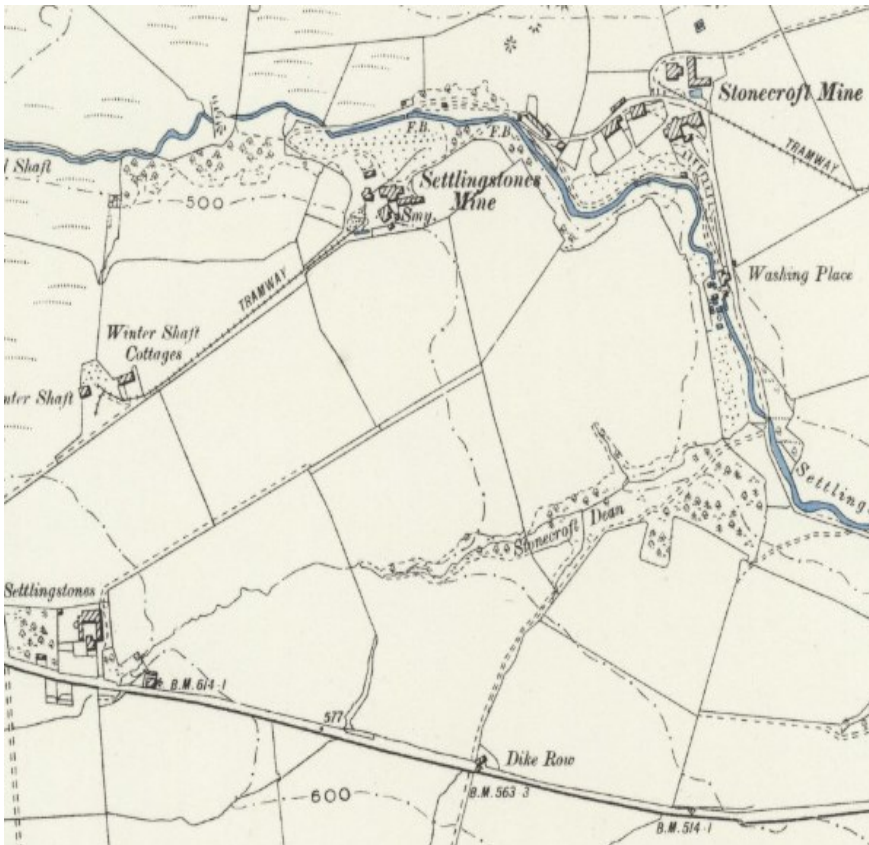


# The Stanegate

Newbrough, Fourstones, Warden  
and surrounding hamlets

## Settlingstones in 1895.....

at that time there were only four households and a population of 24. The name Winter Shaft Cottages comes from the nearby shaft, named after Matthew Winter the mine agent'.



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Please send material to the editorial team  
*Janice Baylis, Dave Spearman, Sophie Straker & Chris Tolan-Smith*  
at  
[thestanegate@hotmail.com](mailto:thestanegate@hotmail.com)

The deadline for the September issue is  
Friday 18th August 2023

# Town Hall News

## The "Weedbusters" hit the Village

With earlier requests to the "road cleaning department" in Hexham having fallen on deaf ears, a number of residents were prompted to take matters into their own gloved hands.

On 20<sup>th</sup> July a dozen or more eager souls, armed with hoes, spades and other implements were seen cleaning the road gutters and vegetation from the pavements from "Red Lion corner" towards Lowfield and also along to Newbrough Park.

Between them they filled about 15 green plastic bags which were taken that same day to the green waste recycling centre in Hexham.

The Town Hall Committee would like to thank those volunteers for doing a great job at the frontage of the Hall and the Memorial, and for removing all the tall weeds from the base of the wall opposite Newbrough Park.

A great example of how our local people can make things happen and the power of Facebook and social media.

## School holidays are here.....

The school holidays will have started as you read this edition of The Stanegate. The Town Hall committee is aware that six weeks is a long time to entertain and amuse the children, of all ages, during the summer, and no doubt granny and grandpa will be very busy helping out. But more can be done as a community...

Drop Dave Spearman an e-mail if you want to highlight an activity

or two which could be organised to fill a few hours - a picnic, rounders, a football match, nature walk or an evening campfire and sing-song, perhaps?

Parents and others would be required as well - but I am sure if we "muck in" we can make for a memorable summer holiday.

Contact Dave on : [davespearman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:davespearman@hotmail.co.uk) and 07935 138143



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](mailto:thestanegate@hotmail.com)

## Calendar of Events

### AUGUST

- 12th Coffee morning, 11am - 2pm, Methodist Chapel, see p 21
- 24th Senior Citizens' Trip, see p4
- 26th Coffee morning, 11am - 2pm, Methodist Chapel, see p 21



**SAVE THE DATE !!**

**9th September**

**Parish Produce Show**



## Advertising

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## Newbrough Primary Summer Fair 2023

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of July we held our annual summer fair. Although the day started out beautifully sunny, the rain did set in for the start of the fair. This did not dampen our spirits though or stop our wonderful community from coming out to support the school. The fair started at 12.30 and was opened by Reverend Jeremy Thompson who really lifted our spirits in the rain. Thank you!

This year, your tokens could get you entry into our annual dog show, judged by Joy Richardson, who always does an amazing job of controlling both dogs and their children! The classes this year included Best in Show which was won by Dolly handled by Kit, Cutest which was won by Martha handled by Thea and Alex Gibson and Golden Oldie which was won by Marley handled by Leon Armstrong. Tokens also got you barbequed treats cooked to perfection by our King of the Grill Will Witchell and his team of willing volunteers and Mrs Bridges delicious cakes and tea. The Biscoff cake was incredible!



We had all the usual fun and games, a tombola bottle stall, penny drop, adopt a teddy, guess the weight of the cake and many more. The children also ran some stalls of their own devising which included a horse quiz and a dinosaur stand.

It was amazing to see the ideas that they had developed. The children also performed their first Maypole dance. We had face painting, glitter hair and glitter tattoos which all looked amazing, though I imagine many of you are still finding glitter now!

Thank you to the Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service for sparing a fire engine and team of fire fighters for a couple of hours. The children loved hearing about all the local fires you had been called to!

We were overwhelmed by the incredibly generous prizes that local business donated for our raffle. Thank you to anyone who donated. Prizes and winners included a weekend in a holiday cottage at Brokenheugh Farm won by Karen Sowerby, Sunday lunch for two at the Red Lion won by Vanessa Ashton, a family pass to Northumberland Zoo won by Peter Harrison and a family pass to Kielder Observatory won by Nicky Collins.

Huge thanks of course to Mrs Trotter and the other teachers who came to support. Mrs Trotter helped everything run like clockwork despite the last minute change of plans because of the weather. We really wanted to say thank you all so much for continuing to support our amazing school and for helping us to provide extra opportunities for the children.

**You all helped us to raise an amazing £2,060!!**

**THANK YOU!**



*continued overleaf.....*

Our heartfelt thanks go to the following for supporting our fair, our wonderful school and the children! Gillian at Fourstones Garage for another amazing cake, Tyne Valley Ices for trusting us with your trike, Newbrough Town Hall for the loan of the tables, Hexham Sweetie Jar for donating a jar of sweets and Hexham Tesco for donating bread buns and hamper gifts.

And our wonderful raffle prize donators Mr. Wolf, Egger, Brokenheugh Farm Cottages, Project Escape, Hexham Races, Kelso Races, Matthias Winter, Seasalt, Northumberland Show, Northumberland Zoo, Northumberland College Zoo, Lake District Aquarium, Hall Hill Farm, JS Hubbuck, Cogito Books, French Beauty Lounge, The Heart of Northumberland, The Milecastle Inn, WWT Washington, Beamish, Kielder Observatory, Sarah Hickey, Carly Taylor, Eleanor Beatrice Photography.



---

## They're on the Road Again

Rob Tindall

The Senior Citizens' Trip, financed by the Tom Benson Charitable Trust has been fixed for **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August**. The free trip is open to all residents in the civil parishes of Warden and Newbrough who are of pensionable age. In cases where a passenger looks younger than the standard pensioner the organiser may ask for proof of age.

In spite of a veritable multitude of restraints I have managed to arrange what looks like a very attractive outing. The coach will leave the Red Lion at 9am pick up at intermediate Points between there and the Boatside before journey-ing to Kelso and Hawick.

Two years ago, we called at Kelso on our way back from Berwick and many remarked what a gorgeous town it looked, but we only had a brief stop, and it was half day closing. Kelso will be our first stop this time, so we should find the shops open and will stay about 1½ hours.

The principal destination is Hawick where there is more to offer in the way of eating places and you can max out your credit cards on wool and cashmere from the mill shops. Our route is guaranteed to be scenic – even if it rains and we expect to be back in Newbrough by 5pm.

The coach this year will be provided by Amble Coaches of Haydon Bridge. To reserve a seat contact Rob Tindall :

[robmtin@aol.co.uk](mailto:robmtin@aol.co.uk) or 674324

by midnight on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>. If there are spare seats after the closing time I am happy to sell seats to non-qualifying residents of the parishes at £10 each to reimburse the Trust for its outlay, and will operate a waiting list on a first come, first served basis.



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### Chuckle Corner

- 1 A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
2. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
3. If you want the rainbow, you got to put up with the rain.
4. All those who believe in psycho kinesis, raise my hand.
5. The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

# Warden Parish Council

Warden Parish Council (WPC) Meeting held on Monday 3rd July 2023  
in Newbrough Town Hall

Chair Cllr Simon Robson

Delia Faran, locality co-ordinator for Northumberland Communities Together (NCT), attended the meeting. NCT was launched in response to the Coronavirus pandemic and continues to make sure residents are kept safe and well by coordinating social workers and occupational therapists to support individual volunteers, voluntary groups and communities across the county. A major issue in rural areas is social isolation. In response to this, NCT can signpost people to community groups, with NCT reviewing what is working well and areas that can be improved.

Micro grants of up to £500 are available to help groups to get started and NCT can fast track people to Citizens Advice and to the Greggs Foundation. NCT can also help with accessing other funding streams. Cllr S Robson reported that the Parish Council is looking to acquire a further defibrillator for the Parish and Ms Faran confirmed that she will look into funding streams for this. It was also agreed that the procurement of a British Heart Foundation training pack will be included in a grant application. This will then be used in defibrillator / resuscitation training events in the Parish to be led by Cllr L Kay. A Parish Council Safe-guarding Policy was also adopted that will help with future grant applications.

Members from The Stanegate editorial team attended the meeting. They reported that the magazine is delivered to 550 homes, however funding problems have arisen due to increasing costs and a reduction in advertising income. Ms Faran advised that she would look into appropriate funding opportunities to support The Stanegate.

On other matters, following a question from a member of the public, Cllr D Liddle explained that part of the allotment pump mechanism had broken and would be reinstalled following repair. The possible provision of a water tank would then be explored.

It was resolved to make the following Local Transport Requests for 2024-25:

Mossy strengthening and drainage / Mossy Road resurfacing – the County Highways Engineer has visited the area and indicated that he would recommend that these works be included in the plan but that Parish Council support would increase the prospect of their inclusion: and the provision of dropped kerbs from East Fourstones to the Butt Bank junction in line with the Footpath Accessibility Audit.

A number of other items were discussed including:

Cllr J Martin reported that the play area at the Boatside Inn had been inspected. Missing bolts have been replaced and that the pub staff will remove excess gravel on the rubberised surface.

Cllr N Morphet had explored the possibility of increasing the frequency of emptying the dog waste bin at Crossgates but this could not be accommodated. The Parish Council will consider the provision of a wheelie bin with locking post at the next meeting.

Cllr N Morphet reported that the County Council is likely to declare an ecological emergency hopefully enabling the relevant department to attract additional resources.

Cllr N Morphet will make a presentation on river water and sewage at a future Parish Council meeting.

The emergency plan was discussed and will be redrafted ahead of the next meeting to be attended by Helen Hinds, County Council Civil Contingencies Officer.

NCC will prepare a design brief in this financial year to address the petition requesting a mandatory speed limit in the vicinity of the Paper Mill.

The Parish gardeners will be asked to remove vegetation obstructing footpaths.

Cllr N Morphet to meet with Executive Director of Place regarding the decrease in gully cleansing frequency.

*continued overleaf.....*

Detailed minutes of this meeting can be found via:

[Documents | Warden Parish Council \(northumberlandparishes.uk\)](https://www.northumberlandparishes.uk/documents/warden-parish-council)

The next meeting of Warden Parish Council will be held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 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 us to address. Alternatively please contact one of the Parish Councillors whose details can be found via:

<https://www.northumberlandparishes.uk/warden/people>

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## Urgently needed – Growers, Bakers and Crafts people

The hall is booked, the judges arranged, and the schedule has gone to the printers. In due course the entry forms will be in the Garage and for the computer-literate, available online. All that is still needed is your support. The 16<sup>th</sup> Parish Produce Show will take place in Newbrough Town Hall on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September**.

Entry is open to people living in the parish of Warden with Newbrough, and those having a demonstrable connection with the parish e.g. a child at Newbrough School.

It costs nothing to enter an exhibit although the corollary is there are no monetary prizes except in the children's classes. The whole idea is that it is a fun day and your opportunity to put one over the self-proclaimed kings and queens of sweet pea growing, apple tart baking and arty photography. There can be no public shame in coming fourth in the Victoria sponge class since only the exhibitors in the first three places are identified. Your soggy or burned bottom is your secret alone. The rules of the show are printed on the schedule.

So, what's new? In the horticultural sections entries were poor last year, almost certainly due to the exceptional weather. Recognising this the Committee have kept all the traditional classes and added two. There is a class for the biggest sunflower head, the heaviest apple and the novelty vegetable has become the ugliest vegetable. Who says that gardeners don't know how to have fun?

The apple tart royalty have been deposed and will now have to turn their dainty hands to Swiss roll making. Bye bye, vanilla fudge squares which have turned into truffles. One big success last year was paper hat creation, so this has been updated with competition for a paper crown. There is a class for a wreath in any craft and also for an artificial vegetable in any material. It used to be a staple of the children's classes but now adults will be able to show their skill at constructing an animal from fruit and/or veg, or failing that, produce a child's toy from any medium.

Photography this year lists the topics, night, flowers, an animal and reflections.

Don't just be at it – be in it.

**Rob Tindall**



# Invited Editorial

## Newbrough Churchyard and digitising the grave index

Reverend Jeremy Thompson

There has been a church at St. Peter's for well over a thousand years. We know that Augustinian Canons from Hexham Abbey were leading worship from about 1113 AD, but there was very likely a place of worship before they arrived, perhaps even as far back as the Romans. There is an unbroken list of clergy from the time of the Augustinian Canons hanging in St. Michael's in Warden. The one thing that ensures above all else the permanence of a church are graves. Once the land around the church (and, indeed inside the church) is used for burials then it's there forever! And as we know there are a lot of graves around St. Peter's and very possibly, though I can't see any evidence for it, there may be burials inside too.

The Church has been pretty good (not perfect) at keeping records of who is buried in our churchyard. The burial registers for St. Peter's go back to about 1630. These are all kept at the County Archive in Woodhorn Museum, where they are available on request to the general public. But ploughing through old registers is a very tedious process when you are looking for a specific person. A much better way would be something like an Excel spreadsheet that is instantly searchable. Rob Tindall did a massive piece of work some years ago making just such a spreadsheet. Not only did he transcribe the burial registers, but he also used a wide range of sources to index all the baptisms and marriages that have taken place in the Parish of Warden and Newbrough.

Others have played a part in making the information more accessible too. In the 1980s a type-written index of all the graves was produced. This has sat in a maroon file in St. Peter's and has been much used by those searching for the last resting place of their relatives. Again, it was useable but not perfect. For one thing, after a year or so it was out of date, as new burials were not added. Over the last couple of years, these two pieces of work have been used to create an up-to-date index of all the burials in St. Peter's that is more easily added to. A band of volunteers has now transcribed the 1980's index into another Excel spreadsheet which is searchable and easily added to.

The Parish registers are always completed after every funeral and kept in the safe in church. In time, when they are full, they too will go to The County Archive for long-term storage. So, we now have an Excel spreadsheet that we believe is up to date. It too is not perfect though. If you know how Excel deals with dates, you will know that for Excel the world only began on 1st January 1900. Dates before that just don't exist. So, to create an index that is searchable by date as well as name required a little creativity. I am not an Excel master, however, there is a big world out there with many very generous people who have been kind in helping me sort this problem out. My spreadsheet now can include dates back to 1600. But doing any kind of calculations with these dates won't work. They are simply stored as text strings.

Knowing who is in the churchyard is only half of the issue. Knowing where they are is equally important. And that too has its own set of issues. For most of the history of our churchyard, only the wealthy could afford a headstone. Just inside the front door of St. Peter's is what is called a "sword stone". This is a large rectangular stone with a sword carved on its long surface. This would have been the grave covering for someone of high standing. Possibly a medieval knight or a squire. A woman of high standing would have had a similar stone grave covering, but instead of a sword she would have had a pair of shears. The common folk would have had a wooden marker if they had anything at all. And inevitably this would have rotted away in just a few decades.

During the 17th Century around the time of the Puritans, it became unfashionable to mark graves. It isn't until the early 18th Century, around the time of the Jacobite Rebellion that gravestones begin to appear again. The earliest in St. Peter's is from 1696. There are over three hundred headstones in St. Peter's and in 1992 a very detailed map of the churchyard was drawn which indicated the exact position of every standing headstone. Unmarked graves could not be shown.

*continued.....*

This map was originally cross referenced against the index in the maroon file. It has now been updated and cross-referenced with the Excel spreadsheet so that each grave, where there is a headstone, is located and numbered. Graves can now be searched for by number and then with reference to the map, the grave found and visited.

So far, so good. Spreadsheets and maps are excellent in themselves, but unless you have the spreadsheet and map in front of you it might as well not exist. And as they are only on my PC, access to them is massively restricted. This is where the final part of the plan comes in. Both the map and the spreadsheet are becoming available on our parish website, in a searchable form. So, in theory, anyone anywhere in the world - and I have had enquiries from Australia, New Zealand, America, and Canada as well as other European

countries - can access the information and discover the whereabouts of their relatives. In due course, I am hoping that I will be able to add a photograph of the grave to each record. So not only can you see written details but see an image of it too, which will aid in locating the grave on the ground.

This is very much a work in progress. I have learned a lot about computer programming, web site design and development, aerial mapping using a drone and much more as this project has gone along. Initially it was just to redo the maroon file. It has become much more than that now, and in so doing I hope it has become (will become) a valuable tool for those seeking the last resting place of long lost ancestors.

The parish website is [www.sjlwn.org](http://www.sjlwn.org)



On our meeting day, July the 13<sup>th</sup> we hosted the Federation walk. 29 members of other WIs in the county joined us for coffee in the lounge and outside the Town Hall. We were very lucky with the weather as it was the best day of the week, not a drop of rain. The leaders were President, Judith Kirby and Catherine Grant. Five of our members joined the walk. The visitors were given snippets of information about the area as they walked. Many envied us our beautiful area and varied landscapes. They walked in pastures, climbed a little for views and enjoyed woodland paths.



## Newbrough WI

Members had worked hard, baking, cooking and shopping to provide a delicious lunch for which we received many compliments.



All 16 Newbrough members present were able to partake of the lunch before a brief meeting was held. Some members were interested in the Graveyard walk, a visit to the 'Lit and Phil' and a literary lunch to be held at the mart.



## Green Notes

A local not for profit organisation has got undergone new branding... Living Woods works with volunteers to create and restore native woodlands. You can discover more at [www.living-woods.org.uk](http://www.living-woods.org.uk) - here is a summary of some of the projects.

**ReKindle** - Is all about restoring native woodland and getting them back into health through sustainable management. There will be fortnightly woodland volunteer sessions from October. You can contact [laura@living-woods.org.uk](mailto:laura@living-woods.org.uk) if you're interested in volunteering. It'll be really good fun. All tools - whether a spade, a saw, or a billhook - are provided and training given. Also if you own a wood or you know anyone who does and would like to improve the health of their trees and woodland, then do get in touch. We have 2 years worth of funding from the Forestry Commission to lead these sessions at no charge to the owner and a state of the art mobile retort charcoal kiln to make use of any small material where possible although it is not the overall aim. If anyone is interested in buying bags of sustainable charcoal for summer BBQs let me know. The funds go back into the project to provide tools, equipment and training to volunteers.

**Woodnet** - This is a bi-monthly networking day for anyone who owns or is interested in management of small woodlands. The last meeting was a walk-talk in Milkwellburn Wood by Mark Dinning, Head of conservation at Durham Wildlife Trust and was an interesting way to find out about managing pine plantations on ancient woodland sites, back into native forest. The next event will be in September at Snods Edge Village Hall. Sign up to the mailing list on the website to keep informed.

**Tree planting** - There will be lots of opportunities to do more tree planting this winter, locally at Haydon Fell or by signing up as a volunteer on the Living Woods website. Living Woods is the main partner for North East Community Forest and you will be able to see a schedule of opportunities to dip in and out of across the North-East come October through to March.

**Seeds2Trees** - Every year for 5 years an extra 100 people per year will sign up to grow 100 trees from seed. We are in our first year with 100 people currently growing their saplings. We provide a variety of British hardwood tree seeds, along with specialised tree trays. Climate Action Newbrough and Fourstones (CANF) are growing last years seeds, we will need 100 tetra packs to transfer them in the autumn. If you can save some for us that would be amazing. The seed packs are free at the point of delivery so that everyone can take part in this community project. It costs approx. £1 per tree and as we start off with 132 trees to allow for some losses it works out at £132 per pack. Aviva have been supporting the project by matching donations and on the 11<sup>th</sup> July we successfully raised £12,042 with 142 supporters in 42 days. If you would like to sign up to be one of the new growers of 2023 then sign up to the mailing list and we'll be in touch when it opens up again soon.

In other news, summer term Forest School for under 5s in Crow Wood has ended. Their last session was a teddy bear's hunt and picnic with jam sandwiches in their tipi made out of hazel rods and a bedsheet. As you can imagine they loved it. Over the summer holidays you can book kids onto holiday club which involves bushcraft, creative workshops and much more (for 5-12 year olds). If anyone is interested in booking here's the link <https://www.thenurtureprojectcic.co.uk/>

Forest Bathing is coming soon - no it's not anything to do with taking your clothes off in the woods! It's more mindfulness in nature - a relax, restore, replenish approach to well-being. There will be some sessions coming up over the next few months. If anyone wants to be kept in touch about these drop an e-mail to [laurarah@gmail.com](mailto:laurarah@gmail.com) and you'll be contacted about the first event which will take place in August.

The next Climate Action meeting will be Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 7pm at the Town Hall.

**Laura Waugh**



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## 'The Casual Vacancy' by J K Rowling

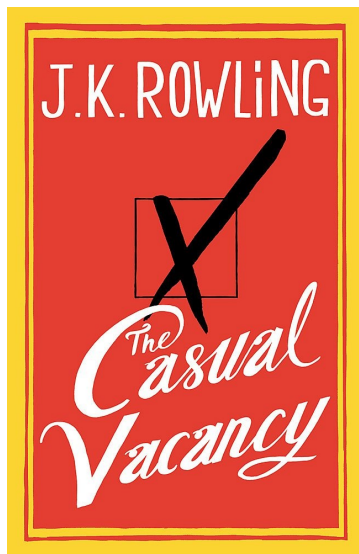
The book was picked simply because it was by J K Rowling and it wasn't Harry Potter. How would she write for adults? Would there be magic? Would it be any good?

In the event the book is a rather gritty story about relationships, rivalries and ambition supplemented by observations about the strains on the British social care system. Not light reading at first glance but this is all revealed as you read more.

The book has, we all agreed, quite a complicated start (with some of the readers resorting to pen and paper to list characters and relationships) but you do get drawn into the multiple plot lines as the story develops.

Essentially the novel is about filling a vacancy on a parish council in the small England town of Pagford that arises following the unexpected death of Barry Fairweather. Barry may die in the first three pages of the book but it is only as the plot unfolds that we understand how important he was in the lives of so many people.

The Parish Council is embroiled in a bitter debate about the future of a local estate 'The Fields' and



who should be responsible for its governance and we are introduced to one of the residents of The Fields, Krystal, who lives with her Mother Terri and brother Robbie.

The links that are forged between Pagford and The Fields, be they overt or covert, drive the storyline and the undersides of the lives of the main characters are exposed for us all to see.

Krystal is an unexpected heroine but some of us didn't really warm to many of the other characters in the book and while we all were

happy to have read the book it wasn't a happy read. It needs some concentration too but we all agreed that the second half of the book made more sense and it came together.

The ending was somehow fitting.

The book is an acute observation on small town life, well written and hard hitting.

It met with great critical acclaim and we all agreed that it was a good read. You wanted to know what was going to happen so you kept reading and I suppose that is the mark of a good book.

### 200 CLUB

#### JULY

1st	Debbie Cowie	158
2nd	Julie Young	43
3rd	Doug Fraser	181

### Bonus Ball Draw

#### JUNE

17th	Jean Reed	21
24th	Jackie Robley	31

#### JULY

1st	Tom Gradwell	34
15th	Colin Smith	14

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# Food for thought

Sylvia Richardson

The choice of fresh seasonal ingredients is virtually limitless in summertime.....crisp and crunchy vegetables plus the most colourful array of soft fruit just waiting to be eaten.

I was born in a mining village where most miners had a large garden or allotment and a self built greenhouse. The main vegetables were leeks grown in a trench, but a lot of vegetables were also grown especially in the war years when the slogan was "Dig for Britain". The leeks were proudly exhibited in local produce shows in the pubs, clubs and miners welfare.

Not many cars were in the village and miners trundled their washed and shiny leeks with girths well measured in wheelbarrows of ten wrapped carefully in muslin. Many leeks were stolen

overnight and a constant vigil was kept at show time. The week after the shows the staple diet of the village was leek soup, broth, leek puddings and buttered leeks. The larger leeks did not have as much taste as the smaller leeks. Neighbours would knock on the doors with a leek when they had too many. My father did enter the show one year and was so proud when he got 3<sup>rd</sup> prize, but he much preferred growing tomatoes and chrysanthemums and did well with them in the shows. He spent most of his life in the garden and it was immaculate. After the war the gardens were transformed into lawns and flowerbeds.

Leeks are allumins and are related to garlic, chives, shallot and onions. They add flavour and depth to soups and stews and are a valuable source of Vitamin C ad K, fibre, carotene, iron ad manganese.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Leek and Sweetcorn Soup

- 1oz butter
- 1lb leeks, washed, trimmed and sliced
- 1 sliced onion
- 2 celery sticks, sliced
- 7oz can sweetcorn, drained
- ¾ pt vegetable stock
- 1oz cornflour
- ¾ pt semi skimmed milk
- 2oz sage derby cheese, grated



Melt butter and fry leeks, onion and celery until soft. Add sweetcorn and stock. Bring to boil. Cover and simmer for 10 - 15 mins. Mix cornflour with milk, add to soup. Stir until thick. Simmer 5 mins. Remove from heat. Stir in half of cheese. Serve topped with remaining cheese.

**Courgettes (Zucchini)** - same family as melon and cucumber, a valuable source of Vitamin C, potassium and folic acid. The flower of the courgette (Italian squash blossom) can be stuffed and fried.

## Courgette Bake

- 1 1/2lbs sliced courgettes
- 2oz smoked streaky bacon rinded and chopped (optional)
- 1 medium sliced onion      3 eggs      1/2 pt milk
- 1/2 tsp dried marjoram      4oz cheddar cheese grated



Blanch courgettes in boiling water for 2 mins, drain and cool. Fry bacon and onion for 5 mins, stirring well. Grease ovenproof dish and add courgettes, bacon and onion. Beat together eggs, milk and herbs, stir in 3oz cheese and pour over the mix. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake at 180C, gas 4 for about 55 mins, until set. Serve with garlic bread.

## Rhubarb

Botanically rhubarb is a vegetable related to Sorrel and Dock. Its thick, fleshy stalks are created as a fruit. It has a tart flavour, rich in antioxidants which help protect from many health related issues and is used in Chinese medicine. It is rich in Vitamins C and K, iron, fibre, carotene and manganese. It is used in compots, preserves, baked goods, relishes and stewed. It is grown from rhizomes. The leaves are poisonous.

### Rhubarb and Ginger Creme Brulee

400gms rhubarb  
40gms sugar  
Chopped stem ginger in syrup to taste  
2tsp cornflour

### Custard layer

500mls double cream  
3 eggs  
150 gms sugar  
1tsp vanilla essence  
Demerara sugar for top



Stew the rhubarb with 40gms sugar and chopped ginger in a pan. In a bowl mix a little of the juice with the cornflour, add to pan and cook until thick. Cool. Pour into ramekins

**Custard** : put cream, sugar and essence into a pan and simmer. Whisk eggs in a bowl, then pour these over the simmering mix. Cook until thick then pour over the rhubarb mix.

Allow to set then sprinkle the demerara sugar and blow torch or place under grill until sugar melts and caramelises.

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

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## June Weatherwatch



Typically subdued in spring, Atlantic winds can often come back in June in a phenomenon known as the “Return of the Westerlies”; a succession of low pressure systems that dump the heavy rains of the so-called “June Monsoon” on the country.<sup>1</sup> But the last June monsoon was in 2017 and the four driest Park Shield Junes, including this June, have occurred in the past six years. Whether or not this represents a trend towards drier future Junes is an open question.

The low rainfall was caused by a “blocking high”, which deflected rain-bearing fronts, like a boulder in mid-stream diverting water around it. This also resulted in a long period of hot and sunny June weather. From the 1st to the 17<sup>th</sup>, other than 0.2mm of morning drizzle on the 11<sup>th</sup>, no rain at all was recorded at Park Shield. Before this the last twelve days of May had been entirely rain-free, so that the twenty-nine day dry period became the longest absolute drought<sup>2</sup> on Park Shield record, eclipsing the twenty-five day stretch in April 2020.

However, during this time rainfall was frequent in many areas elsewhere. But this was not the cyclonic rain of depressions, but convection rain from cumulus or towering cumulonimbus clouds that formed as rapidly rising air condensed on hot days to bring widespread thunderstorms and downpours. The only June thunder in our neighbourhood was a short rumble at around a quarter to seven on the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup> as the weather broke down after a buildup of heat and the drought ended with repeated violent bursts of rain.

After an unremarkable start to June, an exceptional run of hot early summer weather began on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The daily maximum of 23.3C was the first of ten consecutive daily maximums in which only the 17<sup>th</sup> fell below 23C. The 12<sup>th</sup> registered the monthly maximum of 27.6C. After dipping to 17.1C on the 20<sup>th</sup>, a further five successive 21.5C + daily maximums followed. The hot spell ended with a “hot summer day” maximum of 25.8C on the 25<sup>th</sup>.<sup>3</sup>

Westerly winds eventually blew in late June, bring showery weather in its last handful days and helping Park Shield to accumulate a modest rainfall total of 33.8mm. In the monsoon June of 2017, 34.2mm of rain fell on the 6<sup>th</sup> alone. During this time temperatures were much closer to the seasonal norm, but the mid-month heat ensured that June was the warmest on Park Shield record, as it was for the whole of the UK.

### June Weatherwatch Factfile

**Temperature.** Park Shield mean monthly maximum : c. 20.8C. Mean monthly minimum : c.8.7C. Monthly mean : c.14.75C. Lowest daily maximum : 13.6C on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Lowest minimum : 2.6C on the 4<sup>th</sup>. E&NE England monthly mean : 15.4C and 1.9C above the 1991-2020 average. UK maximum : 32.2C at Chertsey (Surrey) on the 10<sup>th</sup> and Coningsby (Lincs) on the 25<sup>th</sup>. UK minimum : -2.6C at Kinbrace (Sutherland) on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Rainfall and Sunshine.** Park Shield average rainfall : 65 mm. 24 hour maximum :11.2mm on the 18<sup>th</sup>. 1 hour maximum: 4.4mm to 23.00 on the same day. E&NE England rainfall & sunshine 57% & 141% of the 1991-2020 average.

**Winds.** Exclusively easterly until the 18<sup>th</sup> and then westerly for the remainder of the month. Light. Park Shield maximum gust : 21 mph on the 26<sup>th</sup>. UK maximum gust : 54 mph at South Uist (Western Isles) on the 24

<sup>1</sup> The highest Park Shield June rainfall was the mammoth 233.1 mm (over nine inches) recorded in 2007. This is presently the second wettest Weatherwatch month behind the 235.6mm of December 2015.

<sup>2</sup> *Absolute drought.* A period of at least 15 consecutive days on none of which more than 0.2mm of rain is recorded. (Met Office). There are other definitions.

<sup>3</sup> A “hot summer day” is one with a maximum of 25C, or above.



Meadow cranesbill  
at Whinny Hill



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# Newbrough Parish Council

The Council has, once again, elected Michael Gibson to serve as Chairman. He will soon have completed 40 years as a Newbrough Councillor, many of which as chairman. The Council was extremely pleased that Councillor Gibson as Council Chairman had been selected to receive an invitation to the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace to celebrate the Coronation. This year, the themes the palace wished to promote were youth (young adults), community, diversity and sustainability. Congratulations and well done Michael, an honour justly deserved. (He attended with his wife Sandie.)

It was with regret that the Council accepted the resignation of Cllr Iain Hunter. He has served the Council for over nine years. He also fulfilled the role of vice-chairman, efficiently and competently. It will be sad to see him go.

The Council vacancy, because of the retirement of Cllr Hunter, has been filled by Justin Orde. He was co-opted at the last meeting, where the chairman welcomed him and wished him well in his new position.

Delia Faran, the new Locality Coordinator, will be attending the next Newbrough PC meeting on Wednesday 6th September, to address the Council and explain her role.

Cllr Morphett gave the Council a presentation of "pump tracks". He based this on the purpose built track at Chopwell. This is a 235m track with rotational symmetry layout with an additional 40m beginner track. This pump track is a small but intense circuit of rolling bumps, table-top jumps, and bermed corners designed to be ridden continuously without pedalling by using weight shifts (pumping) and gravity. It is great for developing skills and improving, technique whether you're a beginner or an expert. Cllr Morphett is exploring the possibility of having such a track built in Tynedale.

F.H.

---

## Just Passing Through



Now a familiar sight each mid-June, a steady trickle of individuals in numbered running kit and carrying light backpacks, jogged or walked through the parishes over the afternoon of Saturday the 17th. These were entrants in "The Wall", promoted by event organisers Rat Race Adventure Sports as "the UK's most iconic ultramarathon".

The waymarked route took them down The Stanegate into Newbrough, past the "Front" in Fourstones, up the bank from East Fourstones to avoid the Mossy Bank, and down the road to Walwick Grange. From there along Homers Lane, across Warden Bridge and left along the lane from West Boat to Tyne Green.

Staged every year since 2012, except 2020.  
Distance : 70 miles. Start : 07.00 at Carlisle Castle.  
Finish : Gateshead Millennium Bridge.

Participants have 26 hours to complete the challenge in one continuous effort. Entrants : 444. Male : 360. Female : 84. Non-starters : 1. Retired 28. Finishers : 415.  
Checkpoint and water station (38 miles) : layby at Crow Wood, Newbrough.  
Fastest finishing time : 09.54.18.  
Matthew Alderson. Respect!

[THE WALL | Rat Race Events](#)

## Church Pages

### Who's Who

#### Church of England

Rev'd Canon Jeremy Thompson  
Rector of St John Lee and Vicar of Warden &  
Newbrough  
St John Lee Rectory  
Hexham, Northumberland  
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website : [www.sjlwn.org](http://www.sjlwn.org)

#### Methodist

Deacon : Anne Taylor  
Woodville  
Redesmouth Road  
Bellingham  
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Tel: 01434 220283

#### Roman Catholic

Parish Priest : Fr Jeffrey Dodds  
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#### St John of Beverley, Haydon Bridge

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### From the Registers

#### JULY

##### Christenings

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

There were no Christenings in the Parish in  
July.

##### Weddings

*Jesus said "As the Father has loved me,  
so I have loved you: remain in my love"*

On Saturday 30th July at St Peter's  
Newbrough:  
Ivan Bell and Judith Storey of Lowfield,  
Newbrough

##### Funerals

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

On Monday 24th July at Carlisle Crematorium:  
Archibald "Archie" Armstrong, of St Aidan's  
Park, Fourstones

#### Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

##### Preachers for August 2023

- 6th Joint service at Haydon Bridge  
taken by M Hato
- 13th C Barrick
- 20th Mrs Ruth Johnson
- 27th Mrs Sheila Holland

All services are at 10.30am

Everyone welcome

## Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

We had a lovely Messy Vintage in July when we said goodbye to Deacon Anne who is retiring to Whitehaven. We made sand pictures, everyone different, and then enjoyed a special tea together. We will miss Anne and her husband, Eddie, Anne taught some of us how to make a floral crosses for Easter, Remembrance day, Christmas and others, and many art and craft projects, We hope we can carry on making more!

We wish Anne and Eddie every happiness in their new home together.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Saturday Coffee mornings

Tea, coffee, cake and sandwiches

Saturday 12th August  
and  
Saturday 26th August



11am – 2pm  
All are welcome



## Parish of Warden with Newbrough

### Church Services for August 2023

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>6th August</b>  | <b>Trinity IX</b>                                       |
| 8.00am             | Holy Communion at St. John Lee                          |
| 9.30am             | Parish Communion BCP at St Michael & All Angels, Warden |
| 10.00am            | Morning Prayer at St Aidan Stagshaw                     |
| 11.15 am           | Zoom Worship  |
| <br>               |   |
| <b>13th August</b> | <b>Trinity X</b>  |
| 8.00am             | Holy Communion at St Michael & All Angels, Warden       |
| 10.00am            | Parish Eucharist broadcast live from St John Lee        |
| <br>               |   |
| <b>20th August</b> | <b>Trinity XI</b>                                       |
| 8.00am             | Holy Communion at St John Lee                           |
| 9.30am             | A service of the word at St Peter Newbrough             |
| 11.15am            | Zoom worship  |
| <br>               |   |
| <b>27th August</b> | <b>Trinity XII</b>                                      |
| 8.00am             | Holy Communion at St. Peter Newbrough                   |
| 10.00am            | Parish Eucharist broadcast live from St John Lee        |

## *Letter from Deacon Anne.....*

As I write this letter, I am coming to the end of a ten year appointment in the Tynedale Circuit, somewhere I felt very much called to, working alongside small chapels and their communities. I started off with 7 chapels including Fourstones with Warden and Haydon Bridge. Haydon Bridge was the most southerly and Kielder the most northerly. It is an hour's drive between Kielder and Haydon Bridge so quite a big area but lovely driving through the countryside, something which I never tired of. I watched the seasons changing. I am very thankful that I had been placed in such a beautiful part of the country.

There have been many changes in the last 10 years including sadly closure of some of the smaller chapels. Even though there have been many changes in the chapels, thankfully as it says in Hebrews 13: 8

‘Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.’

God remains the same but what we do in our chapels and the way we do things is changing.

When I first came to Fourstones we used to do Messy Church at the school across the road which eventually finished, but now there is a group who take bible stories to the school through Open the Book. We now do Messy Vintage which is a sort of Messy Church for adults using art and craft to express our faith which has been popular and which brings different people from different churches and different communities together to listen to the word of God, sing, do art and craft and have afternoon tea together.

We have also been able to put up floral crosses to celebrate the main festivals. My favourite is the Christmas cross edged with pea lights symbolising the Light of Christ shining out in the village. The chapels are also doing more things together, joint services, joint study groups, becoming more of a Christian witness in the villages. Services are often lay lead giving the opportunity for people from the congregations to share their faith with others. The style of music has also changed considerably not relying on an organist.

A couple of verses that come to mind are from Isaiah 43: 18-19

‘Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing. Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the waste land’.

We have a faithful God who doesn't change and on him we can rely, as it says in the hymn Singing the Faith 628 written by Brian Doerksen in 1989.

‘Faithful One, so unchanging, Ageless One, you're my rock of peace. Lord, of all I depend on you...my hope is in you alone.’

Ministers come and go but the love of God remains forever.