings of crosses, some very elaborate. The use of a sword instead of a cross is also quite common. The Newbrough stone is of medieval date, probably of the late 13th century or the early 14th.



The present church is a little over 150 years old and replaced an earlier church in 1866. That church had itself only been built in 1797, the original medieval church being completely ruinous by that time.

We know nothing of that original church, except that it was consecrated in 1170, but is likely that it would have been in the then fashionable 'Early English' style.



St Peter's is within the ecclesiastical parish of Warden and along with the two churches at Haydon Bridge is a 'chapel of ease', an Anglican chapel situated for the convenience of parishioners living a long distance from the parish church. Without St Peter's, the people of Newbrough would have had to go to Warden to attend church, a round trip of six miles.

Suggestions sought for bus service improvements !

When the region was granted £163.5m in Bus Service Improvement Plan money, one condition was that each local authority had to create a Local Bus Board, through which councillors, public transport officers and bus company representatives would come together to oversee the improvements to services.

Our Local Bus Board will soon be accepting suggestions for improvements. If you have any suggestions, please get in touch with Nick Morphet, one of our local County Councillors.

Nick.Morphet@northumberland.gov.uk

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

THE village panto is back - Oh yes it is!

One of the most popular village events is set to return next year.

The panto will once more be raising the roof at the Town Hall in February.

Exact details about tickets and the performance dates and times will follow soon.

200 Club

OCTOBER

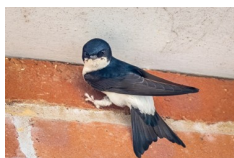
1st	John Lowe	139
2nd	Rachael Charlton	34
3rd	Jane Veitch	122

Bonus Ball Draw

SEPTEMBER

7th	Robert Watson	2
14th	Stuart Smith	54
21st	Riley Smith	56
28th	Raffey Telfer	12

Featherwatch



The departure of our balletic aerial summer visitors; the swifts, swallows and house martins to far-away parts always comes with a sense

of loss. Usually arriving in early May and leaving in August, the swift is much the soonest to leave. The last Featherwatch swift sighting was of a couple zipping up the Tyne above Warden Bridge on the 20th of August. Adult swifts leave for sub-Saharan Africa as soon as their broods of two or three have left the nest so it seems that these will have been this year's young, 'hard-wired' to make their own way there. Those that survive will spend a remarkable two or three years entirely on the wing before landing to nest and breed here.

Pre-migration swallow gatherings began in late August. Some thirty adults and young perched together on an electricity wire at Park Shield in the afternoon of the 29th. At the same time over a dozen were skimming around the sycamore copse at the top of



the layby above St. Aidan's Terrace; a popular spot for hawking for flying insects. Several more get-togethers took place there in September, including a mix of around two dozen swallows and house martins on the afternoon of the 10th. On the 14th three house martins were noted darting around the 'Front' in Fourstones. Sadly, their numbers have almost halved in the last thirty years, but as the Front, Butt Bank and Sidgate all have eaves to nest under, there should still be midair glimpses of their white rumps to be had in summers to come.

The odd swallow or two were noted here and there into late September, including several sightings around Kiln Cottages. Over twenty gathered at the sycamore copse on the 27th in mid-afternoon and a similar number on the 2nd of October at the same time; settling on overhead wires between flights before suddenly taking to the air when disturbed by passing cars. The next day the wires were bare and no swallows were spotted elsewhere in the days after, so this proved to be the last Featherwatch swallow sighting. Coincidentally, despite cooler weather, this late departure was on the same date as last year.

We met in Newbrough Town Hall on October 10th. After the singing of Jerusalem the President Judith Kirby welcomed members and the speakers for the evening - Val and Pat Johnston. This was a change from the planned programme.

Teresa Bessant dealt with the business. Members showed interest in attending Rothbury WI for the launch of their 'Naked Calendar' on October 25th. Judith gave a report of the Federation Annual meeting.

Judith and Carol Ellis were congratulated on passing their Food Safety Course. Ann Wodzinski had enjoyed the course on Programme Planning and she said it was mainly what we already do but she picked up one or two tips. Congratulations to Newbrough Quiz team who won the heat of the Federation quiz and will go on to the final at Cresswell house on the 17th October.

The treasurer reported a healthy bank balance.

Val and Pat then gave their presentation of short audio visual sequences made from lovely photos telling a story with sounds, music and/ or voice over. They took us to Cragside with the history of Lord Armstrong, the coast of Portugal, the

Isle of Man and a quick tour of Europe along with other presentations. The show ended with a fun sequence based on the Poem which begins "When I am an old woman I shall wear Purple". Members very much enjoyed the evening.

The competition for a painted river stone was won by Lucy Fisher with a lakes scene and Lynne Garton was second with a painted thatched cottage shaped stone. All the painted stones were very good and showed how talented our members are, all deserved a prize.



The raffle was won by Lynne Garton, and Catherine Grant won the flowers donated by Lucy.

The next meeting is on 14th November and another change to the programme, it will be a Christmas craft evening. Hostesses are Susan Bell and Jane Penn. Dorothy Sowerby will be in charge of the raffle and the competition will be a hanging Christmas decoration.

All are welcome.

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Town Hall News

Sheron Robson, Town Hall Co-Chair

At the Hall we notice the weather changing and have to make some tough decisions as our biggest expenditure is keeping the lights and heating on for our community users. We have agreed to close the Bunkhouse for bookings December - February as the income in those months does not justify the heating costs for the bookings we receive in that period. We are open to organisations who would want to take the whole capacity of the bunkhouse and use the Hall at the same time (such as we did with the Brownies recently) so if you know of anyone who wants to book in that period just get in touch via

secretarynewbroughtownhall@gmail.com

This month's quiz will be on the 21st of November (always the third Thursday of the month) it's always good fun and great value at just £2 entry, a great value bar and snacks provided at half time. Get a team together and come along - profit from this goes towards our community events that we offer. The Southern Reivers regained their crown as winners in the Halloween themed October quiz, shoving the Wobblies off the top spot, although the Help gave a good showing in spite of being on call for the bar and kitchen. All details of events are on our social media so make sure you follow us on FaceBook (search for Newbrough Town Hall) and Instagram (newbrough_town_hall) for reminders of dates and start times.

Warm Wednesday starts on Wednesday 6th November and will run weekly through the winter. We continue to raise funds through other events to offer this free of charge to our community. We are exploring grants and preparing a 'menu' of options that businesses can support us with - if you have experience of developing this type of approach we would love to hear from you -

secretarynewbroughtownhall@gmail.com

All our regular weekly groups continue through November, Yoga, Badminton, Bowls, and we will be trialling Zumba classes on a Friday at 6pm - use these classes or lose them!.

Our AGM is on Tuesday 12th November in the Lounge at the Hall. This short meeting will run through our accounts (the Hall is a charity and the Bunkhouse is run as a business to support the Hall) and elect our management committee/trustees. All are welcome to ask about the running of the Hall and we would really welcome new Trustees. You don't have to become a Trustee. We'd also welcome volunteers just coming along to our monthly meetings (that only last an hour) and sharing some new ideas for events, or our social media content would be welcomed. If you have skills or just energy to contribute, please email us with your availability as there are always things to do!

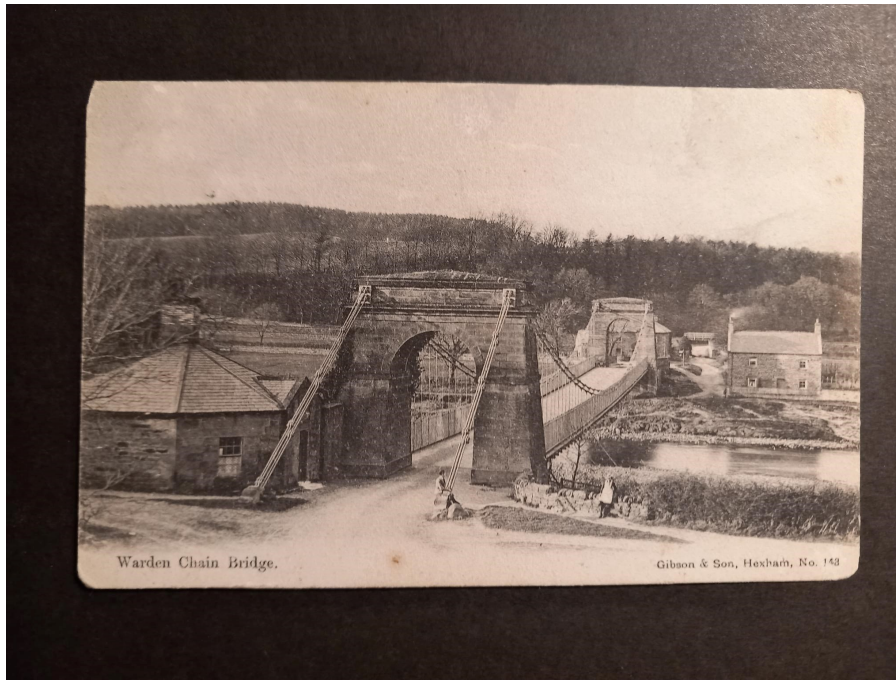
We are excited that we are close to capacity for the play from The Live Theatre [Love It If We Beat Them - Highlights Rural Touring Scheme \(highlightsnorth.co.uk\)](http://highlightsnorth.co.uk) about football, family and politics on SUNDAY 10th November at 7pm. Tickets available from the Highlights page - select the Newbrough performance! The play is getting rave reviews at other halls they have visited.

And finally, our Christmas Fair is on Saturday the 7th of December. Put the date in your diary, have a look for any raffle or tombola prizes to donate to us and let local businesses know so that either they can book a table or donate a raffle prize. Last year we were asked for more activities for young ones at the Fair - we will have Santa for the very young but we'd welcome other ideas for youth focused options for the fair - any ideas contact us at

secretarynewbroughtownhall@gmail.com

Warden Chain Bridge

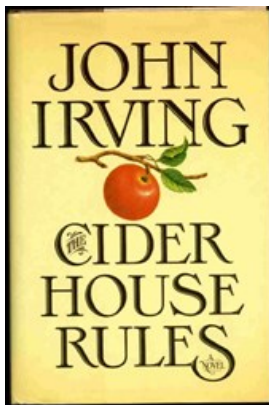
The late 19th century bridge at Warden, replaced by the present structure in 1904



Stanegate Readers

review by Anne Boulton

'The Cider House Rules' by John Irving



Raised from birth in the orphanage at St. Cloud's, Maine, Homer Wells has become the protegee of Dr. Wilbur Larch, its physician and director. There Dr. Larch cares for the troubled mothers who seek his help, either by delivering and taking in their unwanted babies or by performing illegal abortions.

Meticulously trained by Dr. Larch, Homer assists in the former, but draws the line at the latter. Then a young man brings his beautiful fiancée to Dr. Larch for an abortion, and everything about the couple beckons Homer to the wide world outside the orphanage

There were only six participants at meeting and consequently this is not the view of everyone in the book group. Three of them had not finished the book. One is finding it was hard going to

start with, so struggled to get into it. One person didn't like it and the last of those three was enjoying it very much, but has rather a lot of other commitments at the moment.

Of the other three, one really enjoys reading John Irving and has read the book twice and seen the film, finding much more in the story the second time and the relevance of rules in life. She lived in the US when the book was published and it was banned in Texas due to their rigid views on abortion. We have actually come full circle with that issue in America.

It did not spoil the reading of the book for the other person who had seen the film in the last year and she did enjoy it. One found the book rather long and there were too many characters to remember, but enjoyed it, although felt that he tried to address too many issues, instead of concentrating on only a couple. His characterisation was good and you could imagine where the orphanage was situated in a remote area.

Nature Notes

All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin

As summer slid by, harvesting continued in fine autumn weather. A combine trailed a cloud of dust as it cropped fields at West Boat on the 13th of September. The next day another was parked in the corner of the newly cut wheatfield to the east side of Sidgate; later re-seeded on the 14th of October. Shiny round black plastic bales wrapping the second fodder crop of the year stood randomly in fields either side of the road below Whinny Hill on the 20th. In between, a honey-coloured Harvest Moon rose at around seven-twenty on the clear evening of the 18th. A white raft of gulls eyed a seed-drill about to set to work in a field between Homers Lane and the North Tyne on the afternoon of the 28th, while other cornfields, such as those behind the old Fourstones post office and opposite the filling station, remained in stubble. The High and Low Long Bank and Harper Hill fields adjacent to the Long Bank at Park Shield, as well as the fields west of the north end of Church Lane, were the dark green of cover crops that will be ploughed in as 'green manure' to improve the ground for future crops.

At a glance on dull early October days deciduous trees appeared to be shades of green, but slanting autumn sunlight revealed warm tints that gradually spread across their canopies as time passed.

Before mid-month the leaves on plane tree branches overhanging the Stanegate verge leading to St. Peter's Church were a striking yellow, while the white willow in the electricity substation at Butt Bank put on its usual display of vibrant yellow-green leaves. These lay thickly on the adjacent grass and footpath on the 17th, around ten days earlier than the past two Octobers.



Autumn colour was showing much more strongly, although the cut back beeches lining the road between Allerwash Farmhouse and Allerwash Hall and those in Crow Wood had not quite reached their usual colourful autumn climax.

Aided by Storm Ashley on the 20th ash trees, increasingly affected by ash dieback, were largely bare and some sycamores were almost leafless, although other trees still clung tenaciously to many of their leaves. On the 21st the old oaks below St. Peter's Church were stubbornly fully clad in drab olive foliage.

Footnote. Lilac-purple autumn crocuses (*crocus nudiflorus*) were noted alongside the riverside path by Mary Wilson on the 26th of September, the same day as last year.



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Volunteers, please.....

The Tyne Valley Branch of the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution), was formed over 70 years ago, but is slowly dying. Our existing branch members are mostly in their late eighties and nineties. Life has changed so much over the last 70 years and it is now difficult to recruit younger members. The committee is aware that there are Shoreline and Governor members in the area. However the way the RNLI interpret the Data Protection Act does not allow me to have access to their names and addresses. In fact, they are probably unaware that there is a local branch.

The Charity does not get any Government funding and relies on bequests, donations and fundraising. It does not seem right to ask 80 and 90 year olds to undertake bucket collections and organise fundraising events. They have spent many years doing just that.

In our younger day (not so long ago) we used to have a profit of £14,000-£15,000 per year. This was all done through fundraising. Some of the

events were monthly lunches with a speaker; bucket collections at Tesco, Lidl and Asda; afternoon tea with a string quartet; a Chopin piano recital with an international pianist followed by tea; bridge afternoons with tea; domino evenings with supper; a fashion show; the Counterfeit 60s pop group put on two shows at Queens Hall, Hexham which raised £1,500 and £2,000; and there were very successful Burns Suppers complete with a piper, to name but a few.

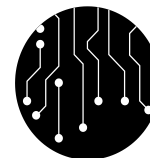
Events like these take a lot of time and effort to run. We probably have the time still, but the effort has run out of steam! The branch has over 600 years of volunteering service, which I understand is one of the highest in the country.

If there is anyone who would like to help keep the Tyne Vally branch alive, please get in touch via email : mab40@btinternet.com

Morag Baird

Local resident and Chairman of Tyne Valley Branch, RNLI

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A Swim from continent to continent

Crossing from Europe to Asia isn't just a geographical feat - it's a swim through history. Every August, swimmers from around the world gather to take on the Hellespont, a 4.5 to 6.5 kilometer challenge across the Dardanelles Strait from Europe to Asia, navigating powerful currents and unpredictable sea conditions. It's a unique experience where personal endurance and the vastness of nature come together, offering an unforgettable adventure.

On the 25th of August, I joined this enthusiastic group of adventurers, prepared for the world's most ancient and iconic swim made famous by Greek Mythology and Lord Byron. As a 73 year old seasoned sea swimmer (by no means the oldest), I knew the importance of conditioning for breezy weather and cold water. With wetsuits prohibited, mental and physical endurance was essential to staying warm and pushing through the challenge, fortunately we were blessed with a warm and not too choppy sea.

The event was organized with precision. Fishing boats and safety vessels lined the route, reassuring us amid the daunting expanse of water. There was a lot of tension and apprehension as we gathered for the mass start, however once the Claxton sounded we surged into the water

and the journey became personal. The currents were much stronger than expected, forcing me into the wider 6.5-kilometer arc, but battling these natural elements is what makes the Hellespont so rewarding.

Open water swimming has a unique feel. It's just you and the sea, with nothing but the sound of your breath and your own thoughts as you power on through these historic waters.

The finish was emotional. As I stepped out of the water onto the Asian shore, I was greeted by the sense of achievement shared by all who completed the swim. We were exhausted, but thrilled, celebrating the fact that we had conquered not just the sea, but our own limits.

For any strong swimmer, the Hellespont is more than just a race; it's an opportunity to challenge yourself in a setting steeped in history and natural beauty. If you're looking for an adventure that will push you to new heights and leave you with lasting memories, this is the swim for you.

Visit SwimTrek.com

Andy Tiplady
local resident

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Nostalgia

During the 2nd World War, when food was rationed, blackout curtains were compulsory and there were no street lamps or bonfires, so it was difficult to arrange any treats for Guy Fawkes night.

The sirens would go and we had to hurry to our underground “Anderson” shelters. One 5th November I remember being carried by our “Bevan Boys” to the shelter (they were cockney lads who did not want to enlist and had to work down the mines or on the farms. As my father was a miner we were expected to take two lads as we had a spare room. Many hated the mines and did not stay long and eventually enlisted.

My father was always absent from the air raids as he was in the Home Guard or on nightshift. We had to take our gas masks with us at all times and carry them to school. My mother had made vegetable soup as we always had plenty of vegetables in the garden (DIG FOR VICTORY). She made toffee for her weekly beetle drive which raised money for the RED CROSS and always made extra toffee cakes for the shelter. (Donations of butter and sugar were gratefully received due to rationing).

We had bunk beds in the shelter, a storage cupboard of tinned food, books, a toy box, tilley lamp, primus stove and a whistling kettle.

The boys heated up the soup and we had toffee cakes and hot chocolate (basic recipe). I looked forward to those evenings while we played games even though the planes were flying overhead. We had many wartime recipes but not suitable for the shelter.

Bonfire Night Hot Chocolate

This is a luxury version of the war time recipe which was just cocoa and hot milk or water.

Milk 800ml (1 ¼ pints) Milk chocolate 110g (4oz) finely chopped
Mixed spice ½ tsp Chocolate honeycomb spread 4 tbsp
Whipped cream and marshmallows to serve (optional)



1. Put all ingredients in a pan and heat gently stirring until completely combined.
2. When completely combined and hot, but not boiling, ladle into mugs
3. Top with whipped cream and marshmallows if using, and serve immediately.
Experiment with other chocolate biscuit spreads or use chopped Crunchie bars

Bonfire Toffee

Granulated sugar 200g (1/2 lb)
Margarine 25g (1oz)
Vinegar 1 tsp
Water 2 tbsp
Golden syrup 2 tbsp

1. Grease an 18cm (7”) square tin
2. Place all ingredients in a pan and stir over the heat until dissolved
3. Bring to boil and cook to a hard ball 120oC (248 oF)
4. Pour into prepared tin and mark into squares when cool and not set.

Treacle Toffee

Treacle 200g (1/2 lb)
Margarine 150g (6 oz)
Brown sugar 400g (1 lb)
Cold water 3 tbsp

1. Butter a 20cm (8”) square tin
 2. Put all ingredients into a pan, non stick, dissolve and bring slowly to boiling point. Boil for 10 mins or until it hardens when tested in cold water. 120oC (248oF)
 3. Pour into prepared tin and set aside to firm. Break into pieces when ready.
-

COP29: Baku, Azerbaijan, November 11th – 22nd 'In Solidarity for a Green World'

Malcolm Newson on behalf of Climate Action Newbrough-Fourstones

Yes, it's that time again! The UN 'Conference of the Parties' on climate change, first held in Berlin in March, 1995, is ready to roll, some say as a bandwagon, others with the hope that the sum of the 195 nations' 'Nationally Determined Contributions' will give us optimism.

Optimism is sorely needed by us in the science corner. There is no new dire warning from the independent International Panel of scientists (IPCC) (the 7th cycle of IPCC assessments is not out until 2028) but other groups have been writing to bring together the climate and nature crises into one chilling set of warnings. The annual 'State of the Climate Report' by over a dozen very experienced climate experts begins its 2024 version thus:

'We are on the brink of an irreversible climate disaster. This is a global emergency beyond any doubt. Much of the very fabric of life on Earth is imperilled'.

They annually track 35 planetary vital signs; many/most are close to or past the 'tipping point' where they become irreversible under current conditions. They table 16 climate disasters in the last year – our UK events are too trivial on a world scale to make an appearance! What most concerns them is the 11 'amplifying' feedback loops now operating to make things worse and that's just climate – nature is the victim of 17 amplifying feedbacks. The graphs in the report should carry the warning, 'some may find this material disturbing' (climate anxiety is now a defined mental health problem).

As we know, science can warn but politics delivers and the success of COPs is increasingly judged by shifts in international justice such as compensating those nations ravaged by weather disasters and sea-level rise from capital earned by those burning/have burned fossil fuels. Another theme is that **adaptation** to present and future impacts of climate change, like our named storms and US hurricanes, is not being supported by governments.

Climate change is here and all policies should reflect this. It is incredible to think that Donald Trump still supports the accusation that hurricanes are caused by Joe Biden!

Over half the world's population has had a vote in democratic elections this year but how much did we here about climate? Politicians are usually not scientifically educated or informed; many put their faith in 'net zero' or other policies but a recent rigorous analysis of 1500 policies designed to reduce our carbon footprint showed that only 65 of them work – currently operating in 35 countries and causing a 19% reduction.

So....over to you COP29! Since COP26 in Glasgow there has been a sense that the UK has lost a world leadership role in climate legislation and policy implementation; we have to hope that this gets ahead of rows about 'free glasses' and that those glasses are not rose-tinted about climate!



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September Weatherwatch

After Weatherwatch's second warmest September last year, this year's September took a backward step to become the second coolest in a twenty-year Park Shield record.¹ Some cold comfort might be taken from the fact that all other English regions, except East Anglia and SE & Central England, also experienced a cooler than average September.

On an overcast 1st September, rain fell from the late afternoon into the evening, including a heavy burst around seven-thirty that contributed most of the sizeable four millimetres that fell in the hour up to eight o'clock. Less than a quarter of this fell at Park Shield in the remainder of the first week that ended with very mild nights of 14C+ into the 6th and 7th and days that produced respective summery daily maximums of 21.4C and 21.2C, as warm air was drawn north from the continent. In an otherwise quite settled month, strong breezes blew throughout the 10th, which began a four day cooler spell. This included a Park Shield monthly minimum of 0.1C early on the 13th; just short of being the first autumn air frost.

Daytime maximums briefly rose above the seasonal average from the 14th to the 19th with the summer-like September maximum of 25.2C on a very sunny 17th, ended with daily maximums of 19.0C and 19.1C on the 16th and 19th. But cooler conditions quickly returned as the 20th could only manage a daily maximum of 14.6C which was, incidentally, the only daily maximum in the remaining days of the month that was warmer than the highest September daily minimum of 14.4C on the 7th. September's lowest daily maximum of 9.8C on the 26th was the second coolest on Weatherwatch record, behind the 9.6C of

2020. With 9.2 mm of rainfall the chilly 26th was also the wettest September day.

Cool though our September was it did, however, possess a valuable redeeming feature which the rest of England lacked, particularly the south. Low rainfall. Ten English counties suffered their wettest September on record, several with over 300% of average rainfall, while it was the wettest calendar month for Bedfordshire and Oxfordshire in a series dating back to 1836. Our own region suffered 151% of average rainfall, yet the Park Shield September total of 40.0mm was only 60% of the average.² Coincidentally, the Butt Bank weather station recorded exactly the same amount, which was less than the 44mm of rain that fell in a single hour at Swansea on the 6th.

September Weatherwatch Factfile

Temperature. Park Shield mean monthly maximum : c.15.5C. Mean monthly minimum : c.8.0C. Monthly mean : c.11.8C. E&NE England monthly mean : 12.9C and 0.3C below the 1991/2020 average. UK maximum : 30.1C (86.2F) at Cambridge Botanical Gardens on the 1st. UK minimum : -3.0C at Braemar (Aberdeenshire) and Tyndrum (Perthshire) on the 25th. ¹Coolest Park Shield September : 2018. Warmest September : 2006.

Rainfall and Sunshine. Park Shield average rainfall : c.70mm. Rain days :15. ² September was the 8th driest in a 27 year series. N&NE England rainfall & sunshine : 151% and 90% of the 1991-2020 average.

Winds. Predominantly light and, unusually, often easterly. Maximum gusts : 30mph & 33mph at Park Shield and Butt Bank respectively on the 10th.

Just Passing Through

A bright yellow 'CAUTION RACE IN PROGRESS' sign tied to a Highways pole at Bridge House in Newbrough and an arrow in the nearby layby pointing into Crow Wood on Saturday the 12th of October were two clues to the Hadrian's Wall Half Marathon run and walk, now in its fourth year.



On the Sunday morning and into the early afternoon race participants tackled the 13.1 mile course from Housesteads, passing through Newbrough and along the South Tyne riverside path to Fourstones Paper Mill on their way to the finish at Tyne Green.

Field : 713 runners and 103 walkers.

Winning times :- 1:29:53 and 2:00.07 respectively.



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 September

There were no Christenings, Weddings or
Funerals during September

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

Preachers for November

- | | |
|------|--|
| 3rd | Local arrangement |
| 10th | Remembrance Service at the Town Hall |
| 17th | Reverend Michael Holland
Holy Communion |
| 24th | Mr M N Fullard |

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

All Souls' Day : Saturday 2nd November

On All Souls' Day, which this year falls on Saturday 2nd November, the Church remembers all those we love but see no longer - family members and friends, those who have died recently or some time ago.

In our Benefice there will be a quiet service in *St Aidan's, Fourstones at 4:30pm on Saturday 2nd November* - everyone is welcome. During the service names of loved ones will be read out, candles will be lit as an act of remembrance, and we will pray for all those who are mourning the loss of a loved one.

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

Greenery needed for the cross outside - please leave at the Chapel

Saturday 2nd November 10am - 4pm
and/or
Sunday 3rd November between 2pm and 4pm

November Coffee mornings



Friday 15th
Children in Need
Coffee / soup morning
and a Christmas Stall
10am - 2pm

Friday 22nd
Hot soup, bread bun,
sandwiches and cake
11am - 2pm

Donations required please
for West End Food Bank

Messy Vintage

Tuesday 12th November, 2.30pm
Theme : "Who Remembers"

All are welcome
Sit and watch or talk
to your neighbours!



Messy Vintage enables members of the
Methodist Church, who can't always get to
Church as the service may be too long,
to engage in their spirituality and have fun
with crafts and the singing which uplifts us all.
Our afternoon tea is delicious!

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

Letter from Reverend Michael.....

I have to confess that I forgot the deadline for this letter to you all through the Stanegate. It seems that these days there is an awful lot going on and therefore an awful lot to try and remember: birthdays, anniversaries, dentist appointments, to take my medicine, to pay the window cleaner, which bin we put out this week (and remembering to actually do so)...

In November we enter a season of remembering. It begins with All Saints Day when we remember the Saints, especially the martyred. This is followed by All Souls Day when we remember the faithful departed. Around this time many churches also hold services to remember those whose funerals they have held in the last year.

Hot on the heels of these festivals we remember, remember the fifth of November - a festivity peculiar to Britain as we recall Guy Fawkes and the foiling of the Gun Powder Plot. We enjoy the bonfire and the fireworks but these serve to remind us of our history and also of both the fragility of our democratic governmental model and a healthy awareness of how much power over our lives the state apports to itself.

And less than a week later, we stop, at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month to remember those who gave their lives in the Great War and in subsequent conflicts. We remember so that we don't forget.

Remembering is important, in the Old Testament book of Lamentations, the writer, in the midst of despair at the loss of the City of Jerusalem in an ancient Middle East conflict, says,

But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3.21-23 (NRSVA)

His remembering puts everything in a larger (eternal and cosmic) context and so lifts him from his despondency into renewed hope.

What do you have to call to mind, to remember, to build your hope at this time?

Wishing you every blessing,
Michael

Rev Michael Holland is the Methodist Minister for Fourstones with Warden, Haydon Bridge and Allen Valleys Methodist Churches.