

The Stanegate

Newbrough, Fourstones, Warden
and surrounding hamlets



Dear Community,

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Newbrough Church of England Primary School. As an experienced educator with 18 years in the classroom, including 8 years in leadership roles, I have had the privilege of working in a range of primary schools. It is with great enthusiasm that I now join the Newbrough and wider community.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term at the school and am delighted to be a part of this vibrant and supportive community. The warm welcome I have received from pupils, parents and staff has been truly heartening, and I look forward to building upon the excellent work that has been done before.

In the coming months and years, I am eager to work closely with the local community to explore shared projects and initiatives that will benefit our pupils and the wider area. To this end, I would be more than happy to meet with you to discuss any ideas or proposals you may have.

Additionally, I would like to extend an open invitation to any prospective parents who may be considering Newbrough Church of England Primary School for their child. I would be delighted to arrange a visit and provide a personal tour of our wonderful school. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me directly to schedule a convenient time.

I look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with you and the broader community as we work together to support the education and development of our pupils.

Sincerely,
Mike Boucetla
Headteacher
Newbrough Church of England Primary School

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Thank you.....

Our thanks must go to Rebecca Sutton and her team for all their hard work in tidying St Peter's churchyard in Newbrough over the summer months.



and to Matthew Dunn, the St Michael's mower in Warden

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

- 8th Messy Vintage, 2.30pm
Methodist Chapel
- 10th Newbrough WI monthly meeting, : 7pm, Town Hall
- 11th Methodist Chapel Coffee morning, 11am – 2pm
- 12th & 19th
Upcoming concerts
(see p19)
- 17th Quiz Night at the Town Hall, 7.30pm for 8pm prompt Start
- 20th Villages' litter pick
- 25th Methodist Chapel Coffee morning, 11am – 2pm
- 25th School closes for half term
- 25th Food and Film Night at the Town Hall.: Halloween Theme (see p9)
- 27th Clocks go back at 2am
- 31st Halloween

Reminders

In addition to the paper copies in boxes around our villages, The Stanegate is also available on line, courtesy of Warden Parish Council :

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

Clocks go back at 2am
on Sunday 27th October





Warm Wednesdays start
Wednesday 6th November



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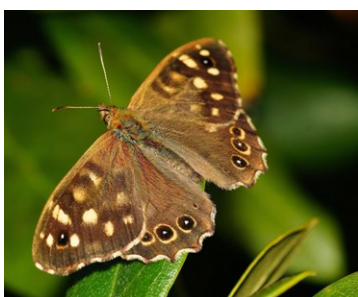
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Butterfly Bulletin

The British butterfly population fluctuates widely from year to year depending on the weather, with the charity, Butterfly Conservation, suggesting that a wet and windy spring and the cool start to summer could result in this year's Big Butterfly Count being the lowest on record.¹

Orange tips flitted erratically along local hedge-rows in late-April and a warm May in healthy numbers, but after the first sighting of a Peacock in mid-March, no more of them were noted in spring. No small Tortoiseshells were recorded.

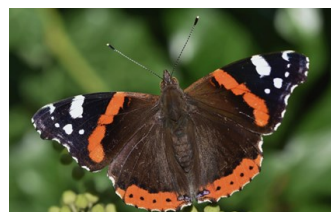
The June gap, when butterflies seem to go AWOL, occurs when species that first emerged in spring, such as small Tortoiseshells referred to and Peacocks, have waned and a new generation does not appear until July, while single brood butterflies such as Ringlets and Meadow Browns are yet to take to the wing. In the case of the Orange Tip its life cycle is over for another year. This year the cool June and start to July exacerbated and elongated this effect so that for some time butterflies were conspicuous by their absence.



← A **Speckled Wood** was first seen on the 12th of July, and the first **Red Admiral** on the 18th, together with the first noted pristine looking second-generation **Peacock**. The scarcity of butterflies even extended to the very familiar large and small whites, more usually an almost everyday sight.

A couple of these **Cabbage Whites** were noted on the 26th of July and a few others on days in the first week of August.

A handful of **Whites** and a **Red Admiral** → were feeding on the nectar of scented buddleia plumes on the warm 5th and half a dozen or so **Whites** fluttered around over the morning of the warmer 11th.



← Several **Peacocks** were noted in the afternoon, but they were not feeding on the now slightly rusty-looking spikes of buddleia. **Whites** were about occasionally in later August days and early September, an individual being spotted on September the 12th.

On September the 7th 2021 a 'butterfly bush' at High Stonecroft fed a host of **Red Admirals**, **Small Tortoiseshells**, **Peacocks**, **Painted Ladies**, **Commas** and large **Whites**. No **Painted Ladies** or **Commas** were noted this year.

Each year from mid-August into early September **Red Admirals** gather to suck the sugary juices of wind-fall plums, although none were noted feeding on those from a bumper crop during Park Shield picking this year.

None of the usual wasps were seen buzzing around fermenting plums either because, like butterflies, it has been a poor summer for them. The first note of a worker wasp was not made until the 14th of August, with no further sightings made up to the 10th of September.



¹ The Big Butterfly Count : 12th of July to the 4th of August. First undertaken in 2010.

The Sun Shines on the Righteous

Rob Tindall

Ernesto was too early to catch us while Storm Lillian was much too slow. In Newbrough, the Senior Citizens wore rainproofs and sturdy shoes.

The drizzle was constant and by the time we reached Haltwhistle the droplets had coalesced into a steady downpour. Then the clouds moved on, the sun appeared, and spirits lifted. At Reghed it was almost warm enough to discard coats, although there was a breeze which didn't come from tropical climes. The coffee was fine and the Chelsea buns delicious, but why should one have to grab a numbered table to order a simple coffee at the counter and wait for a waitress to deliver? The system means it takes an age to satisfy a coachload of clients.

Keswick was sunny, dry and breezy but very busy with families and bods wearing hiking gear. AND dogs! Big dogs, small dogs, bushy-tailed, short-tailed, black, tan, brindled, smooth-coated, curly-coated, supine, springy, all on leads sufficiently long to corral a group of unwary strollers. It wasn't possible even to avoid the canines in the pubs and restaurants, for there they were lying under the tables and chairs. BUT perhaps you love dogs!

We spent over three hours in Keswick, which was sufficient time to have a bite to eat, browse the shops and perhaps purchase something. It was noticeable that the racks on the coach were fuller on the way back than they had been on the out-

ward journey. No-one bought the giant pair of Chinese vases at £4000+ but certainly various items of outerwear, pansies, cheese, fudge, 'somethings for supper' and a snakes and ladders' board came home.

It was a very enjoyable trip, and we are grateful to the Tom Benson Charitable Trust and the generous local couple who donated £100 for making the outing possible. Billy, our driver was superb and smartly dressed, whilst the coach was immaculate and comfortable. The whole was a credit to Amble Coaches.

As organiser I do have to have a moan. At one point I had 53 seats booked but withdrawals, some as late as the day before meant that we travelled with 41 and 14 spare seats. I am not doubting that the reasons for dropping out weren't genuine but at one point I was near to turning potential travellers away. And I wouldn't have been able to rustle up reserves at twenty-four hours' notice. But there again 41 people left the coach expressing thanks for a very enjoyable day out.



Just Passing Through

A small band of leather clad bikers gathered briefly in the forecourt of Fourstones filling station in the afternoon of the 13th of September. These were a few of those taking part in 'The Big One'; a three day (13-14-15) adventure rally and roadbook navigation event for 'big bikes' held in Kielder Forest and staged by events organiser Rallymoto. The rally camp event took place in March 2022 and 2023 as 'The Kielder 500.'

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 November issue is Friday 18th October 2024

Notes from the Warden Parish Council (WPC) Meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2024 in Newbrough town Hall

The first item on the agenda always provides an opportunity for members of the public to raise any matters. In this item a resident reported that broadband contractor, Wefibre, could not connect three properties in the Parish, as telecommunications are not permitted to be added to an existing electricity pole. Cllr Morphet was aware of the problem and had requested the Leader of the County Council to contact the Chief Executive of Northern Powergrid. The Combined Authority and MP will also be asked to contact Northern Powergrid accordingly.

B4RN representative M Dickson Green attended the meeting and advised that B4RN is involved with numerous projects in the North East. B4RN is a Community benefit society, not for profit organisation, and exists to provide a broadband service to rural communities that are not commercially viable. There is a guarantee to reach every property within their designated area, subject to wayleaves being granted, with the network 100% underground. Residents who may be interested in B4RN services are advised to contact 4RN directly although it was noted that they currently only cover part of Warden Parish.

An allotment tenant had reported that some footpaths and plots were becoming overgrown. It was noted that plot holders are responsible for maintaining any hedging bordering their plot. The Clerk is to remind all allotment holders of their obligations, and Cllr D Liddle to block up the hole on well cover.

It was reported that the seat at Walwick Grange has been repaired, timber is awaited for the repair of the Coronation Seat, the old seat at the top of Station Bank has been removed, and additional timber is required for the seat at the top of Warden Bank. The suggested location of a new seat at St Aidan's Church is to be discussed at the next Parochial Church Council meeting.

The annual inspection of the Parish Council play area at the Boatside Inn had recommended a number of minor repairs / improvements. The area has been pressure washed and the possibility of a kick board at the entrance to prevent stones entering the area is being considered. Cllr Martin actioning the replacement of some bolt covers.

The following priorities were agreed to be submitted to NCC for inclusion in the 2025 - 2026 Local Transport Plan:

the implementation of traffic calming measures at East Fourstones Lane, and the provision of a footpath from Hardhaugh Cottages to Fourstones Paper Mill.

Councillor Morphet to request dropped kerbs in the Parish.

Cllr Charlton to report overgrown hedges at East Fourstones via FixMyStreet.

County Cllr Morphet reported that the surface dressing of the C234 from the Boatside Inn to the A69 has been re-scheduled for 2025.

County Cllr Morphet also reported Network Rail are responsible for drainage works at bottom of Mossy.

County Cllr Morphet reported the following from NCC:

An application to discharge a condition on the original permission for Prudham Quarry had been submitted with the quarry opening date yet to be confirmed;

better monitoring of river sewage pollution is being undertaken, and figures for the North Tyne had improved slightly;

a quote has been received for a Greenway Feasibility Study although additional quotes may be required;

the new County Council climate change action plan has been published and is available on County Council website.

It was agreed to endorse the role of Bicycle Mayor for Tynedale. The Bicycle Mayor has set up a bike friendly business scheme, and is organising the Hexham Cycling Festival.

The Parish Council was asked to consider the High Warden Woodlands Management Plan. The Clerk is to enquire regarding the planned changes and objectives of the project.

It was noted that the horse society has requested a bridleway between Frankham Fell and Carr Edge. This will be discussed at the next meeting following the circulation of plans.

continued.....

A request for a grant of £100 was approved to contribute to the cost of testing the generator at Newbrough Town hall.

The next community litter pick has been arranged for Sunday 20th October 2024.

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 4th November 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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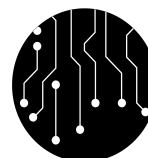
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Town Hall News

Sheron Robson, Town Hall Co-Chair

After a busy September with events and lots of our regular groups restarting we are settling into our Autumn schedule.

In October and beyond, Bowls continues to meet and play on a Wednesday, contact Paula Hall 07770 418461 if you would like to join the club which hosts regular matches as well as practice sessions.

Yoga continues every Monday at 6.30pm, this is a gentle class and Jane always gives adaptations for the more able (and those less bendy !)
Please contact Jane at Jyoga83@gmail.com for details and how to join.

Our monthly quiz will be on the 17th of October (always the third Thursday of the month) and is always good fun and great value at just £2 entry, 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 next Food and Film night will be on Friday 25th of October, it will be Halloween themed with a (slightly) scary movie and a seasonal 2 course meal, great value at £15 for a complete night out, close to home. Further details of the menu and film choice will be shared on our social media so make sure you follow us on FaceBook (search for Newbrough Town Hall) and instagram ([newbrough_town_hall](https://www.instagram.com/newbrough_town_hall))

The summer run of Communi-teas (our monthly community afternoon tea) has now finished and we have a short respite for our bakers and volunteers in October while we prepare to restart our weekly Warm Wednesday offering on Wednesday 6th of November. We continue to fundraise so that we can offer these events free of charge to our community. More importantly, we are always looking for people who can make a pan of soup for us to offer - ingredients provided by us and you can even do the cooking at the Town Hall. We'd love to build a recipe bank of community favourites.

The Hall looked amazing at a recent wedding ceilidh so think of us if you are planning a birthday or other celebration event.



This month's request for help is a plea for some people to join our committee meetings. You don't have to become a trustee if you don't want to, but 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 :

secretarynewbroughtownhall@gmail.com with availability as there are always things to do!

Tickets are already selling well for the play from The Live Theatre in Newcastle [Love It If We Beat Them - Highlights Rural Touring Scheme](https://www.highlightsnorth.co.uk) ([highlightsnorth.co.uk](https://www.highlightsnorth.co.uk)) about football, family and politics on SUNDAY 10th November at 7pm. Tickets are available through the Highlights page - be sure to select the Newbrough performance!

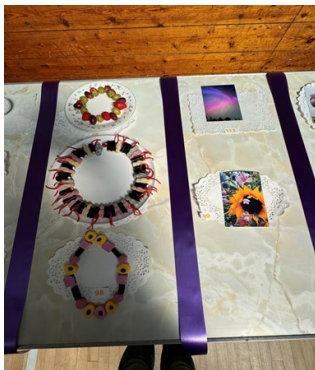
The workshop we are offering will be Sunday 8th of December and will allow you to create a metal embossed Christmas ornament and even personalise it, if you wish. This workshop is already nearly full so act quickly if you want a space. Bookings through the highlights website: [Creative Highlights - Metal Embossed Christmas Ornament - Highlights Rural Touring Scheme](https://www.highlightsnorth.co.uk) ([highlightsnorth.co.uk](https://www.highlightsnorth.co.uk))



Is this the End of the Road ?

Rob Tindall

Entries for the Baking and Craft sections of the Parish Produce Show were down a little on previous years, but competition was as keen as ever. There were sizable entries in sandwich cakes, cheese scones and the standard recipe for a chocolate and orange cake. Amongst the crafts entries, those for a homemade bag and a painted stone stood out. Sylvia Richardson notched up most points in the joint sections, as she has done previously but it was particularly pleasing to see



novice exhibitors, Lucy Guthrie, for her raspberry jam and Sue Henderson (?) for her edible necklace pick up 'best exhibit' awards. There were several other 'novices' who were certainly 'in the mix' with their entries.

Newbrough Primary School filled table upon table with work produced throughout the year. The quality was extremely high and reflects not only on the abilities of the pupils but also upon their teachers. In years to come it is possible that a number of artists and designers will reflect upon the grounding in arts they received in Newbrough.



There is no more appropriate word to describe the number of entries in the Vegetable and Flower sections than pathetic.

There were some high-quality exhibits – Matthew and Rachael Benton showed some excellent onions from sets, Dennis Denham's eating apples stood out and my own sweet peas were the best I've ever grown. In no class was there more than four entries and in many there was only one. Lone entries of beetroot and runner beans garnered trophies – there was no competition! The red ticket given to my fly-ridden carrots was a mockery – even the Frankham badgers and rabbits give them a wide berth.

Why such a disappointing show? We have lost one major exhibitor and pressure of work has caused another to neglect his plot. The growing season has been spectacularly bad with a wet, cold spring, and slugs have plagued crops more severely than the locusts plagued the Israelites. To avoid a clash with another social event we pulled forward the date of the show by a fortnight. We thought this might be of particular benefit to flower growers but alas, "no".

So, what does this mean? Do we write off 2024 as an exceptional year, never to be repeated and hope for better in 2025? Are we part of a general decline in the popularity of village shows? The show survives on the raffle money taken at the door. This year the takings barely covered the costs.

Where do we go from here, or is this the end of the road?

Newbrough Parish Council

Space is always reserved in The Stanegate for notes from Newbrough Parish Council meetings, and a reminder of the deadline is sent to the Clerk. However neither an acknowledgement nor notes of the September meeting have been received for inclusion in this publication.

'Grey' Green Notes part 2

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

In September's Stanegate we touched very broadly on what David Archer in 'Tyne and Tide' calls 'The rape of the Tyne: gravel extraction' (Chapter 4). What we missed out was the local walker's forensic challenge to observe/interpret the river changes caused by extraction in the Newbrough and Fourstones reach. Here are some of them.

Let's start with the railway line: much of it is on an embankment to protect against flooding because in the 1830s it was constructed across the natural floodplain which would inundate regularly. Yet, even in Storm Desmond (December 2015), the South Tyne remained largely within its banks. On the outbuildings at Crossgate you can pick out the depths of flood waters in 1881 and 1926 - so why is the present South Tyne so much lower? That's what you get by quarrying half-a-million tons of gravel from the river bed, causing huge damage to the fishery. It was done to 'fix' the post-war crisis of rebuilding after bombing and may have been welcome to those who previously suffered flood damage. However, 'unintended consequences' included giving the deeper in-channel flood flows more erosive power.

This empowered South Tyne began to cause a second set of problems, for example erosion of the banks, notably on 'our' side. So, note the huge boulders (that were not required by the gravel merchants) that were moved to protect the north bank immediately upstream of Crossgate. This 'hard engineering' of the 1960s was more recently emulated by Railtrack, upstream just below Newbrough Burn (creating that level footpath).

Downstream of Riverside Cottage the 1950s saw the construction of stone-filled wire baskets ('gabions') to protect the flood embankment on the north side. These are now 'high and dry' because of the ongoing downcutting of the river bed caused by gravel removal and the empowered flood flows. The down-cutting continued as recently as Storm Desmond when the riverside footpath was temporarily diverted by bank collapse, now repaired by Tyne Rivers Trust financed by Northumberland County Council.

Between these stranded monsters and Bend Pool there was further progressive bank erosion, damaging/diverting the footpath and recently protected by 'softer' engineering by reprofiling and revegetating. There is another possible cause here - when a river is deprived of gravel but has sufficient power to move some, it will 'grab' what's available. Notable impacts of this process occurred at Tyne Bridge Hexham and the bridge at Low Prudhoe.

The 'raped', deepened gravel bed also caused danger to those working on the extraction. In another David Archer book ('Land of Singing Waters, Spredden Press, 1992) he records a fatal incident: '1954, Apr. 3, Fourstones. Two men drowned when struck by a wall of water in South Tyne. Rose 5 to 6 feet in ½ hour. They were marooned on a gravel island'. These rapid rises on the South Tyne are natural and continue to this day, attracting terms like 'walls of water' from at-risk anglers.

As well as a dramatic bit of local history, the 'green message' of the gravel removal in a period of rapid climate change is that natural assets should not be exploited or sacrificed to get humans out of trouble! Expert and *systematic* science can help. Deeper, faster flows through Newbrough and Fourstones carry floods quicker to Warden!

If anyone has photos or other evidence of the floods before the gravel extraction, or of the transfer works at Crossgates, from where I guess rail trucks took it to Tyneside, please email Stanegate :

thestanegate@hotmail.com

The Editors would also be interested in hearing from any surviving relatives or people affected.



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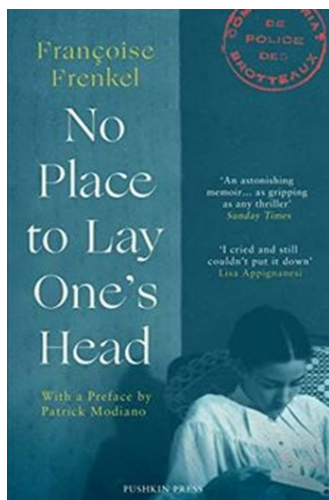
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MOVERS STORERS SHIPPERS

'No Place to Lay One's Head' by Françoise Frenkle



'No Place To Lay One's Head' was written by Françoise Frenkle, a Polish born Jew, following her escape from the Vichy regime in France. It is a Memoir. She writes as an introduction.....

Fear was everywhere. Papers were checked and with each check came the fear of identification and deportation. Finally a census was carried out to identify the Jews in Nice. Amidst the suffering, betrayal and murder, she is fortunate to be helped by a number of people, and aided by a couple who own a hairdresser's and were willing to risk their lives to shield her. The worst and best of humanity are a feature of her writing.

"It is the duty of those who have survived to bear witness to ensure the dead are not forgotten nor humble

After one failed attempt to reach Switzerland, she finally makes it over the border in 1943. Beyond this account there is little known of the author who returned to Nice after the war and lived there until her death in 1975.

acts of self-sacrifice left acknowledged. May these pages inspire a reverent thought for those forever silenced, fallen by the wayside or murdered."

Originally published in Switzerland in 1945, the book quietly disappeared until being rediscovered in a bric-a-brac sale in Nice in 2015. The English translated version was published in 2018.

It begins in 1921 when Françoise and her Russian born husband, (who is not mentioned once in her story) open the first French bookshop in Berlin, attracting a wide range of clientele from academics to artists and celebrities. It ends with Kristallnacht (night of broken glass) in November 1938, when Jewish owned properties and businesses in Berlin were smashed and destroyed.

Reviews from the readers were generally lukewarm. Most found the objective and unsentimental prose that had so impressed me, had rendered the account impersonal and distanced them from the story and the protagonist, especially her time in Berlin. At the back of the book is more detailed information about the author and events and most readers found this interesting.

Fearing for her life, she flees to Paris, a city she knows well from her time at the Sorbonne. The threat of war was much talked about in social circles in Paris, though largely dismissed as scaremongering. Lulled into a sense of security, Françoise lived in hope of being reunited with her family.

The book is by no means a full account. And for the readers there remained unanswered questions - how she financed her stay in hotels, how letters were sent and delivered during the war and why her husband was never mentioned.

The rest is, quite literally, history. She fled from Paris to Avignon three days before Germany launched its bombing campaign on the city, along with a desperate mass of displaced refugees. Finally she travels to Nice in the South.

However, I found the book harrowing, moving and very interesting. I found her to be an elegant writer, and would recommend it to anyone interested in learning more about the human will to survive, and about France and the French during world war two.

She describes the beauty of the place, which is in stark contrast to the ugliness of life there for refugees, the desperation for food and the brutality of the Vichy regime.

September Meeting

Vice President Susan Sutton welcomed 14 members and Jerusalem was sung. The business of the evening was conducted by the Secretary, Teresa Bessant.

Our Northumberland Federation has arranged events including a beetle drive and the Annual Christmas Celebration Service at Newcastle Cathedral. This is quite a big event in our calendar and we all smile as we sit on the train or metro spotting all the other W.I ladies heading to The Cathedral.

Five of our members accepted an invitation to a neighbouring W.I's Centenary Party at Whitfield. We all had a great evening and were impressed with the Gatsby Themed fancy dresses and décor in the hall.

Our Speaker for the evening was Sophie Kirkup from Todburn Soaps. Sophie gave a very amusing and informative talk about her herd of goats and the products she makes from their milk. She told us of the little characteristics that each goat has and although not from a farming background, she came with her husband to Longhorsley,

renovated a farmhouse and set up a business making soaps, eco-friendly haircare and natural skincare. Her products were all beautifully packaged in environmentally friendly materials and there was quite a bit of early Christmas shopping going on at the end of the evening.

The competition was for any article coloured red and was won by Lynne Garton with a decorated cup and second prize went to Janet Johnson for her glass bell. The raffle was won by Lynne Garton and an extra prize donated by our speaker was won by Vanessa Ashton. Teresa Bessant won the floral table decoration provided by Lucy Fisher.

Our next meeting is Thursday 10th October and our member and former local resident Val Johnston and her husband Pat will give one of their wonderful slideshows of places they have visited.

If any one is interested in joining The W.I. please come along to the Town Hall on the second Thursday of any month, where you will be made very welcome.

For sale : a solid, heavy wooden pew

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We are open to offers and can be viewed in my garden if anyone is interested.

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Recipes from an Orchard Kitchen

Iain Bennett

Autumn is almost over. As you read this October issue of the Stanegate it is the prime time for British lamb. In a time when meat is getting a bad press as being one of the factors adding to climate change there is no downside to eating lamb. Lamb is one of the most sustainable meats to produce as the sheep are fed entirely on grass and the land on which they graze is, generally, unsuitable for any other crop. They sustain communities and provide an income where other employment would be hard to come by.

Despite the sad loss of W.M.H meats in Haydon Bridge, we are very lucky to still have some very good butchers locally which further adds to the sustainability of lamb as a product. We also have some very good local sheep farmers so give them all support by trying out this month's recipe for lamb shanks in port and red wine.

Another thing that brings comfort in the darker months is the warmth of ginger in dishes. Ginger has been used in cooking and medicinally since about 5000 B.C. It was exported from the orient to the mediterranean as early as the 1st century A.D. and is thought to have reached Britain by the 11th century. It has a slightly sharp warm flavour and medicinally is often used as a digestif or to treat stomach problems and nausea although there is no actual medical proof of its benefits. The plant that we see in the shops is a rhizome (a swollen stem) which takes about 12 months to reach maturity. Ginger is related to turmeric and cardamom. The largest producer of ginger is India.

The ginger pudding recipe makes a nice complement to the lamb mains for a comforting late autumn supper.

Lamb Shanks in Red Wine and Port

Vegetable Oil	2 tbsp	Lamb Shanks	4
Leek	1, roughly chopped	Celery Sticks	4, roughly chopped
Carrots	2, roughly chopped	Onions	2, roughly chopped
Garlic Bulb	1, roughly chopped	Bay Leaf	1
Thyme Leaves	1 tbsp	Rosemary Leaves	1 tbsp
Star Anise	2	Red Wine	250ml/9 fl. oz
Port	150ml/5½ fl. Oz	Chicken Stock	500ml/1pt 2 fl. oz



Pre-heat the oven to 150°C/300°F/Gas 2. Heat the vegetable oil in a casserole and brown the lamb shanks one at a time until brown all over. Remove from the dish and repeat with the remaining lamb shanks.

Add the vegetables and fry gently for 2-3 minutes without colouring them. Add the lamb shanks, the bay leaf, the star anise, the thyme and the rosemary and pour over the port, wine and chicken stock. Cover the casserole with a lid and place it in the oven. Cook for 2½ to 3 hours or until the lamb shanks are very tender. Remove the lamb shanks to warm serving plates. Strain the liquid from the casserole into a gravy jug and serve it with the lamb shanks alongside rich buttery mash or rosemary roast potatoes with tender sprouting broccoli.

Ginger Puddings

Stem Ginger in syrup	1 ball, plus 4tbsp of the ginger syrup		
Unsalted Butter	100g/4oz, softened plus extra for greasing		
Caster Sugar	100g/4oz	Self-Raising Flour	100g/4oz
Baking Powder	¼ tsp	Ground Ginger	½ tbsp
Eggs	2 large	Orange	1, medium, zest and juice



continued.....

Pre-heat your oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6.
 Butter four 150ml darioles or ramekins. Spoon one tablespoon of the ginger syrup into each ramekin. Finely chop the stem ginger and with an electric mixer blend the butter, sugar, and the chopped ginger together.
 Slowly whisk in the eggs one at a time with the addition of a tablespoon of flour. Add the orange zest and juice and mix well. Fold in the remaining self-raising flour and the baking powder. Divide the batter between the four dishes.

Cut four pieces of cooking foil, about 2.5cm/1in bigger than the moulds, make a pleat down the middle of the foil and place them over each of the moulds. Put the covered moulds in a reasonably deep oven tray. And half fill with boiling water. Put the tray in the oven and cook for 40 minutes. Remove from the heat and leave the puddings to stand for a couple of minutes before turning them out onto serving dishes. Serve with vanilla ice cream, custard or cream.

If there are any recipes that you would like to share or if you would like a suggestion for a recipe, please contact me via e-mail at iain-bennett@orchardkitchen.co.uk.

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Bonus Ball Draw

AUGUST

3rd	Stewart Thompson	7
10th	Raffy Telfer	12
17th	Catrina Mewes	49
24th	Susan Smith	45
31st	Stuart Smith	54

200 Club

SEPTEMBER

1st	Stewart Thompson	44
2nd	D Sutton	154
3rd	Sandra Martin	62

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August Weatherwatch

After an unseasonably cool first half of July much more summer-like weather in the second half extended through a warmer than average first two weeks of August. Park Shield recorded pleasant daily maximums of 22.4C and 22.0C on the 1st and 2nd and 23.1C on the 5th after the summer's warmest daily minimum of 15.5C in the early hours. A very sunny 11th brought a maximum of 24.1C, while August maximums of 24.7C and 25.7C were recorded at Park Shield and Butt Bank respectively on the generally dull and clouded 12th. During this period, temperatures in central and southern England were much higher, but they led to thunderstorms, heavy rains and flooding in parts, whereas less than five millimetres of rainfall was recorded at Park Shield and Butt Bank.

Because June and the first half of July were the coldest in twenty years this past summer might be not remembered with any fondness, but it was not quite as awful as it has been painted. From St. Swithin's Day on the 15th of July to the 12th of August more than half the daily maximums were above 21C and another five were 20C+, including the 13th and 14th. A cooler second half of August was around a degree and a half Celsius below the seasonal average. The lowest August daily maximum of an unremarkable 15.8C and the joint-strongest Park Shield monthly wind gust coincided with the passing of Storm Lilian on the 23rd. Lilian also generated 14.4mm of rainfall on by far the wettest August day. The low Park Shield

monthly total of 33.0mm was only 40% of a 27 year average, making it the second driest August, behind 2003.

A late burst of summer warmth on the 28th produced a daily maximum of 22.6C, but the month's minimum of a chilly 3.5C at sunrise on the 31st was distinctly autumnal. This August ranks in the bottom half of the Weatherwatch warmth table because of warmer Augusts in more recent years, but the mean monthly temperature was warmer than the 1961-1990 average.

August Weatherwatch Factfile

Temperature.

Park Shield mean monthly maximum : c.19.0C.
Mean monthly minimum : c.10.6C. Monthly mean : c.14.8C. E&NE England monthly mean : 16.1C and 0.5% above the 1991-2020 average. UK maximum : 34.8C at Cambridge Niab (Cambridgeshire) on the 12th. UK minimum : -1.2C at Kinbrace (Sutherland) on the 31st.

Rainfall & sunshine.

Park Shield average rainfall : c.85mm. Rain days : 17. E&NE England rainfall and sunshine 46% & 105% of the 1991-2020 average respectively. UK maximum : 34.8C UK minimum :

Winds.

Predominantly westerly and often breezy. Maximum Park Shield gust : 31 mph on the 9th and 23rd. Butt Bank : 37mph at 04.38 on the 22nd.



Upcoming Concerts



Saturday 12 October from 7pm

A Tribute to the Pioneers of Rock & Roll - Steve Foti & The Wingettes
General Havelock Inn, Haydon Bridge
Tickets £17.50 including food available from the General Havelock Inn
proceeds to St Cuthbert, Haydon Bridge

Saturday 19 October at 2.30pm

A Concert by the Jubilate Choir - St John Lee
Tickets £12 including refreshments
proceeds to St John Lee church hall repair fund

Nature Notes

Hay cut and left to dry in windrows in the field directly below Frankham Fell on the 29th of July was rolled into round bales on the 2nd of August and led away for storage. Such mechanically made bales often stand in stacked rows, whereas in bygone days loose hay, raked in and piled high on horse-drawn hay wagons by farm labourers, was stored in hay lofts or used to build a once familiar, but by now all but forgotten, feature of the countryside; the haystack.

Many cereal fields were harvested during a burst of mid-August activity. A combine harvester was cropping the wheatfield at the southern end of Church Lane on the afternoon of the 17th, while straw was already lying in the field surrounding Red Houses. By the 19th the field opposite Fourstones filling station, the field in front of Frankham Farm and those between Red Houses and the river and opposite South View had been cut, cleared and reduced to stubble. All in short order. Round straw bales were spread out across fields between Homers Lane and the North Tyne on the 27th.

Some days before this some leaves on the Newbrough horse chestnut trees were showing tinges of warm autumn colour and by the end of

the first week of September they displayed stronger oranges and rusty reds. The ground around St. Peter's was strewn with yellowing single-winged seeds of lime trees and a little later fallen crisp brown sycamore leaves were gathering in small piles.

At the same time hedgerow fruits were ripe. Brambles and hanging bunches of elderberries were both a shiny black and dog roses boasted a prolific crop of orange to red hips. Hawthorn hedges carried clusters of blood-red berries, although after last year's bumper crop 2024 has been less than a vintage year for haws. The large holly bush at the north end of Church Lane, well-berried last year, is berryless this year.

A piecemeal harvest continued with square straw bales being trailed over the level crossing at the bottom of the Mossy Bank on September the 5th and on the 13th a combine was at work in the field below Warden Bends. However, the grain harvest was not quite complete as wheat was still standing in the fields behind the former Warden Methodist Chapel and the field east of Sidgate.

Then



Now



Please act responsibly !!

PLEASE take your poo bags home with you or dispose of them in a dog waste bin.

Church Pages

Who's Who

Church of England
Parishes by the Wall (East)

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

Tel: 01434 671649

Methodist

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

Tel: 01434 683732

Roman Catholic

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

Tel: 01434 603119

From the Registers August

There were no Christenings, Weddings or
Funerals during August.

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

Preachers for October

- | | |
|------|--|
| 6th | Local arrangement |
| 13th | Vicky Herod (Reader) |
| 20th | Reverend Michael Holland
Holy Communion |
| 27th | Tom Dodds |

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

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

October Coffee mornings

Friday 11th and Friday 25th
11am - 2pm

Soup and a bun
All are welcome

Messy Vintage

Tuesday 8th October, 2.30pm
Theme : Count your Blessings

Crafts and Afternoon Tea
Everyone welcome

Letter from Fr Paul.....

This week I have just returned from taking part in a retreat on Anglesey, in a small hamlet called Church Bay. Despite strong winds, it was a wonderful week, being refreshed and renewed in God's graces.

It is important, that we take time every so often to allow us to see where God is in our lives and allow him to bestow on us the gifts He wants us to have.

When there was no cloud, it was amazing to watch the sun set into the Irish sea, birds flying above and the gentle lapping of the waves upon the shore reminds us we are part of God's creation.

God's creation is wonderful and it is mind blowing to think He allows us to be part of it. Not only with our senses, but to be an active part in shaping it, caring for it and enjoying its fruits. We are tasked to be good stewards, to nurture and support what God has provided for ourselves and generations yet to come. We can see this locally, in our own fields closer to home, how the farmers manage the land, make it grow, providing us with our daily bread.

Let us thank the Lord for the beauty of his creation, creating us, we too are beautiful, the work of his hands, rejoice and be glad.

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

Parishes By The Wall East - Consultation

A pastoral scheme has been drafted to unite the parishes of Haydon Bridge, St John Lee and Warden with Newbrough as one benefice of Parishes by the Wall East. A copy of the draft scheme is at the back of each church - please take the chance to read this. Any views on the draft scheme must be received by the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee by Friday 18 October.