

The Stanegate

Newbrough, Fourstones, Warden
and surrounding hamlets

The Hextol Foundation of Hexham

Those who read to the foot of the last page of Stanegate will have noticed it is being printed by The Hextol Foundation of Hexham. We thought you might like to know more about them.

Hextol is a charity which provides working opportunities to people with learning differences and/or mental health issues. They do this by operating a number of not for profit businesses in: catering; print, pack and post; gardening; and warehouse storage and distribution. They also run the very popular Hextol Tans vegetarian and vegan café on St Mary's Chare in Hexham.

Working with around 50 individuals each week, Hextol gives their beneficiaries a sense of purpose and structure, provides the opportunity to develop new skills, and raises their self esteem and confidence.

Hextol run a free lunch club for their beneficiaries several times a week which is proving particularly popular at the moment and helps to address issues of social isolation as well as providing a nutritious meal. They have also introduced externally accredited training courses which further raise the sense of achievement felt by their beneficiaries as well as helping some move into permanent employment.

An important part of Hextol's mission is to break down the stigma which still surrounds those with learning differences and mental health issues. They are therefore passionate about providing excellent standards of service and products – whether a cheese scone in the café or a beautifully manicured lawn or thriving wild flower garden!

If you think Hextol can help you in any way then contact Bruce on 01434 605253 or bruce.howorth@hextol.org.uk.

In addition Hextol are always looking for volunteers to help them supervise and mentor their beneficiaries and if you have some spare time and would like to get involved give Bruce a call.

Bruce Howorth
Chief Executive

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Letters to the Editors.....

Macmillan Coffee Morning

I would like to take the opportunity to thank my neighbours and friends for the support they showed in helping to raise £307.55 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Many thanks
Katrina Mewse

St Peter's Graveyard Annual Tidy up

Thank you to everyone who turned up and worked incredibly hard. The graveyard looks amazing and the snowdrops will benefit.

It would be lovely to see others who have relatives in the graveyard. Their help would be most welcome and much appreciated.

Dear Stanegate,

Ageism, authoritarianism, communism, conservatism, despotism, elitism, racism, sexism, socialism. I am just about 'up to here', hearing and reading about protesters mounting campaigns against all these isms.

There is, however, an ism which has existed for eons, indeed ever since man (I recognise that that is sexist) learned to write and list things but has received no recognition.

I refer of course to alphabetism. For generations, Thompsons, Wilsons, Youngs (and Tindalls), and those with similar initial letters have suffered the ignominy of being at the bottom of lists whilst the Armstrongs, Charltons, Grahams and their ilk have lorded it over us.

The Johnstons, Milburns and Pearsons don't know which way

to turn and presumably suffer from anxiety complexes. I can assure you that we 'lower listers' have experienced trauma for generations, particularly on the male side.

Think of the severe bout of depression felt by poor Maisie Anderson when she had to marry William Watson and was thereby relegated. I am not suggesting that the government do anything drastic by passing laws against alphabetism or mandating the use of hieroglyphics by the Civil service, but perhaps they could devise a compensation scheme for us in recognition of the trauma experienced by our ancestors. Or perhaps I should appeal to the Archbishop of Canterbury since he appears to have the knack of finding money down the back of the sofa to make up for past wrongs.

Rob Tindall

Please send material to the editorial team

Janice Baylis, Dave Spearman, Sophie Straker & Chris Tolan-Smith
at:

thestanegate@hotmail.com

**The deadline for the March issue is
Monday 13th February 2023**

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

9th Newbrough WI,
Town Hall, 7pm

14th Valentine's Day

16th Quiz Night at the
Town Hall,
7.30pm for 8pm

21st Shrove Tuesday

MARCH

1st Newbrough PC,
Town Hall, 7pm

6th Warden PC,
Town Hall, 7pm

9th Newbrough WI
Town Hall, 7pm

16th Quiz Night at the
Town Hall, 7.30 for 8

18th Film Night at the
Town Hall, 8pm
'Nomadland'
See p13

Advertising

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Invited Editorial

Biodiversity: 'the other emergency'

In the October 2022 Stanegate, I raised the question, 'How much land for nature?' to stress that the planet faces two complex interwoven issues – climate change *and extinction of species*. Both critically depend on how we use land. I mentioned that 'Boris says 30%' – he had been quoting from draft, internationally agreed proposals for COP15, held in Montreal in December 2022. Now it's all over and the new UN Biodiversity Framework states the 30% target, 22 other targets and 4 goals.

Basically, the goals write themselves (in the mind of any natural scientist): maintain integrity, connectivity and resilience of ecosystems, promoting diversity and halting extinctions. Crucially, global capitalism needs to put monetary and non-monetary values on nature and we need to finance global monitoring to assess status and progress.

As with the climate crisis, the actions focus on **governments, business and the individual**. Getting back on my land-use/planning soapbox, Target 1 advocates 'inclusive spatial planning, addressing land and sea use change'. Target 2 demands that the 30% be considered a *restoration* task, not simply a government designation followed by business-as-usual (a criticism often applied to our National Parks). We need **biodiversity gain**: it's not even just a conservation task!

We don't have space to consider all 23 targets but, having got the challenge to governments out of the way with the 30% target, let's focus on business and ourselves!

The World Economic Forum published in 2020 a document whose title alone tells all: 'Why the Crisis Engulfing Nature Matters for Business and the Economy'. The perspective is summed up by 'Although the world's 7.6 billion people represent only 0.01% of all living things by weight, humanity has already caused the loss of 83% of all animals and half of all plants'. The biggest impact, influenced by business is **food**. Business is not idle in seeking remedies and innovation: like climate change it enters the Boardroom via 'risk', not 'cuddly conservation'!

So, how can we help as individuals? If we aren't nature-aware (village-dwellers don't have to be!), or don't have a garden to 'rewild', *our main connection to land and nature is via food*. Global authorities stress the scandal of food waste (one third of all food production, worth 1.2 trillion dollars, enough to feed 2 billion people). Initiatives such as Community Groceries have the win-win impact of easing the cost of living and re-routing supermarket 'waste'. So let's start thinking that way – I'm off to eat some leftovers!

Malcolm Newson (a member of Climate Action Newbrough-Fourstones)



**Wishing all our contributors,
distributors and readers a very
Happy New Year**

Stanegate Editorial Team

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Town Hall News

Sheron Robson

We were delighted to see so many of you at the Town Hall Christmas Fair this year, the hall was packed out and stalls spilled over into the gallery. The visit from Santa was as popular as ever and we raised over £1,000 which will be used to fund events for the community (primarily our Warm Wednesdays) over the coming months.

In the festive season we also provided a storytelling session and a film for our younger audience, and while these were valued by those who did attend, the costs outweighed the revenue for both these events so we will have to consider whether we book these events in the future.

Based on the questionnaires that we circulated last summer, we are now planning our events for the coming year. Responding to what people asked for, we have already launched a new yoga class on a Monday evening 6.30-7.30. This class is aimed at beginners and those returning to exercise. There were 10 of us at the first session and new people are always welcome. Contact Jane on: JJyoga83@gmail.com for more details and how to book. Costs are £7 for a drop-in, £26 for a 4 class pass.

We also have the return of the monthly quiz in February. We have a new quizmaster and a different range of questions and would like to offer the first quiz night as a really good value, local night out. So for our first event on the 16th of February

at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm), we will offer free entry and provide free snacks, hoping that people will give our new look quiz a go - get it in your diaries...

and finally, our Warm Wednesdays will continue to provide a warm welcome, a warming bowl of delicious soup and a freshly baked roll, every Wednesday through until at least the end of February (and possibly through March too depending on the weather / demand).

We have developed a friendly group of regulars who drop in between 11-2pm, some just calling in for a coffee and chat, some staying for their lunch. I think it's really positive to see the Town Hall being used in this way - both with, and for, our local community.

We also have plans for a Simon and Garfunkel night in March and will be re-booking local acapella group, the Hex Pistols, to come and sing for us possibly at Easter time so keep checking the Town Hall's Facebook page for upcoming events. We'd also welcome any feedback you have about events you've attended or would like us to consider for the Town Hall.

Please email
secretarynewbroughtownhall@gmail.com
with any comments or suggestions.

A few memories from the Christmas Fair 2022



The members took part in several Christmas activities which included St. Peter's church cleaning, creating three Christmas displays in the windows at the Chapel and of course the Christmas party which was held at the Boatside, Warden in December and was enjoyed by all. We were present at the Town Hall Fayre with our bag stall, donated by members with all monies taken donated to Town Hall funds. Members also worked in the kitchen serving drinks and mince pies.

The January meeting was held on 12th January in Newbrough Town Hall on a wet blowy evening. Despite that, 13 members attended and enjoyed a games evening organised by our President Judith Kirby. Dominoes, snakes and ladders and ludo were on the agenda after a short business meeting. A collection in lieu of Christmas presents was taken

and £75 was given to a local charity 'WECAN'. The Charity works with Adults and Children with special needs. Members chose to go to Bowes Museum for our Centenary outing in June.

Lucia Fisher was presented with a prize for obtaining most marks in the monthly competition and Ann Wodzinski won the competition for a motto for the programme. "There is no limit to what we, as Women, can accomplish." Susan Sutton won the raffle and Kath Clark won the flowers. The games were won by Dorothy Sowerby and Ann Wodzinski was second.

Next month the meeting is on February 9th and member, Lucia Fisher, will give us a cookery demonstration. Teresa Bessant and Vanessa Ashton are hostesses and Ann Wodzinski is in charge of the raffle. The Competition is for the colour yellow.

200 Club Subscriptions

The annual subscriptions are due by the end of February. Again we would prefer people to pay by bank transfer as this is cheaper for us and so much easier. The account details are :

Newbrough Town Hall
40-52-40
00022621

Please put your initial and surname as the reference.

If you are unable to pay by this method please contact me, Elaine Arkless, on 674904 and we can arrange payment. Also if you need to know how many numbers you have or would like extra numbers let me know. The cost per year is £5 per number.

200 CLUB

DECEMBER
winners are:

1st	Linda Penny	91
2nd	Shirley Phillips	169
3rd	Stewart Thompson	44

JANUARY
winners are:

1st	Anne Matthews	8
2nd	Geoff Clark	20
3rd	Vanessa Ashton	163

BONUS BALL DRAW

for Pensioners' Christmas lunch

NOVEMBER

26th	Maureen Thompson	11
------	------------------	----

DECEMBER

3rd	Barry Dixon	23
10th	Stuart Smith	54
17th	Gail Watson	32



The spring term is always a great one in school. Coming back into school after Christmas, everyone always seems to settle down quickly and focus on their work- and there is some really interesting work going on this term.

Our youngest children in Nursery and Reception are currently reading and enjoying some of the best traditional stories like the Three Billy Goats Gruff and the Enormous Turnip. These perennial favourites give lots of opportunities for exploring story language and of course constructing bridges for the goats to 'trip trap' across in our wonderful early years garden!

The Year 1 and 2 children in Class 2 have begun to study 'Africa'. They are looking at both the geography and also how animals are adapted to different habitats within the continent. The children are going to be building on their learning in art last term when they looked at the work of Norman Cornish (one of the 'Pitman Painters'). This term, they are going to be visited by his son and daughter in law who are going to be leading an art workshop for them!

This is part of the 'Beneath our feet' project which will also see the Year 3 and 4 children researching the mining heritage of our villages and then, alongside other schools from the Haydon Bridge Partnership, working with an artist specially commissioned by Queen's Hall, using grant funding from English Heritage, to create an art work which will commemorate that heritage. We don't know yet what this art work

is going to be or what it will look like, because part of the project is for the children themselves to be involved in those decisions. If you have any photos, memories or memorabilia from any of the mines in the village which might help our research, we'd love to hear from you.

Our Year 5 and 6 children will be learning about some other great figures in North East history - Cuthbert, Aidan and Bede. Their work will see them explore the influence these early Christians had on shaping the history and religious identity of the North East. Hopefully, we will be able to fit in a visit to one of the many sites in the county with links to the three. How fantastic to be able to plan educational visits again!

We have also been planning how to spend a very generous donation from our Parents and Friends organisation towards the purchase of some much-needed non-fiction books for the school library.

Thank you to all of you who have supported any of our events over the past 12 months and helped to raise money for the school and thank you too to any of you that have deposited clothes/ textiles in our recycling bank. Believe it or not, we have raised over £650 pounds for school through the clothes bank, as well as recycling or re-using 2,100kg of old clothes. Please do bear us in mind if you are 'spring cleaning' your wardrobes anytime soon!

Jo Trotter
Head Teacher

Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually on February 14.

It originated as a Christian feast day honouring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine and, through later folk traditions, has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.

Tyneside Recipes (Northumbrian/Geordie)

The recipes are from my grandmother's recipe book. They are simple, economical home cooking recipes with ingredients in the store cupboard, apart from fresh yeast. My grandmother had 8 children and baked mainly yeast recipes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. She had a black leaded coal range with a coal fire and oven. My grandfather got free coal as he was a miner.

There was always a lovely smell of bread cooking and the hearth was usually full with various yeast recipes rising or proving. The local Co-op always stocked yeast.

* * * * *

Singing Hinnies

The singing hinnie was so called as, when the butter and the cream melted during the baking, it sizzled on the hot girdle and was thought to be singing. An old tale is told of how this large tea-time scone first became known as a singing hinnie : a north country housewife was baking the scone for tea and on repeatedly being asked by her children if it was ready to eat, her final reply was "No, it's just singing, hinnies".

Ingredients:

1/2 lb plain flour
2ozs butter
2 ozs lard
1 oz currants
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
Milk and sour cream



Method

Rub fat into flour. Add other dry ingredients. Mix to a soft dough with a little milk and sour cream. Roll out and bake both sides on a hot girdle.

In order to turn these without breaking into pieces, a pair of singing hinnie hands were used.

Lardy Cake

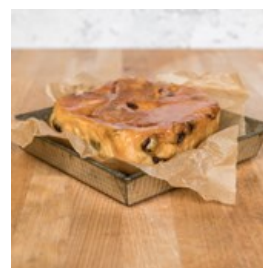
Ingredients

for the dough:

8ozs flour
3/4 gill of milk
1/2 oz yeast
1 teaspoon sugar
1 egg
Pinch of salt

for the filling:

2ozs lard
2 ozs sugar
2 ozs currants



Method

Sift together flour and salt and leave in a warm place. Cream the yeast with sugar. Add the egg and warmed milk and mix with the flour to make a soft dough.

Leave in a warm place and when the dough has doubled its bulk, roll out onto a floured board. Divide the filling into two portions and spread one half onto two-thirds of the dough, then fold into three as for flaky pastry and roll out again. Spread on the remainder of the filling, refold and roll out twice, finally shaping to fit an eight inch cake tin. Allow to rise and bake in a hot oven for 30—35 minutes.

Granny Loaf

Ingredients:

1 lb plain flour	1 oz yeast	3 ozs currants	3 ozs raisins	3 ozs cut peel
1 teaspoon salt	1 egg	1/2 pint milk	1 tablespoon sugar	2 ozs margarine

Method

Put yeast in a basin and allow it to prove with a small quantity of tepid milk. Rub margarine into flour, add salt, sugar and fruit into flour and mix together. Make a well in the centre and pour in yeast add beaten egg and tepid milk. Mix into a soft dough and allow to rise for half an hour. Divide into three portions and place in three greased loaf tins. Let them rise until they are double in size. Bake in a hot oven for 45 minutes.



Pan Haggerty

Ingredients:

2 lb potatoes cut into thin slices	3 oz grated cheese	1 lb onions sliced
Salt and pepper	1 tablespoon dripping	



Method

Place layers of the potatoes, onions and grated cheese in a heavy frying pan in hot fat. Season each layer and fry gently to brown. Keep a lid on the pan and cook until the vegetables are tender.

This is a traditional Northumbrian dish and is still popular as an accompaniment to meat or as a supper dish.

Pease Pudding

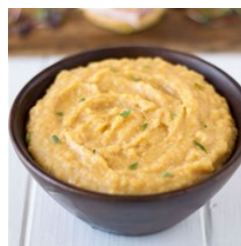
"Pease pudding hot, pease pudding cold, Pease pudding in the pot, nine days old"
(North Country rhyme)

Ingredients

1 lb split peas	bacon or ham stock
1 large potato	seasoning as required

Method

Wash split peas and place with chopped potato in muslin bag. Simmer for two hours in stock until peas are soft. Mash in a bowl with a little stock and serve hot or cold.



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



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Village Web Site

Iain Bennett

Some of our new residents may not be aware that there is a web site which covers the villages of Fourstones, Newbrough, Warden and neighbouring areas. This can be found at :

www.fourstonesandnewbrough.co.uk

The web site contains a host of local information; there are links to web sites for The Boatside Inn, The Red Lion, The Town Hall, Newbrough Parish Council, Warden Parish Council and Newbrough C of E Primary School. For entertainment news there are links to the Forum Cinema, Queen's Hall, The Hexham Courant, The Journal and a "What's On" section that lists events in the three villages and surrounds.

The "What's On" information is emailed out at the start of each month to all the members on an email distribution list on a blind copy basis, so no recipients see any other email addresses.

If you would like to be included in the list, please drop an email request to :
fourstones.info@fourstonesandnewbrough.co.uk

Finally, there is a host of links to information about road closures, surgeries, pharmacies, flood warnings, weather forecasts, contacts for Northumberland Council Council services and links to tourist information and Bed and Breakfast accommodation.

All information on the web site is presented as accurate and to the best of my knowledge, but errors will be gladly corrected if they are reported via the email address previously noted.

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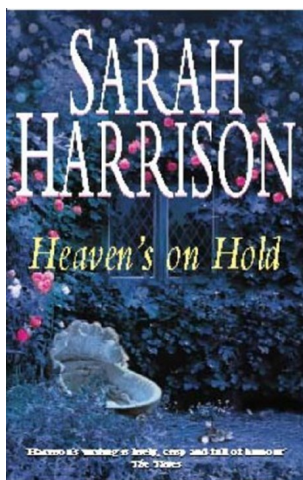
"Heaven's On Hold" by Sarah Harrison

The book starts with our introduction to the main character David Keating, who sees himself as a middle of the road driver, middled aged, middle class, middle management and that men do not come more middling than him. He feels that he will be subject to a kind of living death by mediocrity. As the book progresses we see him develop into a loving and very caring father of baby Freya, as well as being sensitive to his wife's complex and often unrealistic behaviour.

Throughout the book he seems to deal thought-fully and caringly with all the different people he encounters, but sometimes feels he has made mistakes. He tends to question his decisions and actions. The relationship between him and his much younger wife, Annet, although based on mutual love, is rather one sided, as David seems to have to tread so carefully with her. She is very ambitious, selfish and so judgemental of people. Her relationship with her mother and sister in law, Mags, reveal this characteristic. She even dislikes Harry Bailey at first. Not a very likeable person.

The experience that David and Annet, as much older parents, have with dealing with their first child and how to cope with feeding, irregular sleep patterns and colic, brought back many memories.

Even though I recommended the book I felt it had flaws. David sacks a young girl, Gina King, because of her inability to follow instructions. He then has misgivings about his decision and throughout the



book imagines she keeps appearing and following him, but we are left with the impression that it might be the ghost that is supposed to haunt the house in which he lives. Finally, he goes to her home where he is beaten up by her father, while Gina screams that she hates him. Why did she send some friendly letters to him? None of this rings true.

Perhaps, one of the failings of the book, is that the author brings in too many different scenarios. There is a reference to an affair with Jean

Samms and Robert Townsend; Hilary and George Bryce are about to move because of his dementia; Chris Harper and Lindl and their relationship and even the hinted breakdown of the marriage of Mags and Tim. In each case it seems that there is always one person in the relationship who is the giver and more caring one. May be echoing and emphasising what is happening to David and Annet.

Much to my disappointment the reading group found this book not to their liking. Many of them thought it did not move on and that the author had an idea but did not know how to finish it. To them the ending was rather contrived with a beaten up husband, a sick baby and a wife caught up in a storm. They questioned the title of the book, but I felt that the author was trying to suggest that despite the many problems we encounter during our lives, eventually we realise that heaven is here. We certainly had a lively discussion.

Tyne Valley Film Festival NOMADLAND

Showing at the Town Hall on Saturday 18th March

Bar opens at 6.30pm Optional meal at 7pm. Film starts at 8pm

Academy Award winning and touching drama following a retiree who lost everything during the Great Recession and began a new life as a modern-day nomad. Rated 15 [2020]



November Weatherwatch

Expect St. Martin's summer, halcyon days. (Shakespeare, Henry VI, Part 1).

As a knock-on effect of Atlantic Hurricane Martin some stormy winds and recurring bouts of heavy rain affected parts of the north and south of Britain in the first week or so of November, while local gusts were relatively moderate and such rain that fell here came in scattered light showers. A south-westerly sub-tropical airflow brought warmth, particularly to the second week of the month when daily maximums resembled those of May more than autumn. In weather lore such unseasonably warm weather in early November is known as a "St Martin's Summer" after a fourth century French saint. Last November's Park Shield monthly maximum of a warm 16.4C on the 11th coincided with the saint's feast day itself.¹ An extremely mild overnight minimum of 14.2C and daily minimum of 14.0C, also on the 11th, were the warmest for November in over thirty years of Park Shield temperature readings.

In a much cooler second half of November daily maximums were nevertheless around the seasonal average, although a milder three day spell from the 25th included a decent late November daily maximum of 12.8C on the 27th. Night-times were markedly colder. A Park Shield monthly minimum of -3.1C was recorded before sunrise on the 21st and four further air frosts followed; three of them consecutive from the 28th. November ended with the month's lowest daily maximum of a chilly 1.8C on the 30th. But early warmth slightly outweighed later chill, placing last November just in the top half of the mildest eighteen November Weather-watches to date.

A much rainier as well as much cooler latter half of November contained only two dry days. However, the majority of the Park Shield rain fell on the 17th

alone. The day's aggregate of 23.2 mm made it the wettest day of November and it subsequently proved to be the wettest day of the year. But while rainfall across the home nations was well above average and some places in Scotland and southern England suffered double their November average rainfall, the Park Shield total of 58.0 mm was well below the c.80 mm average. Only six Novembers in a twenty-five Park Shield series have recorded less rainfall.

But although November was milder and drier than average, high rainfall frequency was a drawback and while sunshine was close to average nationally, often clouded conditions here made it a largely dull month.

November Weatherwatch Factfile Temperature.

Park Shield mean monthly maximum : c.10.3C.
Mean monthly minimum : c.4.4C. Monthly mean : c.7.4C. E&NE England monthly mean : 8.0C and 1.8C above the 1991-2020 average. UK maximum : 21.2C at Porthmadog (Gwynedd) on the 13th. UK minimum : -6.0C at Aviemore (Inverness-shire) on the 30th.¹ 2013 November maximum: 13.7C on the 11th.

Rainfall and Sunshine

Park Shield rain days : 23. E&NE England 117% & 68% of the 1991-2020 average. Note : E&NE England the dullest UK region.

Winds

Breezy at first and westerly until the 11th. Easterly from the 12th to the 16th, then predominantly westerly. UK maximum gust :115 mph at the Needles (IOW) on the 1st. Note. The 26th /27th marked the first anniversary of Storm Arwen.



Just Passing Through

Cold weather saw resident birds congregating around garden feeders, while winter visitors were scouting the countryside in a search for food. One tight flock of fieldfare glimpsed flying purposefully westwards towards Frankham Fell early in the new year numbered well over a hundred individuals; just a few of the estimated million that arrive each year.

Notes of the Meeting held on Monday 9th January 2023 in Newbrough Town Hall

It was reported that volunteers, under the coordination of Cllr Martin, had cleared and effectively widened the footpath from Fourstones to the school. A member of the public in attendance commented that an excellent job had been carried out. It is hoped that this will improve the experience for pedestrians walking along this section of footpath, particularly those with push-chairs or with young children.

Cllr Morphet confirmed the go ahead for the installation of the new seat at Crossgates. Cllr Bowman is to seek a second quotation for the provision of a concrete base to enable the installation to proceed.

Cllr Morphet had reported the subsidence at the bottom of the Mossy and the County Structural Engineer has investigated and agreed to undertake the necessary repairs although there is a long waiting list for this type of work. NCC Highways Maintenance and Streetworks Departments are debating with Northumbrian Water who was responsible for to repair the sunken patches at the crossroads in Fourstones. The debate regarding liability is ongoing and Cllr Morphet is monitoring the situation.

Cllr Bowman advised that the overgrown area at Warden Bridge had been fenced off due to the septic tank and soakaway for the Boatside Inn. Cllr Bowman is liaising with the landowner regarding the matter, particularly highlighting that the weeds that are both unsightly and concern that the seeds will be broadcast locally, including on to the bridge that has recently had weeds and vegetation removed.

The petition recommending a mandatory speed reduction from the level crossing past the Paper Mill to Quality Cottages had passed the 50 signature threshold and will go before the Local Area County Committee on 14/3/23.

Cllr Martin reported that monitoring strips had been placed at East Fourstones Lane, however County Cllr advised the official results concluded that the road does not meet the criteria for any further action.

A meeting had taken place to discuss the repairs and sustainable future use of the MUGA. Newbrough and Warden Parish Councilors were in attendance together with the Head teacher, and representatives of the Sports Association. In principle the Sports Association has agreed to manage the MUGA as a school and community facility. Quotes for fence repair / replacement and surface repair are being sought. Avenues for grant funding will also be explored. Cllr Morphet reported that play areas do not qualify for NCC S106 monies however nearly £89k is available for outdoor sport, so this may be an option for the MUGA.

NCC has appointed a Locality Officer for the Tyndale area. It was agreed to invite the Officer to a future meeting of the Parish Council. A copy of the relevant job description was requested ahead of the meeting to ensure the discussion could be mutually beneficial.

A meeting to discuss the Parish Crisis Management Plan was held in November 2022. The meeting was facilitated by Helen Hinds from NCC and Cllr Morphet, and attended by representatives of Warden Parish Council, The WI, Town Hall, and Churches. The meeting considered a range of issues including risks, resources and communications. It was agreed that the drafting of the plan would be progressed when the issue of personal liability had been clarified.

The budget and precept for 2023/2024 was discussed and agreed. The reserves have been eroded to some extent this year with the main expenditure being on the maintenance of open areas, signage and the platinum jubilee celebrations. A reserve of 75% of the precept was considered reasonable to make provision for any unforeseen items. A precept of £9500 was approved for 2023 - 2024.

The final item was a discussion about the coronation of King Charles on Saturday May 6th. It was agreed that Warden Parish Council together with Newbrough Parish Council would jointly fund the purchase of coronation mugs for pupils at Newbrough School.

continued.....

It was also agreed that the beacon will be lit at 8.00pm on Coronation Day and residents will be invited to assemble from 7.00pm on a bring your own refreshments basis.

[Documents | Warden Parish Council \(northumberlandparishes.uk\)](http://Documents | Warden Parish Council (northumberlandparishes.uk))

The next meeting of Warden Parish Council will be held on Monday 6th March 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 to us to address. Alternatively please contact one of the Parish Councillors whose details can be found via:

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



The Coronation of King Charles III Saturday 6th May 2023

Warden Parish Council will light the Millennium Beacon at 8pm
after which the national anthem will be sung.

All residents are invited to assemble at the Beacon from 7pm onwards
on a bring your own refreshments basis.

Extract from Hexham Courant Saturday 04 May 1889

NEWBROUGH. Association Football.— Fourstones Pelican Rangers XI v. Newbrough Lodge XI. - Played last Saturday on the ground of the latter. The visitors winning the toss elected to play up the hill with the sun in their faces. After the kick-off play settled down in the visitors' half. J. Wallace (of the home team) with a clever screw from the right notched the first and only goal of the match. On change of ends the visitors with the hill and sun in their favour reckoned on an easy win but in this they were disappointed, as the home defence proved to be superior to the attack, and play became of an even nature. The home defence, through the instrumentality of Tinling and Robson, remained intact, and the visitors retired defeated one goal to nil.

Now that we cannot support one, I wonder how many teams our parish had in the late 19th century. Pelicans is an interesting name and relates to the inscription on the Newbrough pant and the Pelican Band of Mercy.

Rob Tindall

December Weatherwatch

After an unbroken run of eleven warmer than average months 2022 ended with a heavily frosted December that was the coldest since the Arctic-like December of 2010. In a thirty-four year Park Shield record only the Decembers of 2010 and 1995 suffered more than its fourteen days of air frost, while overall it was the second coldest December since the freezing December of 1981.

The weather in first half of month was settled and decidedly cold. Winds of varying strengths are an almost constant part of our weather, but the Park Shield weather station wind speed reading on the 1st of December was an uncommon 0 mph and “Calm” on the Beaufort wind scale; the first entirely still day since November the 24th in 2016. The coldest part of December came in a run of twelve consecutive frosty days in the period from the 7th to the 18th. The frosts of -6.1C, -5.9C, -7.7C, -9.3C, -6.2C, -7.7C and -8.6C respectively in the spell from the 10th to the 16th were particularly piercing. The 12th, 13th and 14th all recorded sub-zero Celsius daily maximums; the -2.4C of the 12th being the month’s lowest daily maximum, while the -9.3 of the 13th was the month’s lowest minimum. However, the high pressure that gave rise to the cold period also meant that winds were light and days were dry. No rain fell from the onset of frosts on the 7th until the 15th, although a little late afternoon fine snow fell on the 8th and a later fall left a smattering on the ground on the morning of the 9th. This was recorded as 0.4 mm of meltwater on the 16th as the frost eased. The settled weather did result in a heavy fog which persisted through the day at Park Shield on the 12th, but this aside the days in the cold period

generally provided a fair amount of early winter sunshine; especially those with the sub-zero Celsius maximums when the sun shone virtually throughout.

In an abrupt change to the weather the chilly daily high of 2.5C on the 18th was followed by the December maximum of a very mild 14.3C on the 19th. From then until the month’s end conditions were unsettled, much milder and wetter. Reasonably mild nights were punctuated by light air frosts on the 26th and 27th, but daytime temperatures were generally somewhat above the seasonal average, including a mild 10.7C maximum on the 30th. Up to the 18th Park Shield recorded only 12.6 mm of rainfall, but after this a more substantial 41.0 mm of rain fell as it rained every day except for the 22nd. Even so, the month’s total of 53.6 mm was well below average with only six Decembers in a twenty-five year series having less rain.

December Weatherwatch Factfile

Temperature. Park Shield monthly maximum : c.5.0C. Monthly minimum : c. - 0.7C. Monthly mean : c.2.2C and c.2.0C below average. E&NE England monthly mean : 2.9C and -1.1C below the 1991-2020 average. UK maximum : 15.9C at Prestatyn & Hawarden (both Clwyd) on the 19th. UK minimum : - 17.3C at Braemar (Aberdeenshire) on the 13th.

Rainfall and Sunshine. E&NE England rainfall and sunshine : 97% and 110% of the 1991-2020 average.

Winds Southerly to the 4th and then very largely north-westerly. Generally light, but gusty in the last few days. Maximum gust : 36 mph on the 30th.

Woolly Wanderers

About 20 members of Woolly Wanderers met at Newbrough Town Hall on 7th January to craft and chat (more chatting than crafting went on).

We are a group from Durham, Northumberland and Tyneside who meet at various venues across the region on a monthly basis, all with a passion for “woolly” crafts.

Gill Charlton

The Town Hall is a perfect venue allowing us space and, with excellent facilities, we all look forward to coming to Newbrough.

It was nice to see a few visitors who took the time to come and say hello.

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Nature Notes



A small group of pure white snowdrops were bowing as yet unopened heads in St. Peter's churchyard on the 10th of January. What lies ahead in the spring they herald is uncertain, but in the meantime we can look back to an autumn that was only bettered for warmth in a nearly one hundred and forty year old UK record by the autumns of 2006 and 2011.

Without any blustery winds and biting frosts trees retained appreciable amounts of foliage well into November, although leaf fall for most was earlier than in the previous autumn. They included the vivid leaves of the Butt Bank white willow, pictured in November's Stanegate, which were fully shed but by the 26th of October, ten days earlier than in the autumn before. And while the lime trees opposite St. Peter's churchyard were virtually leafless by then, they were still quite well-leaved on the 10th of November in 2021.

In late October and early November some autumn colour was eye-catching, but warm hues were generally more muted and never quite matched the intensity of the past two autumns. With a mix of rich russet, amber and marmalade leaves, beeches usually provide a crescendo of autumn colour, but a promising start led to something of an anticlimax. On the 10th of November only partially leafed beeches west of Allerwash Cottages were a dull ochre, whereas on the same date in the previous autumn they were in full-leaf and a bold copper colour.

Steady rain on the 17th of November and a sharp frost on the 21st, were reminders of what can be autumn's less attractive aspects and the increase in leaf loss they caused gave the neighbourhood a more wintry look. Even so some trees clung stubbornly on to a measure of leaves; the oaks below St. Peter's Church among them. A vestige of summer, a red admiral butterfly, was seen on Church Lane on the 28th of October. And summer lingered on in the stone planters opposite the Red Lion, where old English marigolds, nigella or love-in-mist, pale mauve poppies, colourful asters and a tender nasturtium were still flowering on the 14th of November.

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Who's Who

Church of England

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Roman Catholic

Parish Priest : Fr Jeffrey Dodds
Assisted by Fr Luke Wilkinson
St Mary's Catholic Church
Hencotes
Hexham
NE46 3EB
Tel: 01434 603119

From the Registers

DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Funerals

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

On December 13th 2022, at St. Michael & All Angels, : Rosemary Douglas-Menzies of Walwick Grange, Humshaugh

On January 3rd 2023, at St. Peter Newbrough: Robert William "Billy" Charlton of Broadway, Fourstones.

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

Friday Coffee mornings in February
teas, coffee, soup & bread bun

Friday 10th: 11am—2pm
and

Friday 17th: 11am—2pm

Messy Vintage
Tuesday 14th February
2.30pm

The theme is St Valentine's Day

Bible reading, singing, craft and tea

Everyone is welcome to join in or sit and watch

St John of Beverley, Haydon Bridge

If you have any queries about service times
please contact:

St Mary's Catholic Church, Hencotes,
Hexham

or call 01434 603119

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church Preachers for February 2023

5th	Sandra Martin
12th	Mr Norman Fullard
19th	Mr Ian Warburton
26th	Local arrangement

Services at 10.30am.
All are welcome

Letter from Deacon Anne.....

'Though I sit in darkness the Lord will be my light' Micah 7:8b

The words for this article came to me as I sat in bed reading my devotions around 7 am in the morning. The above verse was on the front cover of my devotion booklet 'Every day with Jesus' published by Waverley Abbey Trust. I was sat in the dark and it wouldn't be light for at least another hour. As these articles are written in advance by the time you read this it will hopefully be getting lighter in the mornings.

As I write this, it is the second weekend in January when we will be celebrating Epiphany in the church, the coming of the Magi, the Wise men, who followed the star placed in the sky by God. We have probably all been rushing round to get our Christmas decorations down before 12th night, the 6th January. I don't know why we do that as it would be lovely to keep them up until it did get a bit lighter. And so, we are now sat in the dark, but we still need the light.

At this time of year, we are still very much in the dark about what this New Year will bring for us and especially during these uncertain and challenging times, we still very much need a light to guide us.

Psalm 119:105 says, 'Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path'

In times of darkness and uncertainty when we are not sure which way to go or what's going to happen, the Word of God can be a source of light to us.

Reading God's Word is a great comfort especially in times of so much uncertainty as Philippians 4: 6-7 says, 'Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'

The hymn writer Graham Kendrick's well known hymn 'Shine Jesus Shine' begins with the words, 'Lord the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining...' the chorus ends with 'send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light.'

As we wait in the dark may the Word of Christ be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path through this coming year.

Parish of Warden with Newbrough Church Services for February 2023

5th February 3rd Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion at St. John Lee
9.30am Parish Communion BCP at St Michael & All Angels, Warden
11.15 am Zoom Worship

12th February 2nd Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion at St Michael & All Angels, Warden
10.00am A Service of the Word at St John Lee.

19th February Sunday Next before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion at St. John Lee
9.30am Parish Eucharist at St Peter Newbrough
11.15am Zoom worship

22nd February Ash Wednesday

10am Holy Communion with the imposition of Ashes at St John Lee
6.30pm Holy Communion with the imposition of Ashes at St Aidan Fourstones

26th February Lent 1

8.00am Holy Communion at St Peter Newbrough
10.00am Parish Eucharist broadcast live from St. John Lee