The Stanegate Magazine
191 December/January 2021/22

The Stanegate

Newbrough, Fourstones and Warden

Editorial

So winter is well and truly here with red sunsets frosty nights, and even some days with sun and blue skies..... The leaves have fallen and will blow around for several weeks no doubt.

But these events occur every year as does Christmas - but this year we will be able to enjoy the company of a larger family group than last year, even though some predict a turkey shortage. Is that another casualty of Brexit, driver shortages or that container vessel that was grounded in the Suez Canal those many months ago?

Friends and neighbours will no doubt exchange cards but for many of us so me words by way of a telephone call or a chat on the doorstep will always be welcome. Make a point this year of seeing someone you have not seen for some time, with perhaps a gift of some mince pies, a turkey sandwich - or even a bowl of turkey curry from the more adventurous chefs .....

There have been many sad times in 2021 but if we all look out for each other, then next year promises to be a little happier.

So, from all of us at The Stanegate, we hope you enjoy this bumper edition and have a Happy Christmas and we hope 2022 is kind to you and your families, wherever they may be.

Janice Baylis, Kevin H Hilton, Stephen Pedley, Dave Spearman

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Please send material to the editorial team at:
thestanegate@hotmail.com

The deadline for the February issue is

Friday, 14th January 2022

Produced and printed and published by The Stanegate Editorial Committee

Letter to the Editors.....

Town Hall Christmas Fair

The Town Hall Christmas Fair is being held on Saturday 4th December from 1pm—4pm. If anyone has any unwanted items that would be suitable for the Tombola stall I would be very grateful for them. I am willing to collect any items.

Thank you
Gill Charlton

Please write to us ...

The Editorial Committee at The Stanegate welcomes your letters. Please write to us with news and views from the community.

Please send letters to:
The Stanegate,
8 Broadacres,
Fourstones, Hexham
NE47 5LW

or email the editorial team at:
thestanegate@hotmail.com

Local Photo of the Month

Double Rainbow Dawn, by Matt Cawood

Thanks again to everyone who entered but please don't wait to be prompted. Start sending your local photos right now, only to k.h.hilton4@gmail.com.
If your email arrives later than the 15th of next month it will be considered for the following month's issue.
You can submit up to 3 photos each but please remember to title each one of them.

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

2nd Town Hall AGM
6.30pm, Town Hall

4th Soft Play,Town Hall,
10am-11.30am

4th Christmas Fair
Town Hall, 1pm—4pm

9th Newbrough WI
Christmas Meal

11th Sage Gateshead
Chamber Choir, 1.30pm
Please see page 21

16th Quiz Night at the
Town Hall, 7.30pm

17th School closes for
Christmas

JANUARY

3rd Warden PC,
Town Hall, 7pm

5th School re-opens

12th Newbrough PC
Town Hall, 7pm

9th Newbrough WI
Town Hall, 7pm

16th Quiz Night at the
Town Hall, 7.30pm

Advertising

Commercial advertising rates per year (11 issues)

Fraction	Size in cm H x W	Price of page
Full page	25.4x17cm	£320
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¼ page	6.0x18cm	£80
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1/12 page	6.0x5cm	£27

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Please call 01434 674451

Private and community advertising is free.

Town Hall News

Town Hall AGM

The Town Hall AGM, which was postponed will now be held on Thursday 2nd December at 18.30 in the Town Hall lounge. All are welcome to attend and wine will be served after the event.

Film Club

The Film Club, which is under formation, has been invited to take part in the Tyne Valley Film Festival organised by The Forum Cinema in Hexham. One, or possibly two films will be shown in the Hall during that period, probably linked to a themed meal to suit the nature of the film[s].

Activity Packs from Age UK

The Hall is receiving a number of the latest activity packs from Age UK which will be distributed in mid-December to those people who are seeking to keep their brains and fingers active during the cold evenings.

Town Hall Secretary

We urgently need to appoint a new secretary for the Town Hall, as Elaine Arkless, after several years of event organisation and document preparation, has decided to spend more time with her family, dog walking and sewing.

The Committee is very grateful for Elaine's efforts over her period in this post.

Christmas Fair Raffle Tickets

Are now on sale and can be purchased from the Garage as well as at the Fair on Saturday 4th December.

Remembrance Service

The Remembrance Sunday service took place at the Town Hall followed by the roll call and laying of wreaths at the memorial, with coffee and tea following.

It was conducted by Deacon Anne Taylor of the Methodist Church and well attended by about 40 people.

HOWZAT ?!?

Deborah Hogg

Picture this tranquil village scene: summertime, whites, the sound of leather on willow and a somewhat strange language all of its own - the village cricket team in action!

This is soon to become reality as Newbrough Cricket Club is in the process of being resurrected, with a view to resuming competition in the West Tyne Cricket League from Spring 2022.

A small group of committed residents, along with advice from former players and committee members, has already established firm foundations to get Newbrough CC in action once again. With funding gratefully received from the parish councils of Warden and Newbrough, and the Town Hall, the square has been seeded and made ready for action with advice from ECB advisors.

The pitch is prepped, the grass is growing, the mowers are in motion and plans are progressing. Though still in its early development, Newbrough Cricket Club will be looking for local support early next year. We will need committed volunteers for weekly grounds maintenance, cleaning, pavilion duty, scoring, oh... and a team. The aim is to provide play for players from the age of 13 upwards, preferably with some cricketing experience - however enthusiasm will suffice.

So if you don't want to be out to a golden duck or face any dead balls as a maiden, but are a beamer rather than a badger or bunny, then get your bottom hand off your belter, climb up boot hill and give it your best agricultural shot into cow corner!

More information to follow as the cricket season approaches.

St Peter's Newbrough Winter Clean-up

Sunday 21st November, a cold but bright sunny day, saw 32 busy people, including some children, in the churchyard collecting and moving leaves and cutting the grass. About 20 dumpy bags were filled with leaves and the usual annual compost heap was created against the north wall. In addition, more daffodil bulbs were planted, and these, together with the ones form earlier years, plus the usual white carpet of snowdrops, will cheer is all up in early spring.

The happy band were treated to soup, hot dogs and cake supplied by Sophie, Reuben and Rebecca and was supported by a number of tractors, trailers and grass cutting machines.

Thanks to all who took part and all agreed the churchyard looks so much better now.

Soft Play - The Stanegate

Soft Play session for local families
Saturday 4th Dec
Newbrough Town Hall 10am - 11.30am
Most suitable for children under 5 yrs
£2 per family
Tea, coffee and biscuits provided

TOWN HALL 200+ CLUB

The November winners are:

1st	T Charlton	133
2nd	A G Bradley	141
3rd	L Curtis	52

BONUS BALL DRAW
for Pensioners' Christmas lunch

OCTOBER

2nd	Kenny Robley	43
9th	Diane Smith	55
16th	Ella White	22
23rd	Carol Gradwell	19

Chuckle corner

Teacher How old is your father?
Child He is 6 years old
Teacher What ? How is this possible?
Child He became a father only when I was born

Teacher Maria – go to the map and find North America
Maria (points at map) here it is
Teacher Correct. Now, Class, who discovered America?
Class Maria

Teacher Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?
Donald H I J K L M N O
Teacher What are you talking about?
Donald yesterday you said it's H to O

Teacher Jonny, your story on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?
Jonny No, sir, it's the same dog

Teacher Susie, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?
Susie A teacher?

Bay Trees Burgers will be at the Beacon at Fourstones from 17.30 to 20.30 on the following dates:-

3rd December
10th December
17th December

As always orders can be placed on 07810 030428 and menus can be found on Facebook.

Newbrough Church of England Primary School

Jo Trotter, Head Teacher

One of the most important roles in any school is that of Chair of Governors.

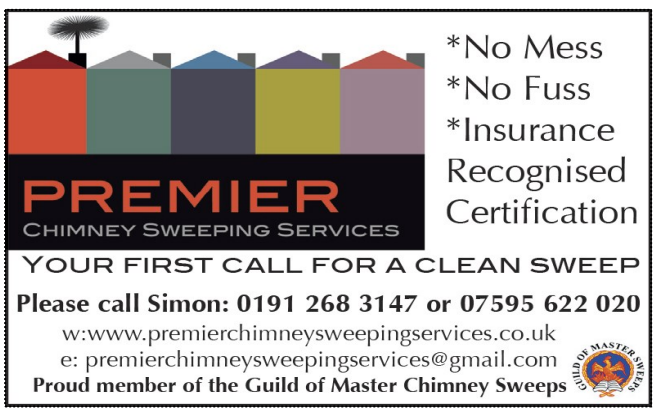
All of the Governors support the smooth running of the school- bringing their expertise in many fields to work closely alongside staff, especially the Headteacher, to make sure that all the systems and processes in school are effective so that the children receive the best possible education. Not only this, but Governors act as champions for the school in interactions with many different external agencies. All of this without being paid- and often behind the scenes.

The Chair of Governors is the most important role of all, ensuring that the Governing Body are carrying out their roles effectively and maintaining high levels of communication with the staff.
At Newbrough, we are fortunate to have a dedicated and highly skilled Governing Body and none more so than our Chair, Mary Pedley.

Mary has been a member of the Governing Body since 2007, almost 15 years of service to our school, and the Chair since 2013. Amongst many other things, she has seen the school through five OFSTED inspections; four headteachers, a consultation on whether the school should be closed and a pandemic!

Throughout all of this, Mary has worked tirelessly on our behalf. She has been a knowledgeable and constant presence for many pupils, knowing most of them by name, and staff. But now, sadly, Mary has decided that it is time to retire and concentrate on other things.

Mary, we wish you all the very, very best for the future. You will be a great miss to us all.
And for all that you have done for the school and our pupils over many years - Thank you.



Friends of Newbrough School PTA School Pond Project

Nicky Collins (Secretary) friendsofnewbrough@gmail.com

A palmate newt from the Newbrough School pond

The Friends of Newbrough Primary School PTA (registered charity 1044003) are delighted to have received two grants of £250 each from Newbrough and Warden Parish Councils. This means that we will be able to complete our school pond project, funding the decking which will form the vital L-shaped dipping platform around the pond. The school pond project, started January 2020, interrupted by the pandemic, and now finally near completion, is the result of several weekends of planning, hard labour (in all weathers) and teamwork from local volunteer parents, children and staff. The material for landscaping around the pond was generously donated by JT Doves. This large pond replaces a smaller school pond, which, although lovely, wasn't big enough for the growing number of school children. All the wildlife was carefully moved from the old pond to the new one, under the guidance of one of our parents, who is an ecologist.

In spring, the school children will finally be able to dip in the pond during class time. The finished pond means that our children, whose lives and education have been so disrupted, will be able to extend their learning beyond the classroom, while enjoying the creation and care-taking of a new wildlife habitat right inside their own school grounds. We are also hoping to hold a pond open day for the local community, so that our friends and neighbours can visit the school, dip in the new pond, and learn about this new wildlife habitat at the heart of Fourstones and Newbrough.

Having completed the pond, The Friends of Newbrough School PTA are planning to raise further funds to create a new climbing and play area in the school playground. We are currently funding Christmas books for all of the children, as well as new toys and resources for Early Years. We will be selling tickets for our annual Christmas Hamper Raffle at the Newbrough Town Hall Christmas Fair on December 4th, so please drop by, say hello and help us to raise funds to support our fabulous school. Raffle tickets will also be sold at Fourstones Garage.

Thank you again to both Newbrough and Warden Parish Councils and all of our friends, supporters and volunteers!

Support The Friends of Newbrough while you are doing online Christmas shopping!

Shopping local is best, but if you happen to be shopping online, you can raise funds for us for free via Amazon Smile and Easy Fundraising.

Amazon Smile: Go to www.smile.amazon.co.uk and select The Friends of Newbrough First School. When you make a purchase via Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price to The Friends.

Easyfundraising: Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and select Newbrough Primary School- Hexham. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping. After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to The Friends at no extra cost to you!

Food for Thought

Sylvia Richardson

CHRISTMAS - the season of peace and goodwill touches everyone all around the world. Families will readily enter into the traditional spirit of joy, hospitality giving and celebration especially after the past troubles. We hope that this Christmas will be a special one for everyone and their family reunions. Most of the recipes can be used throughout the year and adapted to suit your store cupboard.
Have a lovely joyous Yuletide.

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

Mediterranean Seafood

½ oz butter
1 onion chopped finely
½ pint white wine
2 tbsp dry sherry
1 tsp fresh mustard
Pinch of cayenne
Dash of Worcester Sauce
5 oz double cream
Assorted Seafood (can crab, prawns etc)
Salt and Pepper
2 tbsp Parmesan cheese

Method

Melt butter and cook onion until soft
Add wine and sherry. Boil and reduce.
Stir in mustard, cayenne and Worcester sauce.
Cook for 2 mins. Add cream. Boil until thickens.
Remove from heat. Stir in seafood. Add salt and pepper
Sprinkle with cheese

Turkey Mille-Feuilles

A simple way to use up left over turkey

450gms (1 lb) puff pastry
Beaten egg to glaze
375 gms (12oz) left over turkey
A few peas and sweetcorn

Halve the pastry. Roll each 11 x 6 inches
Score one half - criss cross, but not right through pastry.
Brush with egg.
Prick other half.
Bake 200C, Gas 6, 15 mins

Make a sauce with 2oz butter, 2 oz flour, ½ pint of stock (chicken) and bouquet garni, salt and pepper
Mix turkey, peas and sweetcorn together with sauce.
Spoon over unscored pastry
Cover with scored strip and press down lightly.

Chicken / Turkey a la King

4 oz sliced mushrooms
2 ozs margarine
1 tblsp oil
1/2 green pepper—chopped, or sliced leek
1 1/2 oz plain flour
3/4 pt milk or milk & chicken stock
8—12 oz cooked diced chicken or turkey
Salt and pepper
1—2 tblsp sherry or white wine (optional)
Bouquet garni
Sweet corn
Paprika

Method

Melt margarine and oil together and saute mushrooms, pepper/leek until soft (not brown)
Remove from pan and saute the chicken
Stir in the flour and add the milk or milk & stock gradually
Bring to the boil
Season and add the wine
A bouquet garni can be added to the stock for extra flavour
Serve with boiled rice or buttered noodles
Stir in sweetcorn to add to the colour
Sprinkle with paprika

Ris a l'Amande

¾ pt milk
11/12 oz pudding rice
½ tsp vanilla essence
1oz sugar
1 tblsp sherry
1oz blanched almonds, chopped
2 tsp gelatine
1 tblsp water
½ pint whipping or double cream
1 tin cherry pie filling
1 whole almond

Method
Dissolve the gelatine.
Put the rice and milk in a pan
Heat and stir for 5 mins.
Cook for 10 – 15 mins until rice is tender
Add the sugar and essence and sherry.
Allow to cool
Stir in the almonds and gelatine
Fold in the whipped cream
Divide the mixture into individual dishes.
Leave to set
Decorate with piped cream and spoon cherry mixture into the centre.

This is a traditional Danish sweet served on Christmas Day. The person who receives the whole almond is allowed to make a wish

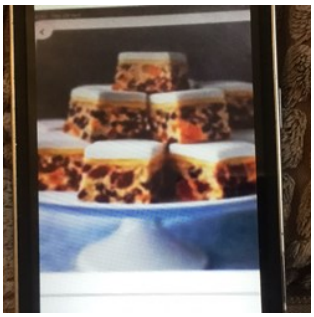
Mincemeat Meringue Fingers

4oz butter or margarine
4oz caster sugar
3 eggs, separated
Grated rind of 1 orange or lemon
2 tbsp orange or lemon juice
8oz SR flour
2oz walnuts (optional) roughly chopped
8oz mincemeat
6 oz icing sugar, sifted

Line a rectangular tin (about 11" x 7" x 1.5") with Bakewell non stick paper, bringing it about 2" above the rim of the tin
Cream the fat with the sugar until light and fluffy

Beat in the egg yolks, orange or lemon rind and juice
Add the sifted flour and mix to a fairly stiff consistency. Press evenly into the base of the prepared tin.
Mix the walnuts and mincemeat together, then carefully spread over the base
Whisk the egg whites until very stiff. Gradually whisk in half the icing sugar.
Fold in all but 1 tablespoonful of the remaining sugar
Spread evenly over the mincemeat, pulling the meringue up into peaks.
Sprinkle with the reserved sugar.
Bake at 325 deg F, 160 deg C or Gas 3 for about 50 minutes or until pale brown.
Leave in the tin until cold, then cut into fingers.

Christmas Bites
A quick way to make your Christmas cake if you have not had time to make one.



6oz chopped apricots soaked in 3 tbsp brandy (overnight)
6oz butter
6oz light brown sugar
4 beaten eggs
6oz plain flour
1 1/2 lb mixed fruit

To finish
Warm apricot jam
1 lb almond paste
1 lb ready to roll icing

Set oven at 140C, Gas 3
Grease and line 12" x 8" baking tray

Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and the rest of the ingredients.
Bake middle shelf for 1—1 1/4 hours

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.

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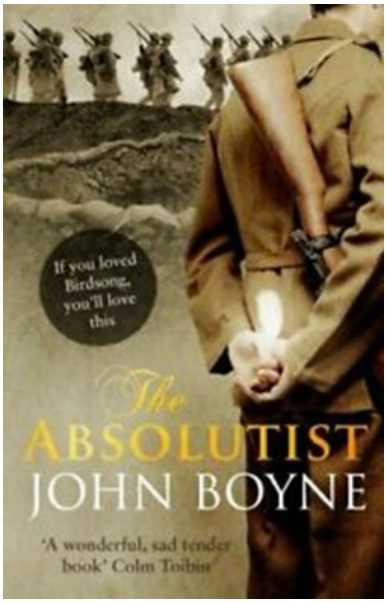
Stanegate Readers

review by Teresa Bessant

'The Absolutist' by John Boyne

The Absolutist is a conscientious objector, one who refuses not only to be involved in the dirty business of taking arms against an enemy but also to help in any way the war effort by carrying out ancillary tasks. They were nicknamed Feather men.....
(The notion of a white feather representing cowardice)



I decided to read this book after our group had read another book by John Boyne earlier in the year and we had all enjoyed it.

The story begins in 1919 with 20 year old Tristan Sadler taking a train to from London to Norwich to deliver a clutch of letters to Marian Bancroft. Tristan had met Marian's brother Will during their training at Aldershot. They had been posted to the trenches together and fought alongside each other until in 1917 an horrific incident happened which caused Will to lay down his arms and become a conscientious objector. This had brought terrible shame and dishonour to his family.

The book delves deep into the character of Tristan, we learn of the rejection by his family at the age of sixteen, his eagerness to join up and lying about his age and perhaps this is why he is so keen to make a friend of the popular Will Bancroft.

We also glean during the story that returning the letters to Will's sister is not the only reason for his visit. He has a secret which he hopes to unburden himself of but does not know if he has the courage and what the reaction of Marian will be. No matter what, this meeting will change his life forever.

The book covers all the horrors of the war but is much more about the emotions of love, hate, jealousy and despair involved in the relationships between the characters.

All members of our group were really pleased to have read this book and some have recommended it to friends. It was quite harrowing at times and very powerful but no one expected the ending. It was remarked that the story and the characters would stay with us for a long time. We talked about certain incidents and the different way we perceived them which made for a lively discussion.

We agreed that the author John Boyne is an excellent writer and we are all keen to read more of his work.

Light Up a Life

Tyhnedale remembers its loved ones this Christmas

What: Light Up a Life 2021 **When**: December 4th, 3pm (doors close 2.45pm)

Where: St Mary's Church, Hexham and online via www.tynedalehospice.com/lual

Book your seat and/or donate and dedicate a star:
www.tynedalehospice.com/lual

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Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone ? [1]

A tremendous bang at around half past four on October the 27th shattered the still of an Allerwash autumn afternoon as the H.V. electricity line crossing the southern end of Church Lane suffered a catastrophic failure when a wooden pole caught fire and burnt to the ground. The resulting electricity cut affected 411 properties in parts of Haydon Bridge, Newbrough and Fourstones. Engineers responded to the emergency by installing a large generator on the verge opposite Church Lane Barn.

Sporadic electricity cuts were once an accepted part of life, but such cuts became a thing of the past when the Whinny Hill substation was built twenty years ago so the recent cut came as a surprise. As dusk became darkness there was no doubt a scrabble about for candles, a store of which was always kept in the cupboard in anticipation of the next blackout. The evening meal was either something cold or a takeaway; not an option for baby boomers in their younger days; and conversation took the place of television.

In the end the blackout proved a temporary inconvenience as the power was restored at nine o'clock, but it did give pause to the thought of how people coped in the days before gas or electric lighting. Spermaceti candles made from wax found in the head of sperm whales or pleasantly scented, clear burning, beeswax candles were favoured by the rich. Rancid smelling tallow candles made from rendered animal fat were used by those down the social scale, while the poor coated meadow rushes in fat to make rushlights that were burnt during the hours of winter darkness when not asleep in bed. A far cry from today's click of a switch.

[1] Big yellow taxi. Joni Mitchell.

Just Passing Through

The drone of turboprop aero engines over the neighbourhood around a quarter to three on the 25th of October drew attention to an impressively large aircraft flying low up the South Tyne valley. From its profile and distinctive fin-mounted tailplane it seems to have been an Airbus A400M Atlas military transport 'plane, which is in service with the RAF.

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October Weatherwatch

After a balmy September that was warmer than June mild autumn weather extended through October to make the month warmer than May. But all regions including our own experienced a much wetter than average October. However, in what seems to have become customary of late, our neighbourhood was largely spared the heavy rains that affected many parts, particularly at the end of the month, making it one of the Met Office's "isolated spots" with below average October rainfall. Nevertheless, rain was frequent and it fell on twenty-four days of the month.

In a rainy start to October a roughly equally divided aggregate of 15.0 mms on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd was followed by a slight wetting on the 4th. A more substantial fall of 25.8 mm at Park Shield on the 5th made it easily the wettest day of the month, although the majority of rain actually fell overnight. Only a little over a millimetre of rain was recorded in much drier conditions in the period from the 6th to the 13th, which included the warmest spell of October weather. Although sunshine was limited, the 7th and 9th produced pleasantly warm daily maximums of 18.7C and 17.2C respectively and in between the 8th recorded a monthly maximum of 19.0C; the fifth warmest Park Shield October maximum in a series from 1989.

After close to average temperatures from the 10th to the rainy 14th it briefly turned cold. Zero Celsius was logged early on the 15th and a low of -1.4C the next night brought the first Park Shield frost of the autumn and the only frost in October. The 16th doubled up with the lowest October daily maximum of a cool 8.2C, but in a rapid upturn increasing daily maximums of 15.8C, 16.2C and 18.2C on the 17th, 18th and 19th were well above the 12C that might be expected in mid-October. Apart from the 21st and 22nd the days up to the 29th were warmer than the seasonal average and the daily minimum of 14.0C in the early hours of the 27th was unusually warm for late October. A few light showers fell later on the 27th, while across the Pennines the 222.6 mms of rain that sluiced down over the day at Honister Pass in the Lake District was three times the Park Shield total October rainfall of 72.8 mm. Another thirteen millimetres, or half an inch, of rain fell in the last four days of the month and temperatures tailed off; ending a middling October that was less wet and a little warmer than usual.

October Weatherwatch Factfile.

Temperature.

Park Shield mean monthly maximum: c.13.6C. Mean monthly minimum: c.7.14C. Monthly mean : c.10.4C and c.1.0C above average. E&NE England mean monthly maximum : 14.4C. Mean monthly minimum: 7.8C. Monthly mean : 11.1C and 1.4C above the 1981=2010 average. UK maximum : 22.9C at Thrones Park (W.Yorks) on the 8th. UK minimum : -3.6C at Redesdale Camp (North'land) on the 16th.

Rainfall and Sunshine

Park Shield average rainfall : c.90 mm. E&NE England rainfall and sunshine : 127% & 93% of the 1981-2010 average.

Winds

Almost entirely westerly. Occasional fresh to strong breezes. Park Shield maximum gust : 29 mph on the 29th. UK maximum wind gust : 75 mph at the Needles (IOW) on the 31st.

Honey for sale

Stonecroft (£4) and Heather (£5) per 454g

Malcolm Hull, Stonecroft, 01434 674627

Do you have any ..... ?

As well as collecting for Tools For Self Reliance, I also collect haberdashery goods, such as buttons, zips, press studs, hooks and eyes, needles, pins, tape measures, cotton material, ribbons, scissors, sewing machines with a handbook if possible, knitting needles, crochet hooks, elastic and reels of cotton.

The ladies in Africa attend a course on sewing, with sewing machines if possible, to show they are able to make clothes. School uniforms are top of the list, then garments for others, progressing to a small business.

So, see if you have any unwanted things from the long list above.
Thank you, Margaret, 674207

Just Passing Through

On Sunday the 17th of October our parishes played host to a field of runners over a long section of a new Hadrian's Wall 1/2 Marathon from Housesteads to Hexham's Tyne Green. The route first took the Wall Trail east before executing a sharp right to cross the Military Road at Teppermoor, opposite the Roman fort of Brocolitia. From there the course followed the public path running south to "Lovers' Lane" and Home Farm in Newbrough, down through fields between Newbrough Burn and Meggie's Dene Burn.

A jink to the right onto the Stanegate and over the bridge below the burns' confluence took entrants through Crow Wood to Allerwash Mill and then along the riverside path to its far end at the Fourstones Paper Mill. A "Caution Race in Progress" sign and a marshal at the level-crossing, plus other marshals at Hardhaugh Cottages and beyond alerted motorists to runners on the stretch of road to the Boatside Inn and over Warden Bridge. A hard left opposite to the old toll cottage then gave event participants a level run in along the lane past West Boat and Kingshaw Green to the finishing line at Tyne Green.

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Warden Parish Council

Councillor Simon Robson

Warden Parish Council (WPC) meeting held on Monday 1st November 2021 in Newbrough Town Hall

The meeting commenced with Cllr SJ Heminsley confirming his decision to step down as Chairman. Cllr S Robson was elected as Chairman with Cllr G Charlton as Vice Chair. The Council (WPC) expressed their appreciation to Cllr Heminsley for his hugely valued tenure as Chairman.

In the public forum concern was raised that the bottle bank adjacent to the cricket field had not been emptied despite the County Council (NCC) being notified. County Councilor N Morphet agreed to follow this up.

The October litter pick had a good turnout, with the good news being that there wasn't a lot of rubbish to collect. Thanks were conveyed to the County Council for collecting the litter pick refuse promptly, and dealing with the recently reported fly tipping. The next pick to be arranged February/March 2022.

The recent meetings between with the County Council Officer and Sergeant Kate Benson to discuss traffic calming through the villages was reported in the last issue of the Stanegate. It was agreed that WPC would follow up on various issues in due course, and place a further article in the Stanegate regarding the community speedwatch volunteer scheme.

Progress continues to be made with village signage. 'Welcome to Fourstones' gateway signs are to be installed at the east and west approaches to the village. Stones for the Warden signs have been identified and costs will be brought back to the January meeting for approval. NCC has advised that an additional sign to the north of Fourstones will not be possible as it will partially duplicate the recently installed sign.

NCC advised that their gully cleaning machine had been in the Parish in September and that the Mossy is on their schedule for annual cleaning. Cllr Morphet will follow up on other blocked gullies identified at the recent litter pick.

Cllr Morphet reported that he had received a complaint about the lack of a garden waste collection in Warden. NCC is currently carrying out a county wide review and an expansion of the service will be considered. Cllr Morphet also reported that NCC are working on a bus service improvement plan and will be launching a 'use it or lose it' initiative.

A proposal for WPC to declare a climate emergency was discussed. Parishioner views on this are to be canvassed at the Global Climate day event Nov 6th. A formal vote on declaring a climate emergency will be taken at the January meeting to be followed by work to unpick what this means for WPC.

Cllr Bowman is progressing with the refurbishment of the Millennium Wheel gas burners and related testing. The possibility of using green bio LPG and solar powered lighting to be explored further.

A grant of £250 to the Friends of Newbrough School was approved to contribute towards projects in the school grounds. A grant of £60 to Sport Tynedale was also approved. It was also agreed to maintain the precept at its current level of £9250.

Fourstones Community Ventures reported that discussions with the owner of the Railway Inn had reached an impasse. The Clerk will contact the owner to ask for an update on his plans for the pub. The Clerk will also contact NCC for advice on whether the removal of the car park from the sale of the public house is consistent with the Registration of Community Asset legislation, and what can be done to alleviate parishioner concerns about the building becoming a derelict eyesore.

A detailed discussion on organising an event to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee will be held at the January meeting with ideas and proposals circulated ahead of the meeting.

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

The next meeting of Warden Parish Council will be held on Monday Monday 3rd January 2022 commencing 7pm.
The first item on the agenda for all council meetings is devoted to issues raised by members of the public. Please come along if you have any issues you would like to us to address. Alternatively please contact one of the Parish Councillors whose details can be found via: https://northumberlandparishes.uk/warden/people

Nature Notes

O wild West Wind, thou breath of autumn's being,
Thou, from whose unseen presence the leaves dead
Are driven, like ghosts from an enchanter fleeing.[1]

Autumn may be the season of wild west winds, But we have to look back to 2014 to find any truly leaf-scattering autumn weather. Autumns since then have generally been more settled affairs and this year's was the latest in a series of long and colourfully leafed autumns. In more recent times trees have been later in showing autumnal colour than they once did, and although trees were becoming more tinged with warm shades in mid-October these were often set in a largely cool green background of foliage. At the same time bunches of translucent, bright red berries of guelder roses hung in local hedgerows.

Tree foliage assumed increasingly strong autumn hues as October days passed and before the end of the third week silver birch leaves had turned a rich golden colour. In last year's cold October a swift fall of leaves from the white willow in the electricity substation at Butt Bank blanketed the adjacent path on the 19th, whereas this year a longer shedding of leaves began later and on the 28th they littered the path lightly. On the same day just a smattering of dead leaves lay on the trodden earth path through Crow Wood, while afternoon sunlight filtered through a canopy of bright green beech leaves.

In mid-November spindly young ash trees had already been leafless for a month. Ageing horse chestnuts, older ashes and the odd sycamore followed their lead and were bare by later October, but many other trees remained in almost full leaf and carried greenery well beyond the end of the month. In the first week of November and into its second week the crowns of some trees subsided into more subdued, but still pleasing ochre and sepia tones, while autumn hues intensified in others This was particularly true of the neighbour-hood beeches which staged their annual autumn extravaganza. Those lining the road from west of Gooseholme down to Allerwash Cottages devel-oped strong colour by degrees and on the 10th, their copper-coloured leaves were burnished by afternoon sun. By the 13th the path through Crow Wood was heavily strewn with rust-coloured leaves and the green, yellow and the amber leaf-age of tall beech trees, reminiscent of stained glass windows, gave the wood a cathedral-like air.

[1] *Ode to the West Wind. Percy Bysshe Shelley (1819).*

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Newbrough Parish Council

Fran Hogg

Notes from the Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd November 2021

Public Forum

Communications from residents included parish bench seats, dog mess, road conditions, flooding and issues concerning Sportsfield Association and HRH Platinum Jubilee.

Roads

At the Council's last meeting three priorities to include in the Northumberland County Council draft programme were submitted. These included Flooding in Sidgate – Between 49 and 51 Sidgate, as well as the rest of the street and Flooding on Stanegate from Red Lion to Town Hall. However, after recent heavy rainfall other areas were again brought to notice. Areas of concern include North Road, Main Road and Allerwash.

Dropped Kerbs

The Council has received some positive feedback with reference to the newly constructed dropped kerbs.

The Leader of Northumberland County Council

The Council has not received any response to their invitation to Cllr Sanderson the leader of NCC to attend a Council meeting.

Planning Applications for Consultation

No.20/01107/CCM Proposal Extraction of sandstone. Location Prudhamstone Quarry Newbrough. NCC are considering a submission from the Agents, R&K Wood registered on 12th October. The applicant submitted additional information and revised plans for water management and NCC are awaiting comments on these from the statutory waste management authorities. The case officer may present the application to Committee in December. Otherwise it will be presented to Committee in January.

No: 21/01770/LBC Listed Building Consent Newbrough Park Newbrough NE47 5AR. The Council had no objections to this application. Northumberland County Council GRANTED permission

Climate Change and Green Issues

Climate Action Newbrough and Fourstones
(Report provided by Cllr Newson)

CANF met on October 19th to review progress on all projects and to plan for COP26 in Glasgow. To coincide with the COP conference we are holding a Global Climate Action Family Day in the Town Hall on November 6th, 11.30 – 1pm. Another day of tree planting at Haydon Fell is on November 27th, 10am – 2pm.

A big effort is being made to survey potential routes for a safe cycle path towards Hexham; a campaign to reopen Fourstones rail station is more daunting – it took Gilsland 20 years to make a case. As Covid restrictions ease CANF wants to persuade locals to use the bus service and to get an hourly timetable reintroduced.

The Gigabit broadband campaign is going ahead, with installation commencing mid-2022, permissions and wayleaves permitting.

CANF is seeking to participate in both a Net Zero and a heat loss survey with help from NCC. This will identify the costs of insulating our older properties which have been the topic for a Newcastle University survey recently.

WE are looking for opportunities to re-wild public spaces and would welcome suggestions and opportunities. Road verges are a likely opportunity, short wild flowers replacing the scrubby grass which is costly to cut. NCC and Highways England are keen to support wilder verges using the procedures developed by Plantlife UK.

We are pleased to be one of the 10 founder groups in NCCs Climate Champions campaign. Up to 25 village communities are likely to build up the grassroots adoption of climate policies and projects.

Whitebeam opposite the Red Lion

Since the unhealthy (easterly) tree has been removed it has been noticed that the other tree has signs of stress. An arborist will be consulted to examine the tree and decide whether to undertake a crown reduction or to remove it completely.

Continued.....

County Council Climate Change Team – free tree Giveaway
Schools, community groups or town/parish councils can apply for a free tree pack in sizes 10, 30, 60, 90 or 120. Choices of tree packs are:

- Hedge - Make a natural screen or connect existing woodland to help wildlife stay on the move. You will get a variety of each species for 8 metres of full, easy to manage hedging. *Species include: Hornbeam, Hawthorn, Dog Rose, Hazel*
- Copse - Plant a small group of trees as a wildlife haven, providing a valuable food and shelter source. *Species include: Silver birch, Rowan, Wild Cherry, Hawthorn*

Native Harvest - Ideal as a food source for wildlife or you can harvest the fruit and nuts for your own projects such as jams, baking etc. *Species include: Hazel, Crab Apple, Elder, Rowan*
The Council invites any ideas where trees could be planted.

Community Speedwatch
Any residents wishing to help in the campaign to reduce speeding should contact the Northumbria Police Volunteers team by contacting - https://careers.northumbria.police.uk/citizens-in-policing/
Or careers@northumbria.pnn.police.uk

The provisional date for the next meeting is Wednesday 12th January 2022.

New Neighbours

Martha Sewell

Tom couldn't remember how long he had lived in his little house, but in Werf terms it was a very long time. Apart from the occasional wuffling dog or clip-clopping passing horse making their way up the track it was very quiet although the whistling of the robins and wrens in spring often woke him earlier than he liked. His nearest neighbour was old Mrs Freda the fieldmouse. He saw little of her; she was no trouble at all but they had never been in each other's houses. This being so he was very surprised one sunny morning, to find her on his doorstep. She had come to tell him that she had sold her burrow and because of her age was moving down the hill to live with her daughter. Tom asked whether it had been difficult to sell her home. She replied, "Not at all, a family of rabbits bought it within days of it being advertised." Tom wished her, "Good luck." He was looking forward to meeting his new neighbours.

Days passed and nothing happened, but then one night after he had gone to bed the noise started. The sound was a strange scraping noise with sometimes the clatter of pebbles rattling down the track. It was ten past four by the dandelion clock before the racket stopped and Tom was able to enter the Land of Nod. He awoke later than usual and though his head was throbbing, thought that even before breakfast, he should go outside to see what had kept him awake. A sorry sight met his bleary eyes. There were pebbles and soil all over the track and where Mrs Freda's door had been there was now a rabbit-sized hole in the hillside. "Of course," he mused, "a rabbit wouldn't fit into a fieldmouse's burrow, but it's a pity they hadn't spoken to me before they started work." He had read somewhere that rabbits dig holes only at night and sleep during the day.

The next three nights were quiet. The only signs of his new neighbours were a sign at the door proclaiming, "Dunburrowing" and a trail of dead grass left where they had dragged bedding into the burrow. On the fourth night Tom had had enough. They were having a house-warming party. He gathered up all his courage and went next door. In spite of yelling as hard as he could no-one came out so he went in, unannounced. About ten rabbits were dancing wildly to rock music and swigging carrot ale straight from the bottle. A big, buck rabbit spotted Tom and shouted, "What are you and why are you here?" "I'm your Werf neighbour and I can't sleep," whimpered Tom. "Get out, miserable night-sleeper," roared the buck as other rabbits pelted Tom with rubbish. He ran back home and dived, crying under the bedclothes. He couldn't sleep but just as he thought he might be dropping off he was jerked awake by terrible screams. "Suffering Stonecroft. What's happening?" he muttered as he raced to his little window. A dreadful sight met his eyes. Two foxes had been attracted to the rabbits' party by the noise and were now chasing the terrified rabbits all over the wood.

Tom didn't actually see the foxes catch any rabbits but the burrow was abandoned and Tom sleeps peacefully again.

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Newbrough WI

The November evening meeting was held on the 11th in the main Hall at Newbrough Town Hall. It was well attended and President, Dorothy Sowerby, welcomed members and visitors.

The WI has agreed to host a "present in a bag" stall at the Town Hall Christmas Fair on 4th December. Bags will be £1 each. Members please take contributions to the hall.
Congratulations to the Quiz team who reached the Federation Final and came 2nd overall, losing to the winners by just 1 point.
Names and Menu choices were taken for the Christmas meal at the Boatside at 12 noon on Thursday December 9th.
It was agreed to enter Darts and Dominoes teams in forthcoming events.

The speakers were from the Northumberland Honey company based in Hadrian Wall country. They told some fascinating facts about honey and how they worked hard to keep their Bees free of disease and 'alive and well'. One acre of flowers is needed for one hive of Bees. Bees are moved (at night) around the region in accordance with what is in bloom.
The honey products include several types of honey, set, clear and combs. Oher products are bees-wax candles, bottles of Mead, sparkling Mead and chocolates.

The winner of the 'white' competition was new member Lucia Fisher who had written a poem about her white cow milk jug. June Kendrew won the raffle.
The next meeting is on December 9th and will be the Christmas meal.

Reading list for 2022

Kevin H. Hilton

Jan - The Slimming Tip by Bernard Inner.
Taking Liberties by Arthur Chance.

Feb - Pretending She's Poor by Freya Hemm.
The Hell of Tinnitus by Isabel Tinklynn.

Mar - Did You Agree To This? by Ivy Toad.
Witches True by Anna Furmation.

Apr - Rifle Practice by Amy Tyre.
The Drop-Off by Frieda Livery.

May - The Cockney Brush Off by Leigh V. Tout.
Modelling for a Camping Catalogue
by Priti Intense.

Jun - Sore Feet by Sandy Sox.
Operation Completed by Sir Gerry Dunn.

Jul - Arriving in Droves by Morgan Urcum.
Criminal Cover-ups by Aiden Nanabettin.

Aug - Letting Your Animals Wear the Trousers by Sally Petz.
Canine Training by Tyra Dogoot.

Sep - Are you joining us? by Maisie Ewenside.
Young Offender by Aladdin Trubbal.

Oct - Not Letting Go by Verity Nayshus.
Domestic Unrest by Rex Holmes.

Nov - Armed Response by Nina Neenar.
Another Success Story by Morag Stritches.

Dec - Homemade Hummus by Lee Flitter.
Christmas on Credit by Max Doubt,
Owen Evan Moore and Mike Hardy-Klined.

A Green Future? The new Environment *Act*, but is it

Malcolm Newson collapses 279 pages of legislation so you don't have to!

The kindest comments on outcomes from COP26 (see November Green Notes) is that 'vital procedures were put in place'. We sometimes forget this vital step in the way all governments work and we might be forgiven, considering the emergency! Acts of Parliament are a hard read but they are the vital steps on any democratic journey.

I go back to a system of government procedures for which Britain was a world first – Ted Heath's 'Department of the Environment'; coming in 1970, it was the direct result of the Torrey Canyon oil tanker disaster off Cornwall in 1967. We bombed the oil slick but couldn't set it on fire and washed the oiled seabirds in detergent, which killed them faster! Government knew it needed a strategy.

Now Britain has new world-beating legislation that has a more constructive pedigree. The Environment Act was signed off in the Commons on 10th of November but couldn't budge COP from the environmental headlines. The Act became notable for the fight to stop raw sewage entering our rivers and coastal waters (now promised) but it does much more. It has significant importance for *Northumberland and our villages* (not the least because, to my knowledge, we have some pretty primitive sewage treatment works!).

The UK Climate Act (2008 – another world first!) took ten years to lead to 'A Green Future', a government plan for 25 years of environmental reforms including much tougher laws: for example the Environment Bill, now Act. Government publicity promises the Act 'will clean up the country's air, restore natural habitats, increase biodiversity, reduce waste and make better use of our resources'.

Perhaps the most eye-catching items concern 'Nature Recovery' at a local scale, halting the decline of species by 2030 – there is already a draft Northumberland Strategy (search for LNRS on www.northumberland.gov.uk). Our County Councillor, Nick Morphet, suggests a much wider local significance, especially for development planning. In future, developers must demonstrate at least 10% 'Biodiversity Net Gain' after building on a site, either on that site or by paying for it elsewhere (some farm grants are also to be focused on biodiversity under the Agriculture Act). The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) becomes the vital core of much land policy going forward; Northumberland was one of five local authorities chosen to pilot this strategy and it offers a chance for all of us to get involved: all public bodies, including our two Parish Councils, now have a 'general biodiversity duty'. Climate Action Newbrough-Fourstones are already affiliated to Natural England's Nature Recovery Network. We have already used Green Notes to encourage rewilding gardens.

What about the humans?! Our health and wellbeing is obviously supported by Nature. However, the Act also toughens legislation on water pollution, air pollution (especially from traffic), waste, monitoring. It sets up the Office of Environmental Protection to uphold the new laws.

So....away from Glasgow there was, for once, something green stirring itself in Westminster!

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Who's Who

Church of England

Vicar : The Rev'd Canon Jeremy Thompson
Rector of St John Lee and Vicar of Warden & Newbrough
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Methodist

Deacon : Anne Taylor
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Roman Catholic

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From the Registers

NOVEMBER

Funerals

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

On Friday 5th November, at St Michael & All Angels, Warden : Allen Bates of Greenwich Gardens, Haydon Bridge

On Monday 29th November at St Peter's Church, Newbrough: Michael David Holdroyde Thorman, of St Aidan's Park, Fourstones

Fourstones with Warden
Methodist Church

Preachers for December 2021

5th	Mrs J Cameron
12th	at Haydon Bridge, 'toy service'
19th	Carol Service with Deacon Anne

No services on Christmas Day or Boxing Day

Preachers for January 2022

2nd	Local arrangement
9th	at Haydon Bridge Rev T Buglass Covenant Service
16th	Deacon Anne
23rd	Rev Paul Dunstan, Covenant Service
30th	Mr N Fullard

All services are at 10.30am
and all are welcome

Letter from Deacon Anne……

'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.' *John 1:5*

As I write this letter the clocks have gone back, the days are shorter, the nights longer and it definitely feels like a different time of year. The darkness affects the way we see things, the way we do things and we need to have things in place to help us though this time. In dark times we are drawn to the light.

As I write this it is not yet the middle of November and yet I have already seen a Christmas tree in some-one's front window. Though some people might think it's a bit early, it certainly stands out against the dark. I have also received my first Christmas card this week!

As I am a morning person it means getting up in the dark, putting the light on in order for me to do certain things and with other things waiting for the light to dawn. There are many things we can't do until the light comes.

The people of God had been waiting for the light, a Saviour, to come into the world for a long time, some one who would guide them through the dark oppressive times they were living in, someone to give a purpose to their lives, to their existence, a reason for living, a hope of things to come.

'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.' *Isaiah 9: 2*

The words from the prophet Isaiah telling us of the one that was to come and what that would mean for them.

'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' *Isaiah 9:6*

As we move towards Advent and Christmas, we celebrate that light coming into the world. The birth Of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. A light that will not only help us to see more clearly but a light that will draw us to the love and light of God. The nearer we get the brighter the light, the clearer the picture. It may seem dark at the moment in more ways than one but that light can be seen if we know where to find it.

'The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.' *John 1: 9*

May you be drawn to the light and love and the hope we have in Christ this Christmas. May he be the real reason for celebrating this Christmas.

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church : Messy Vintage

Tuesday, November 30th, 2.30pm at Fourstones Methodist Chapel.
The theme is 'Advent', preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ at Christmas.
All are welcome. Art activity followed by tea !

Tuesday 14th December, 2.30pm at Fourstones Methodist Chapel.
The theme will be 'Good News from the Angels' bringing a message of great joy.
Art activity and prayer.

Parish of Warden with Newbrough

Church Services for December 2021

5th December	at	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion at St Michael & All Angels, Warden
	at	11.00am	Zoom worship
12th December	at	10.00am	Holy Communion broadcast live from St. John Lee.
19th December	at	9.30am	Holy Communion at St Peter, Newbrough.
	at	11.00am	Zoom worship
	at	6pm	A Christmas Carol Service for all the Family at St Peter, Newbrough
24th December	at	10.00pm	Midnight Mass at St. Peter Newbrough
25th December	at	10.00am	Christmas Communion at St. Michael & All Angels Warden
26th December	at	10.00am	Holy Communion broadcast live from St. John Lee.

Church Services for January 2022

2nd January	at	9.30am	BCP Holy Communion for the Feast of The Epiphany at St. Michael & All Angels Warden
	at	11.00am	Zoom worship
9th January	at	10.00am	Holy Communion for The Baptism of Christ broadcast live from St. John Lee.
16th January	at	9.30am	Holy Communion at St. Peter Newbrough
	at	11.00am	Zoom worship
23rd January	at	10.00am	Holy Communion broadcast live from St. John Lee.
30th January	at	10.00am	Holy Communion for the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) at St. John Lee

If you wish to speak to Jeremy 600268 please do contact me.
I am here for you

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