

The Stanegate

Newbrough, Fourstones, Warden
and surrounding hamlets

THE STANEGATE IS CHANGING

The editors have sadly to announce that the December/January edition will be the last fully printed edition that will be delivered to all homes in the villages, and that from February, The Stanegate will mainly be available through the Newbrough and Fourstones website. A limited number of printed copies will be available for collection from one of eight waterproof boxes located in the area. Details will be provided in the December/January edition.

The editors very much regret this change, but the present financial model for The Stanegate is unsustainable as the income from advertising does not fully cover the cost of printing 500+ copies every month, delivered by 22 volunteers in good and bad weather.

Though there have already been several generous offers of support, which we very much appreciate, the spiralling increase in printing costs means that The Stanegate cannot continue in its present form. In fact, we are now having to seek additional support, as we alluded to a couple of issues ago, so that we can proceed with the printed December/January edition. If any readers feel able to help with this, the details of The Stanegate's bank are given below, and all donations, however small, will be gratefully received.

With great regret and sadness
The Editors.

(Account name: Stanegate Magazine, Sort code: 30-94-19, account number 01021480, held at Lloyds Bank, Hexham).

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Please send material 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 17th November 2023**



Letter to the Editors.....

Dear Sir or Madam

The Wrays of Fourstones

I wish to please request as kindly possible the following be placed in 'The Stanegate' for which I would be most grateful, thank you indeed.

My father's forebears were Fourstones folk, and in the interest of my family history I wish to please request the kind and much appreciated assistance of any readers with information and/or the possible sources thereof to advantage my current knowledge.

Great grandfather Joseph Wray was born in Fourstones in 1842, and with his brother James came to South Shields for work at Harton Colliery c1865, he died in 1920. I know that a family relation of his a Joseph D. Wray was a skilled soprano cornet player with Newbrough Band 1890s, another a George Wray was a prominent member of the Newbrough and Fourstones Bicycle Club same period, another held a high appointment with the Hexham 'Courant' newspaper.

They were mainly agricultural workers, or were employed in the local quarries or the Fourstones drift mine. It was our pleasure to be well acquainted with the late Mrs Jean Wray (who was apparently the last of the local family) of Main Road, Fourstones and also Tommy Nicholl, the well remembered 'Mr Fixit', former engineer at Settlingstones Mine.

Any memories, information and copied memorabilia to assist my family history would be much welcomed and greatly appreciated, which also includes the Newbrough Band, thank you so much.

Yours sincerely,

Robert F. Wray,
6, Windsor Drive, Cleadon, Sunderland, SR6 7SY,
<bobandlindawray@hotmail.co.uk>

Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1st | Start of Warm Wednesdays, 11am—3pm, Town Hall |
| 1st | Warden PC, Town Hall 7pm |
| 4th | Ceilidh at the Town Hall, 7pm |
| 5th | Bonfire Night |
| 6th | School opens after Half term holiday |
| 6th | Newbrough PC, Town Hall,, 7pm |
| 9th | WI monthly meeting Town Hall, 7pm |
| 12th | Remembrance Service Town Hall, 10.30am |
| 14th | Messy Vintage, 2.30pm Venue : Town Hall |
| 14th | Town Hall AGM 6.30pm - 7.15pm |
| 16th | Quiz at the Town Hall 7.30pm for 8pm |
| 17th | Methodist Chapel Coffee morning for Children in Need 10am - 2pm Venue : Town Hall |
| 19th | St Peter's Churchyard Tidy, 11 ish |



The Stanegate editorial team welcomes your letters.
Please write to us with news and views from the community.

The Stanegate, 8 Broadacres
Fourstones, Hexham, NE47 5LW

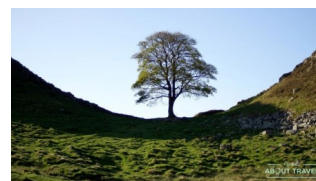
or

email the editorial team at:
thestanegate@hotmail.com

Sycamore Gap

RIP

a friend of so many from
across the globe.
Your loss is our loss.





Town Hall News

Warm Wednesdays Return

Warm Wednesday, the weekly Town Hall warm space initiative returns this month! It was hugely successful last year with up to 30 people a week coming along for warm company, a bowl of delicious soup, homemade warm bread, tea, coffee and the occasional cake.

It is run by a handful of dedicated volunteers and we can always do with a bit of extra help! So if you fancy occasionally volunteering, roles include helping out on the day (11-3) serving, clearing away, washing up or even just meeting and greeting our 'customers'.

In addition, we could do with people who wouldn't mind preparing the occasional large pan of soup - ingredients paid for by the Town Hall.

If you fancy joining in the fun, and it is fun, contact Nick on 07533 356443 or nick.springham@btinternet.com.



Ceilidh
The Hedgehog's Skin
 DAVID OLIVER'S BAND AND CALLER
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Sat 4th November 7pm
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Tickets £12 Inc supper
Available on Ticket source or Fourstones garage

Please email secretarynewbroughtownhall@gmail.com with any dietary requirements

Annual General Meeting
 Tuesday 14th November

6.30pm - 7.15pm

Newbrough Town Hall

Please come along and hear what we've been up to, maybe even volunteer to join the Committee.

Emergency Generator

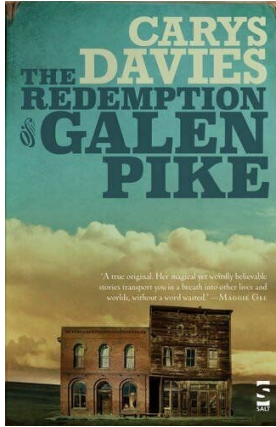
It is hoped to install the generator, funded by Northern Powergrid, in December 2023

Town Hall Bookings

If you wish to book the Town Hall please email:

secretarynewbroughtownhall@gmail.com

The Redemption of Galen Pike by Carys Davies



This is a slim book of seventeen short stories and is one hundred and thirty pages long, but it packs a mighty punch.

For the most part the stories are unexpected and compelling. Initially when I finished one, I began the next, and on reflection this is not the way to read this book.

The stories are restrained and precise and are generally set in familiar situations, from a wedding in church to a jail in the Wild West and on to an inn in Siberia. We are introduced to a fantastic range of believable characters living their lives in familiar situations with sometimes unexpected and extreme results. Even if we think we know where the story is going the reader can collide with an unexpected twist at the end, as in the story called Sibyl.

The author's characters grapple with their situations and relationships and for the reader the solutions can be dark and shocking, as in The Quiet. This story is full of sadness and disappointment for Susan, the young wife, and her neighbour Henry Fowler. Henry seems to have recognised Susan's marital problem and comes to offer sympathy.together they find a solution.

These stories which are written so delicately and confidently are about people colliding with their world. They are precise accounts of incidents in their lives, full of emotion, and at times a bit odd and dark but always leaves the reader wanting more, tho' one can be left feeling uncomfortable as in Myth.

The most memorable story for me was Creed, because I followed the description of Ruth's relationship with her family and the reasons why she and Creed were the only people left in the valley. I was with her during her walk up the tracks to Creed's cottage, but I never guessed the reason for her visit. The very last paragraph left me stunned and absolutely mesmerised.

A story which seems very familiar is The Travellers. Here we have a husband and wife having a row over driving instructions. The situation is taken to extremes. Siberia is the setting for this story and what happens takes place inside a cabin in the woods. I could feel the warmth of the fire and see the inside of the cabin whilst the poor stubborn woman remained outside on the sledge and froze to death. What imagination!

Carys Davies is regarded as a shining light amongst her peers and I am so pleased to have been introduced to her.

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As I write, we are drawing towards the end of the first half term of this academic year and there is much to celebrate and plenty of fantastic memories already from this school year.

We have been awarded our 'Music mark' for the second year running in recognition of the work we have done to promote musical learning in school. All of our children in Years 3 - 6 are taking part in 'Musical Theatre' sessions this year, along with individual music lessons available in guitar and piano to our pupils and, of course, the core teaching and learning in music.

Our PE curriculum has been enriched by a visit from a mobile climbing wall and all of the girls in Key Stage 2 took part in a football festival at Ovingham Middle School. Aside from these 'extras', the core learning has also carried on and there are some fantastic, creative examples shared with you below.

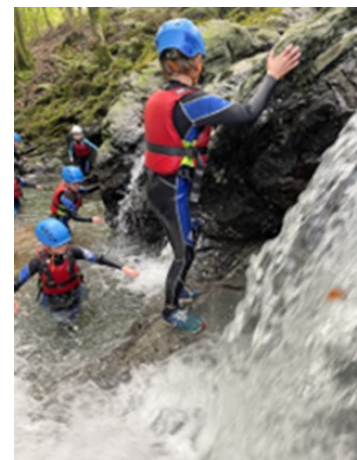
Our Year 5 and 6 children have been on a residential outing to the Lake District which was brilliant fun and we were all, including the staff, sorry to have to leave. They have also been on a visit to the Baltic as part of their art work looking at 'Landmarks'.

Our Year 1 and 2 children have been studying 'Castles' in history this half term, and have visited Prudhoe Castle as part of this work.

We've been awarded a second fruit tree and a bench for the school playground by the recycling company to celebrate the fantastic amount of clothes which have been recycled. All of you who have supported our clothes bank have helped contribute to this, as well as raising funds for school, so thank you!

So, it's been a busy and productive half term with some great learning and many opportunities for all. I hope you enjoy the selection of images below!

Jo Trotter
Head teacher



WI celebrate in Style

Our October meeting was a celebration of 100 years of WI in Newbrough. Members from other WIs from the area joined us and some of the Board from the Federation.

President Judith Kirby welcomed everyone and the meeting started with a poem, composed and read by Lucy Fisher, and next an entertaining music session from the Hex Pistols. Then a delicious chicken supper was very much enjoyed, provided by Andy at the Red Lion. Thank you Andy. Members made some mouth watering sweets which followed the main course.

It was then time to have a toast to the WI and Cut the Birthday cake, made by Judith and iced by Vicki Hogg. Thank you both. The picture shows Federation Chairman, Marjorie Read with our most senior and longstanding member Doreen Dodd cutting the cake. There followed another fine entertainment by the Hex Pistols.



The picture below is of Judith with members of the federation board.



Thanks also to Vicki Curry who did a sterling job manning the bar and helping during the evening. It was a super evening enjoyed by all who attended.

The next meeting is on November 9th when Pat and Val Johnston will present a selection of their photographs with stories, music and poetry. Hostesses are Carol Ellis and Dorothy Sowerby and the competition is for the colour grey.

New members are welcome.

200 Club

OCTOBER

1st	Sheila Burrows	184
2nd	Jackie Wood	85
3rd	Eric Phipps	23

Bonus Ball Draw

SEPTEMBER

9th	Riley Smith	56
16th	Susan Sutton	50
23rd	G B Shaw	13
30th	John Taylor	52

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Yet more Charltons, the Australian connection

a follow up to the earlier articles by David Penn and Rob Tindall

Before I get to the “Australian connection”, there are a few comments/additions I would like to make re the earlier, excellent articles, by David & Rob.

There is mention of the wills of George Charlton (1794-1869) and his wife Margaret, I have a copy of George’s will, which, to me, seems rather complex, although, probably not to a solicitor. He does indeed leave everything to his wife Margaret, money, house, the lot, to be used by her during her lifetime, and, at her demise, to be equally divided between his family. Sounds a little like a modern will, whereby things are left in trust?.....Now this is where it gets a little complex. The will was made in 1868, the year before his death, and, it revoked and earlier will made in 1864. I think it was changed because, nine years after Williams death, his father, George, clearly had no idea what had happened to him, and probably still didn’t when he died, the will seems to have been changed to favour William, should he turn up. George stated that all (7) of his children were to receive £100 each, but William, should he be living, to have £500 added to his share. If insufficient funds were available, they were to be increased by his son John (Eldest male). If William was still missing, or proof of his death received, the leasehold premises, were to go the John, and then sold after John’s death.

I have no idea what the laws regarding this were at the time, however, his will seems to stretch for a long time after his death...If there any solicitors among the readers, I’d happily send a copy for simplification (Although, I don’t want a bill ha ha).

A few things about George Charlton (1823-1902), mine and Tommy Charlton’s Great grandfather, (along with many others). I think George had been a “bit of a lad”, I can add a bit about his marriages, in the 1851 census, living with his parents, and no sign of a wife, the census does state that he was indeed married. However, I’ve been unable to find any record of a marriage for George, prior to that of Sarah Pearson. It could of course be a mistake on the part of the enumerator, or, on the other hand, he was 28 years old at that time, and, could well have been married, and, why on earth would they go to Gretna Green to get married? They were, after all, both in their thirties. I suspect we’ll never know.

In the same year that Sarah died (1863) he married Elizabeth Mary Noble, with whom he had most of his children, including mine and Tommy’s grandfathers. His final marriage, to Elizabeth Harris George, took place in Mayfair, in London in 1884. She was a domestic servant (cook) at High Warden (see 1881 census), so he clearly met her locally, so, why did they marry in Mayfair? Perhaps it something to do with her, or maybe her parents, again, I suspect we’ll never know. In any event, at a time when most people didn’t move very far, George did get about. Apparently, George was known as “Gaffer”, he was reputedly responsible for the building of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, opposite the school (1876). Unfortunately, I have no evidence to support this. I did contact the archivist for the Hexham and district Methodist movement, however, she was unable to find evidence either way. It was said to be the case by Thomas Noble Charlton (1906-2003), Tommy Charlton’s uncle, and not disputed by Billy Nichol. Although neither of these two were around when it was built, they would certainly know and speak to people who were. Perhaps he was influenced by George Allis, shoemaker and local Methodist preacher, who worked for George and lived with the family. (See 1871 census).

Right, let us now get down to the Australian connection. I think I knew there was an “Australian connection” from an early age. I lived at Crossgate House until I was seven years old, well, it was split into two houses by then and we lived in half of it. I do remember, just after the war (I didn’t even know there was a war then), that a very large parcel arrived from Australia, which was full of tins of fruit, and even tins of bacon...funny thing is, I can never remember getting my share!! I was also told, when I was a bit older, that “Two Australian Sgt. Pilots visited Crossgate during the war”. I later found out, when I had retired and started doing research, that one of the visitors was Fred Charlton, (Frederick Lance Charlton 1922-1995) Grandson of Robert Charlton, and that he was in the RAAF, stationed in the UK during WW2, and flew Typhoons and Spitfires.

continued.....

Now to the Charltons, who left Newbrough to go to Australia and New Zealand. When I started doing research, I had no idea whether or not these people had gone on their own volition, or were "Shackle draggers" and had been transported. I was quite pleased to find they went on their own accord. The four children of George and Margaret Charlton that emigrated to Australia, were, John Charlton (1818 - 1876) together with his younger brother, Robert Charlton (1833 - 1878), Robert was only 21 at that time and unmarried, John had married the year before, but his wife does not appear to have travelled with him. They travelled on the ship Mermaid, from Liverpool and arrived in Melbourne in July 1854.

Their sisters Elizabeth (1827 - 1873) and Margaret (1833 - 1895), married to the brothers John and James Holmes, both Shipwrights from Sunderland. I suspect they probably met through their elder sister Mary, who was married to a Thomas Thursfield, who was from Sunderland, and that is where they lived.

I have, as yet, been unable to find out when, and on what ship, Elizabeth and Margaret, and their families travelled. I'm assuming that they all travelled together, but, of course, I don't really know. Elizabeth and John were married in Newcastle in 1850, and had two children in England, before they left for Australia, Margaret and James were married in Monkwearmouth in May 1854, their 1st child was born in Melbourne on 12th February 1855. Unfortunately, it only lived a few days. This does however tell us, that they must have set sail, somewhere around mid 1854, which, of course, was when John and Robert went.

Let's begin with John Charlton, the eldest. I don't seem to know a lot about John. His wife, Elizabeth, joined him at some point, after his arrival in Australia in 1854, they had no children, and John died in 1876, the cause of death, given on his death certificate was "Alcoholism". His occupation was that of "Quartz miner", which was extracted to obtain gold. John is buried in White Hills Cemetery, Bendigo, Australia. His wife Elizabeth returned to England after John's death, and lived at Woodbine House, with her sister and her sister's husband. She died in 1886, and is buried in the Churchyard at St. Peters.

I seem to know a lot more about Robert, the youngest "Newbrough" Charlton to go to Australia. We know that he went to Australia, with his brother John in 1854, and, in the 1861 UK census, he was back in England, (Crossgate House) and was recorded as a "Shoemaker (On a visit)". Clearly he returned to Oz, when, I don't know, perhaps this was when he took with him, Mary Ann Irwin (from the Plenmeller area), whom he was to later marry, after they had had seven children!!

Robert was co-owner of the "Frederick the Great" gold mine, in Bendigo, Australia. He was in fact, a very wealthy man. It is widely believed in Australia, that Mary Ann was a married woman, and that she was unable to marry Robert until after her husband's death. There are stories about someone coming across from England, and of bullet holes in the ceiling of the house where they lived. Robert married Mary Ann in 1878, returned to England, had the inscriptions made on the back of the gravestone (picture in part one), on the edge of the stone can be seen his initials RC and the date 1878. The writing below that was done by someone else. He returned to Australia, and died on the 31st of December, in the same year. All in all, a very eventful year for Robert, he apparently arrived back from England, shut himself away in a room, had a servant look to his needs, and drank himself to death. No one seems to know why, whether he had found something out whilst in England, or, on his return, no one really knows.

Elizabeth and Margaret, together with their respective husbands, John and James Holmes, as I said earlier, went to Australia in 1854, however, sometime in 1856, they all went to Auckland, New Zealand, where they set up a boat building business, which, they ran, along with a ferry business, successfully for many years. Elizabeth died in 1873, at the young age of 46 years, they had five children, three of whom survived to adulthood. Margaret died in 1895 at the age of 65 years, she had four children, one of whom died in infancy.

Now then, here's a thought....If their brother George had gone with them to Australia, me and Tommy Charlton would have been Australians, and perhaps, wouldn't have minded that they ran Jonny Bairstow out!!

Michael Charlton

Green Notes

Going backwards but looking forwards: November's climate policy dilemmas!

Malcolm Newson (on behalf of Climate Action Newbrough-Fourstones)

It's worth explaining why so many climate scientists, including the Government's own advisors, are perplexed about the PM's resolve to delay vehicle, home heating and other 'Net Zero' reforms – their criticism is *not political!* You need to appreciate how natural processes work to see why delay is dangerous. Our political system thinks short-term; Nature acts long-term, it has 'memory' and stores up unexpected calamities. A gram of carbon I release today will get stored in the atmosphere or ocean (or hopefully restored peat or a new woodland) but can always be released. It's our lack of this insight into natural processes which sees one species threatened by extinction every 10 minutes.


Is it more optimistic to look forwards – to the COP28 world conference in Dubai (30th November – 12th December)? Looking at the agenda, 'climate finance' seems the thorniest problem, especially the compensation of vulnerable nations for their loss – by the nations who gain from pollution. But there is also the finance we need for *adaptation* to the climate impacts already here. Governments have dragged their feet on another Paris (2015) pledge, a Global Goal for Adaptation. There will also be a lot of heated debate about a 'just transition' to a less threatening planet: sharing the burden of profound change across the huge diversity of abilities to cope. Sadly, justice seems to have been an unstated motive behind our government's roll back on the urgency of Net Zero.

Let's stress again: natural processes don't favour such timidity and economic analyses show that justice comes as the benefits gradually overtake the costs.

Maybe bringing the Dubai issues even closer to home: Cop27 agreed the need for a global system of food security, but it focused only on agriculture, not the *food system* (nutrition, marketing, waste etc.). Another food issue – its carbon footprint – will also be debated, following the release of the UN's road map to reduce emissions from the *food system*.

Environmentalists are sceptical that COP28's President, CEO of the National Oil Company, cannot be impartial about the critical energy arguments. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C (the Paris 2015 target) has already failed, with 2023 showing many days in excess of that. So 'looking forwards' this November will be nervous for climate scientists as they see their knowledge of natural processes confronted by less informed political interests.

As Professor Piers Forster, Gov UK's lead climate adviser, has put it (following the Net Zero roll back), 'Our position as a global leader on climate has come under renewed scrutiny following the Prime Minister's speech. We urge the Government to restate strong British leadership on climate change in the crucial period before the next climate summit, COP28 in Dubai.'



Town Hall Christmas Fair : Saturday 2nd December 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Santa will arrive from 2pm and there will be the Christmas raffle
(all raffle prize donations are welcomed)

Entry : Children, free
Adults, £2 including mulled wine and a mince pie

For table bookings, email : secretarynewbroughtownhall@gmail.com

Cost : £7 for a small table, £10 for a large table

September Weatherwatch



Early September warmth compensated for the underwhelming July and August weather to a telling degree by offering up the most notable spell of warmth since June. The 1st was grey and gloomy, but the following nine consecutive days resembled those of high summer. After warm daily maximums of 21.9C and 22.2C on the sunny 2nd and 3rd respectively, temperatures rose to greater heights. Thick early mist cleared on the 4th to bring a daily maximum of 25.7C and a higher 26.1C on the 6th; both above the July and August maximums. The morning of the 8th was one of dense fog, but in an afternoon of hazy sunshine the temperature climbed to a baking 29.9C just after six o'clock. As well as being the Park Shield September maximum it was the highest September maximum for at least thirty-five years. And to complete a Weatherwatch triple the 8th was hottest day of the year.¹ Warmth lingered on to make the overnight minimum of 16.2C warmer than any night over the summer months.

The 9th was cloudy for the most part, but nevertheless managed to produce a creditable daily maximum of 24.0C, while after another early-September morning fog the 10th recorded a fraction less after twelve o'clock. Loud peals of thunder towards two o'clock signalled the end of the hot spell and it rumbled on for around half an hour while the month's first rain of any note began falling. It fell, heavily at times, through the afternoon and into the evening, dying out after the last rolls of thunder tailed off in the distance. The day's total of 16.6mm, almost all of which fell in a six hour period, made it the wettest day of the month. But much heavier rainfall to the east in South Shields flooded the Metro station, temporarily stranding thousands of entrants who had taken part in the Great North Run.

In the relatively cool conditions subsequent to the hot spell the monthly minimum of 3.8C early on the 13th was not unusual, nor was the month's lowest daily maximum of 12.2C on the 15th, when over twelve millimetres of rain fell. What was unusual, however, was that the mean maximum tempera-

ture for the first half September was a remarkably warm 21.3C. With temperatures a little above average in the latter half of the month this contributed greatly to making September the second warmest on Park Shield record, behind the September of 2006 and a whisker ahead of the September of 2021. In the UK as a whole it was the equal-warmest September with 2006 in a series from 1884.

In the second half of September the weather became unsettled and rain was more frequent, but although the first named storm of the new season, Storm Agnes, brought high winds and heavy rains to some parts of the country late on the 27th and into the 28th, it had no noticeable impact here. Late showers on the 30th contributed to a slightly below average Park Shield total rainfall of 61.4mm, whereas the region's rainfall was some way above the average.

September Weatherwatch Factfile

Temperature. Park Shield mean monthly maximum : c.18.6C. Mean monthly minimum : c.10.1C. Monthly mean : c.14.4C. E&NE England monthly mean : 15.7C and 2.5C above the 1991-2020 average. UK maximum : 33.5C (92.3F) at Faversham (Kent) on the 10th. UK minimum : -3.5C at Kinbrace (Sutherland) on the 13th.¹ September the 7th was the hottest day of 2021 at Park Shield (28.4C). *Note.* In England September has only recorded the year's hottest day four times : 2016, 1954, 1949 and 1919.

Rainfall and sunshine. Park Shield average rainfall : c.70mm. Rain days : 17. One hour maximum : 4.4 mm to 18.00 on the 10th. E&NE England rainfall and sunshine : 122% & 110% of the 1991-2020 average respectively.

Winds. Light and variable up to the 18th and then westerly and breezier. Park Shield maximum gust : 30mph on the 29th.

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Nature Notes

*I never liked the stubble-fields so much as now - Aye better than the chilly green of the spring.
Somehow, a stubble plain looks warm-in the same way some pictures look warm.¹*

In the past cornfields were ploughed in autumn or left in stubble, leaving a mellow brown earth and straw yellow patchwork over the winter. Nowadays crops are largely re-sown shortly after harvest and soon sprout, so that many surrounding fields this autumn were already becoming a chilly spring green by mid-October. Then, the worn green foliage of trees was assuming an increasing autumnal look. Beech leaves were tinged with warm tones, those on the lime trees by St. Peter's Church were a pale yellow-green, while plane trees sported patches of eye-catching yellow. After a strong show of warm autumn hues the Newbrough horse chestnuts had already shed many leaves, leaving bare branches and remaining rusty edged leaves drained of colour.



Previously, on the 26th of September, the striking purple-blue flowers of a couple of dozen or more autumn crocuses (*Crocus nudiflorus*) were scattered in dead grass beside the riverside path below Allerwash Mill.

Introduced from their native southwest France and Spain into English gardens in Tudor times, they became naturalised.

A 2022 Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland County Report for South Northumberland, concerned with listing rare or under recorded plants, recorded: 'A surprising find of over a hundred flowers on a field bank. Second county record.' for *Crocus nudiflorus*. From the large number this is unlikely to refer to the above-mentioned colony, but a BSBI distribution map does show it recorded in the vicinity, so it seems that something of a floral rarity is to be found beside a well-trodden local path.

Footnote.

A hand-written notice pinned to the front of the kissing gate at the south end of the Allerwash Mill Plantation on the 10th of September read : 'Please keep dogs out of flattened nettles and brambles. Weedkiller/herbicide in use. WARNING'; part of an ongoing schedule of maintenance for the infant broadleaf wood.

Acknowledgement. Thanks to Mary Wilson for her report and photo of autumn crocus and the Allerwash Mill Plantation sign photo.

¹ John Keats : September 1819. He wrote this in a letter to a friend after a countryside walk that inspired his famous ode : 'To Autumn.'

* * * * *

Featherwatch

The gathering swallows twitter in the skies. (Keats :Ode to Autumn)

At one time at an annual get-together in early August the district's swallows perched on the electricity line that loops its way from pole to pole up the field from Park Shield to Gate Cottage. Gatherings varied in size from a few dozen to hundreds, with upwards of a thousand congregating in 2009. Since then assemblies have been much smaller; this August bringing a modest one of around forty individuals.

However, migration follows later, in September, with most swallows slipping away by its mid-point. But this year's late-summer warmth clearly provided a good supply of food on the wing as a number lingered on into the latter part of the month before following the instinct to fly south. Among later leavers were one at Park Shield on the 22nd, another over Warden dew pond on the 23rd, three at West Boat, plus a couple over Kiln Cottages, on the 25th and a single one above East Fourstones on the 26th. The last known, and unusually late, sighting was one of three swallows swooping low over the rooftops of the Stanegate Cottages and Charlton Place and then flying high over the field at Butt Bank in the mid-afternoon of October the 2nd.

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Recipes from an Orchard Kitchen

Iain Bennett

Welcome to the November Stanegate. Here are a couple of recipes that may help you prepare for the oncoming Christmas season. The first is a recipe from Signe Johansen's book, "Scandilicious Baking".

Recently I have been getting interested in Scandinavian baking, probably as a result of all the "Scandi" programmes on the TV like "Annika" and "Ragnarok". Much of the bakery uses rye and spelt flours. Rye was discovered by the Germans in the 12th century when a wheat crop failed. It is a very hardy crop which grows better in cold wet soils and can withstand snow better than wheat. Rye flour can be very coarse and is a good way to provide fibre in the diet. When made into a dough it contains no gluten and is thus very hard to work with. A rye dough is mixed and poured into the tin, more like a cake mix than kneaded dough. Because of its high fibre content, it can have unfortunate effects on the digestion and *pumpernickel* actually translates as "devils fart"!

Spelt is one of the three ancient pre-cursors of modern wheat along with emmer and einkorn. It was cultivated in the Middle East around 9,000 years ago and has remained unchanged since then. It has a nutty flavour and more protein than equivalent modern wheats. The extra protein means that it will produce a stronger dough capable of taking up more water. In addition, spelt gluten is different from regular bread flours. Its gluten is more brittle and soluble which makes it suitable for people who

suffer from irritable bowel syndrome. The reason that spelt fell from favour was the modern threshing machine, it is too tough to easily separate the grain from the chaff. However, it does grow in poor soils so it is still a mainstay of Scandinavian bakery. To make things easier for you I have converted the recipe for advent bread into ordinary white and wholemeal bread flour, the original recipe uses white spelt and wholemeal spelt flour. The original recipe uses quite a mix of dried fruits, apricots, cranberries, figs, sour cherries, prunes, dates and raisins. To simplify it I have used the mixed dried fruit you can obtain from any supermarket, but feel free to experiment, likewise use any drink that you prefer to soak it in.

Another common aspect of Scandinavian bakery is the use of spices and herbs, in this case it is cardamom. The Vikings brought it back from the Middle East where it had been grown for at least 4,000 years. Green cardamom is the second most valuable spice in the world, luckily it has such a strong flavour that not much of it is needed! The Scandinavians tend to use it in cakes, pastries and in drinks such as coffee and *glogg* – a mulled wine like drink.

The second recipe makes a fun dessert that combines chocolate and mincemeat. It comes from a restaurant that closed suddenly. Bill Oldfield had restaurants in Durham, on the side in Newcastle and in Jesmond. The Durham one was the first to close, followed by Newcastle and then Jesmond. The Christmas Pudding Cake is one of their recipes.

Scandinavian Advent Bread Pre-Ferment

Milk	200ml
Wholemeal Bread Flour	125g
Caster Sugar	35g
Fresh Yeast	20g or 2 sachets of fast acting dried yeast

Main Ingredients

Butter	75g, diced and softened.
Strong White Bread Flour	300g
Ground Cardamom	1 tsp
Salt	½ tsp
Egg	1, medium
Mixed Dried Fruit	150g
Rum/Brandy/Sherry/Port	50ml
Icing Sugar	150g



Soak the fruit in your alcoholic drink of choice, cover and leave overnight.
 For the pre-ferment, warm the milk to body temperature (38°C) and whisk with the wholemeal bread flour, sugar and yeast. Cover and leave somewhere warm for ½ hour. After ½ hour, drain the fruit and add all the ingredients, including the pre-ferment, into the bowl of your mixer.
 Attach a dough hook and mix on slow speed until all the ingredients have been thoroughly mixed. Turn up the speed and leave to mix for 5 to 10 minutes or until most of the dough is coming away from the sides of the bowl into a silky ball.
 Put the dough in a greased bowl and cover with either a clean shower cap, floured tea towel or cling film. Place the dough somewhere warm and leave to prove for 1 hour.
 Knock back the dough and shape into a round loaf. Place the dough on a lined baking tray and cover with a floured tea towel or oiled cling film and leave in a warm place for a further hour.
 After thirty minutes start to pre-heat the oven to 180°C/Fan/Gas 6. When the final proof is complete place the bread in the oven and bake for 50-55 minutes until the bread sounds hollow when tapped. Place on a wire to cool.
 When the bread is cool mix the icing sugar with enough water to give a paste suitable for piping and pipe the icing all over the bread.

Christmas Pudding Cake

- Dark Chocolate 85g
- Butter 100g, cubed.
- Caster Sugar 300g
- Plain flour 85g
- Cocoa Powder 85g
- Mincemeat 100g
- Eggs 5, medium
- Icing Sugar 50g
- Butter for greasing ramekins/muffin tray



Heat the oven to 160°C/gas 3 and grease 8 ramekins/muffin tray sections with butter.
 Break up the chocolate into a heatproof bowl and melt it over a pan of boiling water. When the chocolate has melted stir in the butter until that has melted and is completely mixed. Place the bowl to one side to cool slightly.
 Beat the eggs with caster sugar and fold in the flour and the cocoa. Fold in the chocolate and butter and then the mincemeat.
 Spoon the mix into the prepared ramekins/muffin tray and bake in the oven for 25 minutes or until firm. Turn the cakes out onto a wire to cool. Mix a little water with the icing sugar to form a paste and drizzle it over the top of the cakes.
 Decorate with berries and leaves. I used cranberries and mint leaves.
 Serve with cream, ice cream or custard.

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.



Go North East bus strike

Taken from the Go North East website:
 As from Saturday 28th October, no Go North East buses will run, with the exception of school services.
 There is currently no end date to this strike action.

Running 100 miles

Peter Harrison

Pilgrims Ultra - A 100 mile self navigated race following St Oswald's Way, Holy Island to Heaven Fields, Chollerford, Saturday/Sunday 9/10 September

Running a 100-mile race begins long before the start. In the last 12 months I've ran over 270 hours, 2500km and ascended over 42000metres. The simplicity of running is easy, balancing work, family and training is hard. In such a beautiful area finding routes to run is easy. I've seen the length of the Wall, crossed the Moor to Alston and Blanchland, Staward Gorge and Allen Banks and followed the Pennine Way to Bellingham. Preparation included recceing the route. This was crucial as from Felton onwards it would be dark, so I would get up early to drive to a point on the course to run a section.

I'd never run more than a marathon before and didn't know anyone who had run 100 miles. I learnt pacing and nutrition from podcasts, slowing down and reducing my heart rate. This feels wrong; with time your pace picks up and you're able to run long distances without fatiguing yourself. For my age (49) my heart rate needed to be below 130bpm. Next what foods and drinks work on the move. Then sort clothing, shoes, and everything else needed. The golden rule is practice everything.

The coach left at 5am to take us to Holy Island. Forecast for the day was temperatures in the high 20s. I had water, recovery drink and gel and flapjack to eat at regular half-hour intervals. I'd had a pint of electrolytes drink the night before and another with my breakfast. My plan was to enjoy it and get to the finish. I had worked on 8Kph (5mph) pace which would be 20 hours plus times at aid stations, climbing stiles, opening gates, etc.

At 8am we set off crossing the causeway I chatted to other runners. The race was broken down into 3 races, 50km, 100km, and 100 miles. Most were doing the 50km race, roughly 100 entrants. Ten signed up for the 100km and 40 for the 100-mile race.

On the mainland we followed the shoreline then across fields. The route takes you to Belford, around Bamburgh, Seahouses, Beadnell, Dunstanburgh Castle to Craster where the 50km race ends. I recharged kit and body and rested a while. Back along the coastline then as I was coming towards Boulmer I felt a twinge in my right hamstring, I took salt tablets and carried on.

From there it was Alnmouth Bay, through Alnmouth back onto the coast and sand dunes. Just before Warkworth I caught up with another runner, we ran together into Warkworth. At Warkworth I stopped for tea, and time out of the heat. Onto Felton from here it was farm tracks and fields. I was running well again and making good time. So far nutrition had been going well but suddenly I couldn't eat my flapjack; I kept trying bites but threw it away. Head torch on and with encouragement from some support crews pushed on into the night. Eating small amounts, I headed into the woods for the next few kms. This is where the time I'd spent on the course paid off as you're heading across fields with no obvious path, difficult gates or stiles. Onto Walden Bridge and another water station where my dad met me. Now following the Coquet to Rothbury and the finish of the 100km race, but not before difficult navigation where I couldn't find a bridge. Saving time I went through the stream to locate the farmhouse I needed to pass. Another hour later, several fields and a stretch along the old rail line I reached Rothbury.

Another rest and change, waterproofs and warm tops packed for the next 60km. A bowl of chilli con carne with rice and back out into the dark for the most challenging part. Leaving Rothbury, it's uphill to the first big climb over Simonside hills. I saw head torches ahead and by the top of the second hill I'd caught up with David and Tom. Tom was keeping his friend company over this section, we ran together crossing peat bogs and moors, navigating dense pine forest and onto Harwood Forest. Here we met Charley who was having stomach issues. He stayed with us for a while but once back into the fields he fell behind. The final station of the course is at Kirkwhelpington. David, Charley and I set off, Charley having joined us at the feed station. Another section of crossing fields, climbing stiles and tackling various gate closures. Charley was still having stomach issues and he dropped off to a slower pace. One of the landowners had asked us to avoid his fields in case the livestock was spooked by head torches. This meant a detour on roads from Great Bavington to Little Bavington adding long sections of tarmac.

continued.....

David found the pounding of the tarmac was affecting his feet, I couldn't leave him. Paracetamols and slower pace we had the 5 miles of tarmac behind us.

The sun was starting to rise and we were greeted to a foggy morning. Curious young bulls surrounded us before we made it to Great Whittington where again my dad was waiting with tea. We finally made it to Halton Shield and Hadrian's Wall. On the home strait with the sun burning off the mist we were met with stunning views over the Tyne valley. As we came out of the woods near the sign for Acomb

my friend Gary met us playing 'Eye of the tiger' by Survivor, a lovely surprise. We were soon onto Heavenfields the end of St Oswald's way, now to Chollerford and the finish.

The steep descent did not seem ideal, here David's feet really weren't up for the challenge. He eased his way down the hill as I took off for Chollerford bridge where my wife, 6-year-old daughter, parents and Gary were waiting. Having spent the best part

of 50km together it seemed right that David and I cross the bridge together, so I waited. David let me go ahead to take first male over the line in a time of 24 hours and 50 minutes.

On reflection would I change anything? No. I could have left David and finished in under 24 hours but that was never my goal. I'd set out to see if I could do it, to enjoy it and make the most of the experience. Of the 40 people who stood on the start line 15 completed the course giving testament to the challenge. The last runner finished at 34 hours and 34 minutes.

Will I run another hundred-mile race?

Yes, it's been an amazing adventure.

The full account of Peter's 100 mile race is available on the village website : www.fourstonesandnewbrough.co.uk



Just Passing Through

On the 28th of September a cormorant flew over Watersmeet heading purposefully eastwards. On the same day, a grey heron with its distinctive dagger-like bill, long trailing legs and rather laboured wing beats, headed slowly north over The Front in Fourstones. On October the 1st a small skein of around twenty honking Canada geese plied their way westwards over Carr Edge Plantation, the northern half of which was clear felled in the autumn of 2020.

Those who turned out on a rather chilly afternoon on Saturday the 14th October, were rewarded with the fine sight of the Newcastle bound Flying Scotsman steaming through the parishes in bright autumn sunshine as part of its centenary celebrations.



After leaving their starting point at Housesteads on Sunday the 15th of October entrants to the third Hadrian's Wall — Hexham Half Marathon walk or run race followed the trail path east for about six miles before turning south to head down the public path to Newbrough. From there they made their way through Crow Wood and onto the riverside path that leads from Allerwash Mill to Fourstones Paper Mill.

Passing through West Boat after crossing Warden Bridge, runners and walkers enjoyed a less demanding flat route to Tyne Green where finishers received a wooden medal, a tee-shirt, a snack and a drink to reward them for their efforts.

Results. Run finishers : 545. Winner Michael Stott. 01:22:55.
Walk finishers : 30. Winner : Ray Flanagan. 02:36:15

Church Pages

Who's Who

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Assisted by Fr Paul Kilduff
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St John of Beverley, Haydon Bridge

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From the Registers

October

Christenings:

*In baptism you have been raised with Christ
through your faith in the power of God.*

On Sunday 1st October at St Michael and All
Angels, Warden :

Alice Elizabeth Benson of Corner Cottage,
The Chesters, Humshaugh

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

NB: There is no heating in the Chapel

**The venue for all services is also noted
on the Chapel Door**

Preachers for November

5th Tom Dodds, 10.15 am—11.30am
In the small meeting room, Town Hall

12th Service of Remembrance
taken by Reverend Michael Holland
10.30am, Town Hall

19th local arrangement
10.15 am—11.30am
Small meeting room in the Town Hall

26th Reverend Michael Holland
Holy Communion, 10.30am
Venue to be confirmed

All are welcome

Warden and Newbrough Parish churches are looking for a volunteer treasurer

The role involves the usual activities undertaken by a treasurer.

- Recording income and expenditure using a dedicated software package.
- Paying bills
- reconciling bank accounts
- providing the Church Council with a monthly report.
- attending Church Council meetings (currently 6 a year)
- preparing the end-of-year accounts in January each year (the Church financial year runs from January to December)
- working with our Independent Examiner to verify the accounts
- preparing the accounts to be included in our Annual Report.
- submitting Gift Aid claims to HMRC (again using dedicated software)

This role does not require formal accounting training. An understanding of how "club" accounts work would be advantageous, as would knowing how to read and present account balance sheets. We expect that the role would require about eight hours of activity per month. There would be no commitment to attending church services, however, an understanding of and sympathy for the church and its aims would be necessary. This role might suit someone who is newly retired and is looking for an opportunity to volunteer.

Our previous treasurers are on hand to discuss this role should you be interested in finding out more. The Diocese of Newcastle has a dedicated team of advisors and mentors who are very keen to support new treasurers as they grow into the role.

In the first instance please contact The Vicar at revjitt@gmail.com



St Peter's

The annual St Peter's Churchyard tidy up will be on Sunday November 19th after the 10.00 service.

Please come and support the fabulous "mowing" team who keep the graveyard looking loved.

Rakes, bags and muscle power needed.

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

Children in Need coffee morning
to be held in Newbrough Town Hall

Friday, 17th November 10am - 2pm

Messy Vintage

Tuesday 14th November, 2.30pm

Come and see what we do.

Charge : £1 per person

Letter from Reverend Michael Holland.....

I take the opportunity to introduce myself. I am the new Methodist minister at our Fourstones with Warden chapel, taking up the mantle left by Deacon Anne Taylor on her retirement. I live in Catton and cover an area that is focused on the Allen Valleys, Haydon Bridge and Fourstones.

Originally from Scotland I have lived and worked in many places, including, Kathmandu in Nepal, Durham, Penrith, Lomé in Togo, West Africa, Newcastle upon Tyne and Sunderland. I moved to Catton and the Tynedale Methodist Circuit last year. It is great to be here in Tynedale and I am really enjoying rural ministry again.

One of the things that has kept me busy recently is Harvest Festivals. In farming areas this celebration has particular resonance as a good harvest reflects more than just thanksgiving for God's provision in the form of food to eat; but speaks deeply to financial security and economic prosperity for the whole agricultural industry and community.

It has been a delight to be with village churches as they gather to sing harvest hymns and bring harvest displays and support local food banks but also to pray a blessing with farmers as they prepare to take their harvest of lambs or calves to the mart.

In the Old Testament, we find words of blessing which contemporary translation, *The Message* puts this way:

God's blessing inside the city,
God's blessing in the country;
God's blessing on your children,
 the crops of your land,
 the young of your livestock,
 the calves of your herds,
 the lambs of your flocks.
God's blessing on your basket and bread bowl;
God's blessing in your coming in,
God's blessing in your going out.

Deuteronomy 28: 3-6 (The Message)

Our harvest festivals are opportunities for us to stop and consider the many ways God has blessed us and our work. This then encourages us to ask confidently in prayer and hope for continued blessings in all parts of life.

By the time you read this the church season will have moved on from harvest towards remembrance and advent, two other times when we stop and remember that God is with us in all things and hope for God's continued blessing of his being with us in the future.

I look forward to meeting you and getting to know you over my time to come at Newbrough, Fourstones and Warden,

With grace and peace,

Michael

A thank you to Jeremy



Jeremy's last service in this parish will be on Sunday 7th January at St John Lee at 10.00.

Afterwards there will be light refreshments and a glass of wine in the SJL village Hall.

Everyone is welcome to the service and the after party or either or.

Please, for catering purposes, could you let Barbara or Sophie know if you intend to join us.

Barbara - cd.davison@btinternet.com
07801954199

Sophie - Sophie.straker@btopenworld.com
07711451768

Parish of Warden with Newbrough Church Services for November 2023

Sunday 5th	4th Sunday before Advent
8.00 am	Holy Communion at St. John Lee
9.30 am	Parish Communion BCP at St. Michael & All Angels Warden
10.00 am	Morning Prayer at St. Aidan Stagshaw
11.15 am	Zoom worship
Sunday 12th	Remembrance Sunday
8.00 am	Holy Communion at St. Michael & All Angels Warden
9.30am	Parish Eucharist from St John Lee
10.30 am	An Act of Remembrance at St John Lee War Memorial in person and live streamed
Sunday 19th	2nd Sunday before Advent
8.00 am	Holy Communion at St. John Lee
9.30 am	A Service of the word at St Peter Newbrough
11.15 am	Zoom worship.
Sunday 26th	Christ the King
8.00 am	Holy Communion at St. Peter Newbrough
10.00 am	Parish Eucharist in person and live-streamed from St. John Lee