The Stanegate Magazine
186 July 2021

The Stanegate

Newbrough, Fourstones and Warden

Editorial

One member of the Editorial team was scrolling through old copies of Stanegates and pondering over the July editorial of 2020, the first sentence of which says….."as we write, the country is preparing to return to some degree of normality, maybe a new normality based on what we have learnt". My goodness, things have most certainly not reverted to the old 'normal' and we could be tempted to simply copy and paste last year's editorial. We wonder if anyone would notice?!

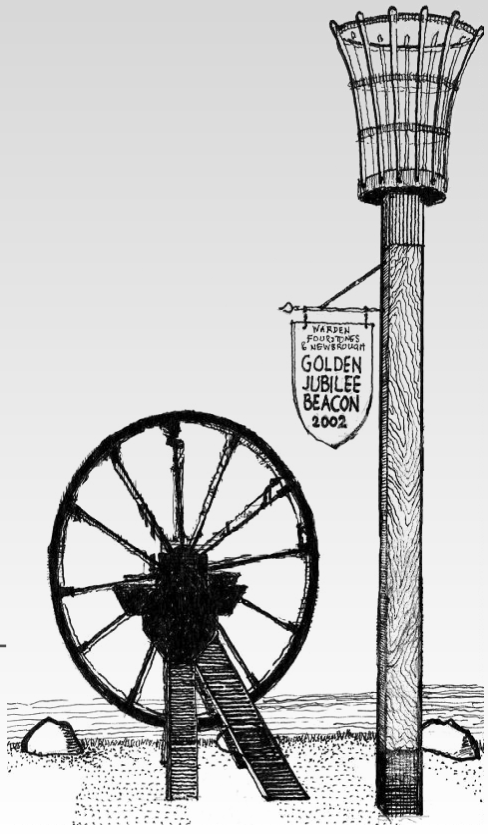
We are however delighted that some of our readers do notice what is contained in the Stanegate. Most recently, Featherwatch was complimented for explaining the difference between some of our summer visiting birds, and we do know that some of the recipes are tried and tested by others. This gives us the opportunity to thank Sylvia Richardson, our newest contributor to the recipe pages, for her contribution last month and we look forward to the August edition. We're hoping one member of the editorial team might bring along some of Iain's bakes to our meeting this month which will be just the ticket with a cup of tea.

You may have noticed we're asking for help this month with Stanegate (page 2) which is self explanatory. Please do get in touch with any ideas and suggestions. We're also asking for drawings of Tom the Werf (page 9) which is a delightful story for children (and adults). A Sunken Ship is the latest episode and if anyone would like copies of the previous stories, please let us know.

It's great to read and hear that some events are hoping to get going again in September, namely Town Hall and bingo quiz nights, Parish Produce Show and hopefully Newbrough WI. Everything is crossed that on July 19th we will be able to confirm all those plans for late summer. In the meantime enjoy the sunshine and stay safe.

Inside this issue

Calendar of events.....2
Can you help Stanegate.....2
Local photo of the month.....2
Village News..... 3
Green Notes.....4
A lovely day for a litter pick.....5
We-Fibre : ultra fast broadband.5
Just passing through.....5
From an Orchard Kitchen.....6/7
A message from your new County Councillor.....8
A Sunken Ship.....9
Nature Notes.....10
May Weatherwatch.....13/14
Chuckle Corner.....14
Church Pages.....17/18



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

The deadline for the August issue is
Friday 16th July 2021

Produced and published by The Stanegate Editorial Committee and Hadrian's Wall Rotary Club

Can you help Stanegate

We're looking for help with production of our village publication.

Is it time for a revamp?

Do you have any suggestions?

We're also looking into alternative printing sources.
Can you help?

If so, please email : thestanegate@jhotmail.com

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

Calendar of Events

JULY

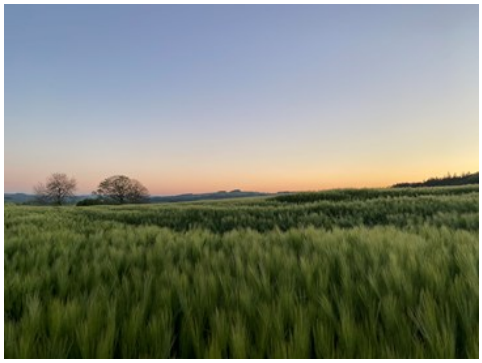
5th	Warden Parish Council, 7pm
7th	Newbrough Parish Council, 7pm
16th	School closes for summer holidays

SEPTEMBER

1st	Newbrough Parish Council, 7pm
6th	Warden Parish Council, 7pm
7th	School opens for Autumn term
11th	Parish Produce Show, Town Hall

Local Photo of the Month

Field of Dreams
by Stephen Robinson



Thanks once 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.

Advertising

Commercial advertising rates per year (11 issues)

Fraction	Size in cm H x W	Price of page
Full page	25.4x17cm	£320
½ page	12.4x17cm	£160
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1/12 page	6.0x5cm	£27

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Village News

Dave Spearman

Newbrough Town Hall Open Day : Saturday 10th July

At the time of drafting this issue there is not clarity regarding the easing of Covid 19 restrictions so the Town hall Committee has reluctantly decided to postpone this event until more people are allowed to mix together. Hopefully this will be arranged for a future date.

Meanwhile the motor operated blinds and the newly refurbished floor are both welcome improvements to the Hall. An additional picnic table, umbrellas, a cycle rack and courtyard lighting are programmed to be installed in July.

The hanging baskets around the Hall and bunk house are now blooming well and the planters in front of the memorial and the hall are splendid, thanks to the efforts of Keith and Tony at Island Cottage, Gooseholme.

Working from home

The Hall is still keen to hear from individuals who are seeking a work space outside of their home. Call Dave on 674451 if you are interested and wish to know more.

Town Hall User Groups

Several groups have been in touch but if not please contact the Hall by emailing : secretarynewbroughtownhall@gmail.com

New recruits wanted!

Although there are already ongoing [at least normally…] evenings for carpet bowls and table tennis, please contact the Hall [e-mail address as above] should you wish to create a new group or join the existing teams for these activities. Or indeed if you want to set up a new group, for example, whist, rummy or similar, just let us know.

Town Hall quiz and bingo night

September is currently the planned month for re-starting these evenings, subject as ever to the easing of Covid 19 restrictions in the weeks ahead

Film and Food Nights

Following the initial article in Village News last month there has been an encouraging response from a number of readers and this has resulted in a decision to press ahead to develop the plans to purchase projection, sound and screen facilities for the Hall. The proposed system is flexible and can be used either in the main hall or in the lounge, depending on the type of film, room layout and the audience numbers. The facility is also thought to be of potential interest to those hirers who may wish to give talks, presentations etc.

Plant Swap

With everything growing well some people have more plants than space and may want to pass surpluses to others. Haltwhistle has recently set up a plant swap/nominal donation system which may be interesting in our villages. Drop a line to thestanegate@hotmail.com if you have an interest in this possibility.

Queenie Lambie

We were saddened to hear of the recent death of Queenie Lambie, at the age of 101 who, although Kent born, arrived at Newbrough Farmhouse in May 1960 with her husband Bill, who was the farm manager for Mrs Lesley Newall, a prize-winning breeder of Jersey cattle.

Sidgate waste bins

Two bins have now been placed on the garage wall near the Sidgate play park area, one for general /doggy waste, the other for recyclable materials.

Several of the children who use the park are "self- appointed litter wardens" and the first weeks of their efforts have proved fruitful with resultant full bins!

Green Notes

Wilding your garden — Laura Waugh

Following on from last month. rewildingbritain.org.uk Part 2/3, here are the next steps to rewild your garden...

Plant a tree
Native trees have the greatest benefit to wildlife because they evolved together. Consider silver birch, rowan, hawthorn, elderberry, holly, yew or crab apple. All top fruit trees such as apples, pears, plums and cherries are good for wildlife as they are closely linked to the wild species.

Coppice a tree
Many trees such as oak, willow and hazel can be coppiced if room is limited. The action of chopping them back replicates the tearing, breaking and gnawing of branches by bison, elk and beavers before we hunted them to extinction in this country.

Embrace scrub
Scrub, including thorny shrubs, grasses and stands of young trees, forms the mid-level in a landscape. Not only does it provide shelter and safe spaces for nesting birds but it is also brilliant for insects and other invertebrates. Brambles, sallow, hawthorn, blackthorn, honeysuckle and wild rose will all naturally form dense mounds or thickets. In a garden setting you may wish to use non-native plants such as berberis or pyracantha.

Let the grass grow
A mix of grassland types and structure will suit different species. So mow part of the grass nearest to the house, as close mown grass mimics the grazing pattern of wild ponies and this is where blackbirds and starlings like to feed. Leave other areas to grow longer or create an area of meadow with native plants. This will need scything or cutting just a few times a year and is hugely rewarding as the sequence of flowers and seed heads change week to week.

Be a boar
Ever wondered why the local robin follows you around in the garden when you have a spade in your hand? Wild boar disturb the soil as they root around searching under the surface for food, this behaviour creates micro habitats and bare soil where seeds can germinate. Pigs in gardens would be problematic, so instead ruck up the soil and turf in a few places with a spade or trowel to create bare patches, small dips and hollows.

Dave Spearman

Cork Recyling
A red plastic bin is now located in the Town Hall courtyard for you to use to recycle your corks. These will be bagged and sent to a cork recycling company from time to time, in a similar arrangement to that used for crisp packets.

Plastic feed tray recyling
The clear plastic food trays, which currently are not allowed to be put in your recycling bin at home, can be delivered to the Hexham recycling centre, into the blue container to the right of the entrance.

Oat Milk Refills
You can now reduce your oat milk tetra pack waste by taking a bottle along to Matthias Winter on Hallstile Bank and filling up. They are selling the Minor Figures barista oat milk which is made in the U.K. at £2.20 per litre.

You can also buy glass bottles - 1L and half litre (£2.50/£1.25) or take your own along.

A lovely day for a village litter pick

Gill Charlton

I would like to thank all those who gave their time to join us for our villages' Litter Pick on Sunday 6th June. Thankfully the weather was kind to us.

There was a large enthusiastic crowd of around 20 people who turned up to pick litter and we collected about 10 bags of rubbish.

Many thanks to those involved.

We-Fibre — Ultra Fast Broadband

Neil Veitch

We should all have had a letter posted by Northumberland (NCC) in mid-June. The letter explains this project and the benefits to be had from it. We have over 90 'sign-ups' now so are very nearly at the 100 required, and I would urge anyone who has not yet considered this to do so now, to guarantee free installation of this 1 GigaByte service.

Neil Veitch - 07836 229814 or email neil@neilveitch.co.uk

Just Passing Through

In a step back into the age of steam, the black ex- LMS locomotive 44871 hauling two maroon carriages chuffed its way through the parishes around 3pm on the 11th June.
The engine was built at the Crewe works in 1945 and taken out of service in 1968; one of the last steam locomotives to be de-commissioned. Now in private hands and based in Bury she can be seen in various parts of the country in her operating season.

Recipes from an Orchard Kitchen

Iain Bennett

Cherries come into season in July. They are named from the French “cerise” which comes from the name of the Turkish town Cerasus. They were introduced to the UK on the orders of King Henry VIII. Ornamental cherry trees produce masses of blossoms but produce only small bitter fruits. However, the cherry blossom and leaves in Japan are edible and are pickled and used in sweets and baking.

The pips however are poisonous and can be dangerous in large amounts. The largest cherry blossom festival in the world is surprisingly not in Japan but in Macon, in the state of Georgia in the United States. The Town has over 350,000 Yoshino cherry trees flowering for their annual blossom festival. The cherry fruit is a stone fruit or drupe and is mainly used in baking and sweets. It can be used as a savoury when it is used in things such as duck with cherry and red wine sauce.

I am going to concentrate on sweet dishes for this article and want to share with you recipes for chocolate and cherry brownies and a very simple but good Mary Berry recipe for Cherry Loaf Cake. I was going to include a clafoutis but after destalking and stoning 350g/12oz of fresh cherries the result was a disaster so we will leave that for another time!

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

Cherry and Chocolate Brownies

Unsalted Butter	200g/7oz
Light Soft Brown Sugar	225g/8oz
Golden Caster sugar	200g/7oz
Cocoa Powder	125g/5oz
Dark Chocolate	100g/4oz, broken into small chunks.
Salt	¼ tsp
Kirsch or Cherry Liqueur	2 tbsp
Eggs	4
Self-Raising Flour	125g/5oz
Cherries	250g/9oz, stoned

A chef asked me the other day why Pâtissiers always used unsalted butter. The reason is that baking is a very precise art and only by using unsalted butter can you control the exact amount of salt that goes into a dish. Anyway, to the method:

Pre-heat the oven to 170°C/150°C Fan/Gas 3 and grease and line a 30x23cm/12x9in baking tray. I use a Lakeland Mary Berry Traybake.
Put the butter, sugars, cocoa powder and chocolate into a pan and melt gently stirring occasionally.
Take off the heat and allow to cool for 5 minutes. Beat in the salt, kirsch and eggs and fold in the flour and cherries. Put the mix in the prepared tin and bake for 30 minutes.
Serve warm or cold with whipped cream (try adding a little kirsch to the whipped cream for a grown-up treat) or ice cream.

continued.....

Mary Berry Cherry Loaf Cake

I have a great deal of respect for Mary Berry. All the recipes that I put in these articles are recipes that I have tried myself. It is frequently the case that when a recipe is tried it fails and needs quite a bit of modification to get it to work. This is why I haven't included the cherry clafoutis recipe in this article. I have found that with Mary Berry all her recipes work. She tests every recipe before she publishes it and they are always successful. For baking at St. Oswald's Hospice, it is always Mary Berry recipes that are used for the patients' cakes. The chefs there can't afford to waste ingredients or time so a successful recipe is a must. Here is the recipe:

Glace Cherries	200g/7oz
Self-Raising Flour	225g/8oz
Softened Unsalted Butter	175g/6oz.
Caster Sugar	175g/6oz
Lemon	1, zest only
Ground Almonds	50g/1¾ oz
Eggs	3 large

Grease and line two 1lb/450g loaf tins and pre-heat the oven to 180°C/160°C Fan/Gas 4.
Cut the cherries into quarters and wash well dry them with some kitchen towel and then toss them through the flour making sure that they are well coated. This, and the use of ground almonds to make a thicker batter, prevents the cherries sinking. I also find that a small addition of strong bread flour to a cake recipe will have the same effect and help to prevent fruit from sinking.
Mix all the other ingredients and beat well to ensure that they are fully mixed.
Fold in the flour and cherries and divide between the two prepared tins.
Place in the oven and bake for 1 hour or until risen and golden and a skewer comes out clean.
Leave to cool in the tin. Then peel off the parchment and finish cooling on a wire rack.

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

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A message from your new County Councillor

I'd like to thank you all for putting your faith in me on election day. I'll return the favour by supporting and representing the whole community to the best of my ability.

I've been given positions on:

1) Tynedale Local Area Council
2) The Communities & Place Oversight and Scrutiny Committee
3) The Northumberland Cycling & Walking Board
4) The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
5) The Climate Change Working Group

All five of these positions will allow me to represent residents in a different way. The purpose of the Local Area Council is to ensure that the Tynedale area gets everything that it needs and deserves from the council. This will involve fighting against inappropriate development (by rejecting inappropriate planning applications) as well as fighting for better council services.

The purpose of Oversight and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs) is to monitor council decisions and actions, flagging up concerns and holding both councillors and cabinet members to account. The remit of the Communities & Place OSC is very wide, and includes planning, housing, public transport, school travel, highway maintenance and much more.

My role on the Northumberland Cycling & Walking Board will be to champion active travel and help to drive forward the council's plans for cycling and walking across the whole county. As a keen advocate for active travel, that's something that I'm really looking forward to doing.

The purpose of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education is to advise the County Council on religious education and worship within the county's schools. I believe that our schools should offer religious education of the highest possible standard in a multicultural and multifaith environment, and I'm really looking forward to bringing my ideas to the table.

The roles of the Climate Change Working Group are to provide direction and ensure cross-party support for the council's climate change programme and to promote carbon saving behaviour across Northumberland, helping it reach net zero by 2030 as painlessly as possible.

I'll also be there to support residents with problems or concerns. Please flag them in the usual way (0345 600 6400 / https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/SelfService/Report.aspx) and bring them to my attention (07890 062879 / nick.morphet@northumberland.gov.uk) if you don't get a satisfactory response within a week or two (quoting your reference number). This way I won't overload officers with emails, and I'll have more time for other council duties.

I'll do my best to inform residents via my new Facebook page :
(search @CllrMorphet, go to https://bit.ly/3p60iGC or scan the QR code),
and I'll deliver a newsletter every three months.

Thanks again for giving me the chance to serve my community. It's an honour and a pleasure.

Nick Morphet

A Sunken Ship

Martha Sewell

It was a bright sunny morning after a night of heavy rain. Tom skipped as he made his way back home, having been out to collect his copy of the Werf Weekly. As he walked, he sang a little song and beat time on the grass stalks with the newspaper as he passed.

"Wee, wee, wee, a merry Werf, that's me.
I live in a little house at the foot of a big beech tree."

Halfway up the track his eye was caught by half of a hazelnut shell which some squirrel had cast aside as it feasted in the trees above. The nutshell lay, open side up on the edge of a big puddle.

Tom had a great idea. He would push the half shell into the puddle, jump into it and use it as a boat. He could imagine himself as a ship's captain, hunting down centipedes or even as a pirate, capturing their treasure – if they had any. That is exactly what he would do. He flung the newspaper into the boat, jumped after it and before you could say, "Apple cores of Allerwash," he was sailing on the open sea. He even felt bold enough to open the newspaper, hold it up between his upstretched arms and use it as a sail. By turning this way and that he could make his boat go in nearly any direction he wanted. He was really enjoying himself. Suddenly a dark shadow passed over him very quickly and there was a frightening sound. "Schlursh", it went. Wild waves rocked his little boat and water spurted up and drenched him. A big golden retriever dog had come bounding up the track and accidently stepped in the puddle. Tom thought he would drown but luckily the waves washed the boat across to the far shore and he was able crawl out onto dry land. His newspaper was left all soggy and unreadable in the bottom of Tom's ocean. It was a very wet and bedraggled Werf that dragged itself back to the comfort of its own little house, feeling very sorry for himself.

Instead of sitting outside in the sun and doing the Werfword puzzle in the newspaper - as he had hoped to do -Tom spent the rest of the morning wrapped up in a blanket of sheep's wool, wiping his streaming nose on a soft, dried leaf and sipping Aunt Tabitha's medicine for chills and colds.

Parents and children

Are you enjoying the Werf stories?

Have you had a chance to think what Tom might look like?

We would love to see your drawings.

Please give them to Mrs Trotter, School Head, or pop them into the village shop

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Nature Notes

Golden lads and girls all must,
As chimney sweepers, come to dust.
From Wm. Shakespeare's Cymbeline

Dandelions might be an annoying "weed" for keen gardeners because they can spring up anywhere; from cracks and crevices in paths and walls to garden borders and in the close-mown grass of lovingly tended lawns. However, what the Bard of Avon called "golden lads and girls" in his native Warwickshire vernacular are always a cheerful sight as they line local roadside verges each spring. Last year's main flush was almost over by the beginning of May, while this year it had barely begun by then. But perhaps this later display was all the more welcome as thousands of bright yellow dandelions lit up verges in the wet and chilly first week of May. By the 21st all but a few of what seems to have been something of a bumper crop had become "chimney sweepers", or dandelion clocks, for goldfinches to tease seeds from. The main season for meadow buttercup flowering begins as the main flush of dandelions ends. A first few were noted in a verge beyond West Boat on the 19th of May, some ten days later than first seen last spring. Their shiny yellow flowers appeared increasingly in grassy places over the following days until in the second week of June countless numbers of them peppered the local pasture. They were particularly conspicuous around the old fish ponds at Walwick Grange, almost forming solid rafts of buttercup yellow in places.

Elderberry failed to extend its four year run of blossoming in May. The first small umbel was noted on the bush in the garden opposite Fourstones paper mill on the 5th of June where it was first seen there on the 26th of May last year. More cream saucers were showing soon afterwards in the elder hedge opposite Hardhaugh Cottages and on the large bush on the Mossy bank. Delicate dog roses also flowered before the end of May last year, but this year a first handful of pinkish flowers were noted on a sprawling bush on the railway embankment adjacent to the lane to Kingshaw Green on the 11th of June. On the sunny 12th others in both pink and white were showing at intervals in the hedgerow opposite.

Hawthorn blossom was slow to break out after it was first noted on the 14th of May and ten days later a lot of blossom was still in tight white balls. However, bushes and hedges across the parishes responded to late May warmth and before the month's end they carried much creamy-white may blossom. As late May warmth extended into June faded blossom became a rusty brown before the end of the first week on the valley bottom. On higher ground hawthorn continued in blossom into the third week of June, including a large bush at Tower Tye where exotic mauve and pink rhododendrons were flowering. In recent years white ribbons of tall cow parsley have lined roadside verges from mid-May, but this year these were not at their frothy spring best until the first week of June. A week later plants that would have been in flower by then in recent years, such as bramble, hogweed and meadow cranesbill had still not been noted. A verge cut in early June dealt with invasive rosebay willowherb and bracken, but sadly some clumps of yet to flower cranesbill also fell victim to the mower.

At the beginning of June the native bird cherry at the Newbrough Burn footbridge between Crow Wood and Allerwash Mill Plantation Newbrough Burn was displaying attractive clusters of white flowers and horse chestnuts were decked with white candles on the 6th. By mid-June the neighbourhood trees had assumed deeper shades of green as spring slipped into summer.

Acknowledgements
Bird cherry - Mary Wilson.

Tailpiece
Crow Wood walkers, or those driving along the road from Fourstones to Haydon Bridge recently, will have noticed big changes in the Allerwash Mill Plantation since its conifers were felled last autumn. Dozens of staked tree tubes now mark spots where young broadleaf trees were planted in early May and much of the woodland floor that was left as bare brown earth now has an almost prairie-like look with a healthy growth of tall, pale green grasses. Nettles, thistles and male ferns add deeper greens, while immigrant wildflowers including garlic mustard, meadow buttercup, red campion, water avens and forget-me-nots have added colour and variety. Further upstream, cool late April and early May weather delayed the full flowering of wild garlic in Crow Wood until mid-May and after a short season it began dying back towards the end of the month.

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with Norah Phipps

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I feel privileged to be involved in a nationwide study by Bowen Therapists to ascertain whether the therapy can be a useful intervention for the symptoms of Long Covid.

Is this you or someone you know?

Anyone interested please email the address below.

There is also additional information on the Facebook page Long COVID Bowen Study.

I'm happy to chat if you would prefer. Message me your number and I will call you.

Mobile 07825 440268 www.thebowenstation@outlook.com Instagram: the bowen station

May Weatherwatch

"Hail, heavy rain, gales, cold, thunder, lightning "

So lamented last month's Stanegate editorial, summing up the media reaction to some dreadful early May weather. But although most parts of the country were unusually wet and often very windy in May, with widespread thunderstorms and hail on a number of days, our small patch of West Tynedale fared relatively well in comparison.

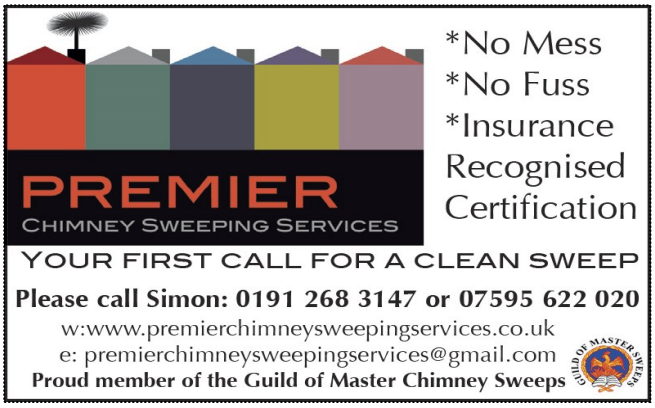
Successive deep low pressure systems over the month brought frequent rain or showers to almost all areas. In places rain sluiced down in record amounts, including in Wales which suffered the wettest May in a series from 1862. Rainfall in our region was about half that of Wales, but it was still above average. At Park Shield it rained on each of the first twelve days of May, but falls were light and the aggregate was a modest 26.4 mm. Marginally less than this fell over the remainder of the month and the well below average May total of 51.0 mm is no more than middling in the rainfall rankings.

Thunder barely featured in the May weather picture and was confined to three short rumbles after sheet lightning in the mid-afternoon of the 5th and a single rumble to the north on the 17th, which was the wettest day of the month. And while the low pressure systems produced a number of notably windy days elsewhere, winds here were never more than breezes.[1] The Park Shield maximum May gust of just 19 mph was shared by the 3rd, 20th and 24th. In contrast, a gust of 93 mph blew at the Needles Old Battery (I.O.W.) on the 3rd and fallen trees blocked roads in parts of Wales on the 20th/21st.

However, one thing we did have in common with the rest of Britain in May was unseasonably cold weather, which was particularly pronounced in the opening eight days of the month. The overnight minimum of -3.1C on the 1st was the coldest start to May and the lowest May temperature at Park Shield for at least thirty- three years. Further air frosts occurred on the 5th, when a brief shower of soft hail fell in the afternoon, and on the 6th & 8th. From the 9th to the 26th daytime maximums were generally in line with the seasonal average, but cool nights were almost two degrees Celsius less than this.

"Hot, dry, high pressure dominant, cloudless" is what our Stanegate Editors wanted in the way of later May weather and miraculously conditions made a commendable step in this direction, albeit not until the final three days of the month. As an added bonus these coincided with the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. Patchy rain or scattered showers fell in other areas on the Saturday but hereabouts it was a dry and generally sunny day. The Park Shield daily maximum of 21.5C made it the first 21C + of the year and the warmest day of May. The Sunday and bank holiday Monday both began with thick fog but this burnt off to bring bright blue skies, occasionally dotted with the odd white cloudlet. Respective daily maximums were a pleasant 20.8C and 20.6C, although a little of the sun's warmth was lost to cooling easterly breezes. However, the fine end to the month could not compensate enough for its cold and rainy beginning and prevent it from becoming the coldest May since 1996.

May Factfile overleaf.....



May Weatherwatch Factfile

Temperature
Park Shield mean monthly maximum : c.14.0 C. Mean monthly minimum : c.3.8C. Monthly mean c. 8.9C and c. 0.8C below average. Lowest daily maximum : 7.9C on the 6th. E&NE England mean monthly maximum : 13.7C. Mean monthly minimum : 4.7C. Monthly mean : 9.2C and 1.1C below the 1981-2010 average. UK maximum : 25.1C at Kinlochlewe (Ross & Cromarty) on the 31st. UK minimum : -6.1C at St. Harman (Powys) on the 2nd.

Rainfall and Sunshine
Park Shield average rainfall : 70 mm. *Rain days :* 21. 24 hour maximum : 6.8 mm on the 17th. E&NE England rainfall & sunshine 109 % & 90% of the 1981-2010 average *Note.* It was the fourth wettest May in England in a series from 1862.

Winds
Light and variable. [1] *Definitions* : Moderate breeze 13-18 mph. Fresh breeze : 19-24 mph.

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8th	Lucy Dodd	15
15th	Susan Sutton	50
22nd	Lynn Wilson	7
29th	Stewart Leadbitter	44
JUNE		
5th	Ida Stanners	17

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2nd	B Hindhaugh	215
3rd	D Denham	176

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Church Pages

Letter from Reverend Jeremy

Dear Friends,

I was sitting outside St. Peter's Church the other day enjoying five minutes in the sun. I had just been talking to a family about their mother's funeral, and I was in a bit of a contemplative mood. As I sat, my mind turned to the funeral, and I imagined the scene as it would be in a few days with the coffin being drawn out of a shiny black hearse and carried in dignified procession up to the church doors. Mourners following on behind, and the organ playing faintly in the background. I played the scene out in my head. I have to say it is a scene I have seen on many occasions and will often see many times more.

As I sat contemplating the scene, I wondered to myself about all the funerals that have, down the years, passed up that path to the church doors. The current church building has been here for a hundred and fifty or so years, but many others are going back a thousand years. In all those years, styles will have changed so much. Even in our lifetimes, I guess, the way funerals are conducted will have changed, as will all those other "occasional offices", as we call them. Today weddings are very different to those celebrated during the war years, and I guess that a Victorian wedding would have been different again, never mind a medieval wedding. However, some things remain the same—a nervous groom pacing the aisle until the rumour of the bride's arrival ripples through the congregation. And the bride on her father's arm, no doubts equally as nervous, would have walked that same path.

Christenings, too: They have changed even in my short time in Holy Orders. When I first started conducting Christenings, they were much less of a party than they seem to be now. Yes, the little one is still brought up the path to church in the family heirloom christening gown by their adoring parents, as has happened for many, many years. But, these days, up the path comes a whole host of family and friends. They're all dressed up to the nines. Some are looking as though they're about to embark on a night of revelling on the Quayside! All intent, however, on celebrating the life of this new little person, all plan on enjoying a special day.

And what else has that church path seen in its long life? Wars and civil unrest? Probably. Border Rievers, Roundheads and Cavaliers, Tommy returning from the Front. And other event's less dramatic but no less significant. The arrival of the first motor car, spluttering and fuming up a dusty road in the days before tarmac. Pilgrims perhaps on foot or traders on horseback bearing their wares away up to Settlingstones and on to Cumberland. Farmers driving sheep to Hexham for the mart, and steam engines dragging newfangled ploughs as farming practices changed. And of course, there will have been the odd cyclist who has stopped after a thrilling spin down the Whistle Cock Bank to catch their breath and have a look at this venerable old building. Not to mention a weekly procession of feet making their way Sunday by Sunday into the church to pray and sing and hope. So, if only it could tell its tale, what would St. Peter's church path say?

So, so many changes. And yet in all its thousand and more years, the path that leads from the Stanegate road up to the church door has lead people to that place where we proclaim that God is love and where we can share in that love as we receive the sacraments of bread and wine (admittedly only in one kind presently).

And the proclamation of God's love is not going to change any time soon. We might change like the wind, but God does not. God remains true to his promise to be with us now and always. No matter what.

May you abide in His unchanging love, no matter how the world around you changes.
Jeremy

Who's Who

Church of England
Vicar : Rev'd Jeremy Thompson
Area Dean of Hexham
Rector of St John Lee and Vicar of Warden & Newbrough
St John Lee Rectory
Hexham, Northumberland
NE46 4PE
tel: 01434 600268

Rev'd Canon Chris Simmons

Methodist
Deacon : Anne Taylor
Woodville
Redesmouth Road
Bellingham
NE48 2EH
Tel: 01434 220283

Roman Catholic
Parish Priest : Father Christopher Warren
Deacon : Rev'd Martin Bell
St Mary's Catholic Church
Hencotes
Hexham
NE46 3EB

Tel: 01434 603119

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

JULY

All services are suspended and the Chapel remains closed for prayers and meditation.

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

From the Registers

JUNE

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

On 8th June at St Peter Newbrough,
Queenie Emma Louise Lambie
of Red Houses, Newbrough

Parish of Warden with Newbrough

Church Services for July

1st Sunday of the month	at 9.30 am BCP Holy Communion at Warden at 11.00 am Zoom worship
2nd Sunday of the month	at 10.00 am Holy Communion broadcast live from St John Lee
3rd Sunday of the month	at 9.30 am Holy Communion at Newbrough at 11.00 am Zoom worship
4th Sunday of the month	at 9.30 am Holy Communion broadcast live from St. John Lee
5th Sunday of the month	at 9.30 am Holy Communion at Fourstones at 11.00 am Zoom worship

If you wish to speak to either Jeremy 600268 or Chris 600993 please do contact us.
We are here for you