

The Stanegate Magazine
208 July 2023

The Stanegate

Newbrough, Fourstones, Warden
and surrounding hamlets

A letter from the Editors

Some of our readers may recall our grant applications to both Warden and Newbrough Parish Councils over the past two years to enable Stanegate to continue. With the ever increasing costs of paper and printing we are again faced with the dilemma of the future of Stanegate into 2024 and continually looking to alternative ways to fund the publication.

One suggestion has been to ask our readers for a donation, and so we turn to you. The annual cost of printing with The Hextol Foundation is approximately £2,750. Although we have made small adjustments to our advertising rates, revenue from our advertisers falls short of this by some £1,500.

While we acknowledge that times are difficult for everybody, we would very much welcome suggestions as to how we may deal with this situation. For example, with the current print run of about 550 copies, a one-off donation of £5 would secure the future of the Stanegate and enable it to continue to be delivered free to your door for another year.

Please let us know your thoughts. Your feedback and any ideas will be very much appreciated.

Thank you
Janice, Dave, Sophie & Chris
Stanegate Editorial Team

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Please send material to the editorial team

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

at

thestanegate@hotmail.com

**The deadline for the August issue is
Friday 14th July 2023**

Letters to the Editors.....

Thank you WI and the Town Hall Committee

While delivering June Stanegates, one of our deliverers was stopped and asked if thanks could be included in our publication for the afternoon tea at the Town Hall on 8th May to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III, so on behalf of members of our community

Thank you WI and the Town Hall Committee

'Open Garden' thank you for your donations

The Open Garden weekend in June proved to be a great success because the weather was warm and so many friends helped in many ways. I had lots of chairs and little tables in the garden so there was lots of munching of cake and chatting.

I think everyone had a lovely time and £1250 was donated towards the restoration fund of St John of Beverley, Haydon Bridge. Where the money came from I hardly know as everything we had for sale was very cheap, but most of our plants and paintings were sold.

Thank you once more
Christine Blunt

and finally....

Thank you for the planting at the
east entrance to Fourstones



Calendar of Events

JULY

- 3rd Warden Parish Council,
Town Hall, 7pm
- 5th Newbrough Parish
Council, Town Hall,
7pm
- 7th Coffee morning
11am - 2pm,
Methodist Chapel
see p21
- 8th Newbrough C of E
School Fair,
12.30pm - 2.30pm
- 11th Messy Vintage,
Methodist Chapel
2.30pm, see p21
- 13th Newbrough WI
Town Hall, 2pm
- 15th Book Sale, Town Hall
10am - 4pm
- 21st Coffee morning
11am - 2pm,
Methodist Chapel
see p21
- 21st School closes
for summer holidays

Advertising

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We have been very busy lately and we're overdue an update!

2023 CHALLENGE

Before Easter we set the children the 2023 challenge. This challenged the children to raise £20.23 over the next half term. They could raise as little, or as much, as they liked and there were rewards for whoever raised the most, plus a class reward for the class which raised the most.

The children could do anything to raise money based around the number '23', such as a sponsored event, by making and selling 23 things or they could earn the money by doing 23 jobs.

The results surpassed our expectations with over £850.00 raised! This will help to support the school and the children in so many ways. We are delighted with the result and thank the children, along with their friends and families for their support.

The winner of the 2023 Challenge was Barney Higgins, with Henry Russell in second place and Luke Shreeve in third. Class 2 raised the most and everyone in the class received a tasty treat! Well done everyone!

WE HAVE FUNDED...

The Friends have funded buses for class trips to Beamish (Class 3) and Seven Stories (Class 2 and Reception) along with 'Crumbles' for Class 3 which are easy to use programmable controllers. A trip for Class 1 is currently in the planning, so they won't be missing out either.

COLOUR FUN!

If you were passing school on Sunday 14th May, you would have seen a lot of multi-coloured children after our Colour Dash! We ran a colour dash around the school field with obstacles for the children to run around while being 'dashed' with colourful powder and they loved it! It was so much fun and it was great to see so many children and parents having great fun. Entry was by donation and we sold refreshments which were definitely needed after the exertions of the morning. This was not a fundraising event however we did cover our costs and we were pleased to raise £72.59.

2023 SUMMER FAIR

Our next big event is The Summer Fair on Saturday July 8th from 12.30pm until 2.30pm and we would love to see as many people there as possible. We'll be running our dog show once again and the Fair Favourites of tombola, bottle stall and cake stall will be there along with some new stands to tempt you. We will be running our BBQ and Mrs Bridges will be providing her fabulous cream teas for those with a sweet tooth!

If anyone has any questions about the Friends, or would like to offer support, please get in touch on friendsofnewbrough@gmail.com

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support of the children and the Friends PTA.

Friends of Newbrough PTA



Books and Toys Sale

Saturday 15th July

Newbrough Town Hall

10am — 4pm



We have been very creative in school recently.

Year 3 and 4 children have been working on some animations with artist/ animator Robin Webb. They have created short films which tell the story of mining in Newbrough and Fourstones- based on the research the children carried out earlier in the year in history lessons. The finished results are currently being 'polished' but I cannot wait to see how they have turned out. The animations will be available on our school website before the end of term so everyone will be able to have a look at the children's work - and possibly find out more about the heritage of our villages! Staff were also able to take part in some training led by Robin, so that hopefully there will be more animations in the future. All of this was made possible by funding secured by Queen's Hall for their partnership-wide project 'Beneath our feet' which has focused on the working class histories of West Northumberland- and there will be celebration events and displays about the project at Queen's Hall during the autumn.

On a less grand scale, but probably more messy, our Year 5 and 6 children have been creating sculptures recently - based on the work of Albert Namatjira - who was one of Australia's leading artists. Many of his paintings feature huge 'Ghost Gum' trees which the children were modelling, using plaster of Paris bandages! Albert experienced great success, but also huge prejudice, during his lifetime and the children were fascinated to find out about these aspects of his life as well as about his work. It was new learning for staff as well, researching an artist who is perhaps less well-known to us in this country.

We have also had a visit from Guy Opperman, our MP, who received a grilling from some of our pupils. They were asking him questions about everything from litter in our community to nurse's pay via climate change, homelessness and refugees! Guy commented that he is more often asked about his dog when he visits primary schools!

I feel that we are truly a community where learning happens for everyone.

And just an additional note - if you would like your child to be part of our lovely school, we currently have places available in nursery for September. Children can join us in the term after their 3rd birthday. Just get in touch with school if you would like to come and look around.

Jo Trotter
Head Teacher



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

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

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

Hints for individual classes at the Parish Produce Show: Saturday 9th September

Rob Tindall

Carrots should be matched for length and girth, straight, shown with complete foliage (remove dead leaves only), washed to remove soil and without pest marks. The most troublesome pest is the Carrot Root Fly, the larva of which burrow into the root leaving black entrance holes. It is suggested that risk of fly can be minimised by sowing seed in a raised bed or alongside a strong-smelling crop e.g. onions. (Neither has worked well for me! Long carrots are impressive but quality, not size counts for most.

Shallots are traditionally shown on a base of dry sand to allow them to be stood on their bases. Only loose skins should be removed – any showing of greenish white will be marked down. Matching of the six is very important. The tops should be cut to about ¼ inch or ½ inch if you want to bend the tops over and bind with raffia.

The biggest **marrow** doesn't always win. The judge is looking for good overall colour (including the base), smooth skin and most importantly straightness or at most, a gentle curve. Perfect marrows will have the stalk and flower ends of the same diameter. To prevent the base side being marked as it grows over the soil, you may wish to put some soft material under the developing fruit of the one you intend to show.

Tomatoes, of whatever variety, must be well matched, all of the same shade and size and if they don't have the flower calyx still attached, they will be rejected. They must be fully ripe but firm. Except for some novelty varieties e.g. Tigerella, the colour must be uniform over the fruit.

If your **potato** has a hint of colour e.g. purple eyes, it is a coloured potato, even if it is predominately white. Lift the tubers a week or more before the show to let the skins set. Wash them and rub them over with a damp cloth, not too hard but you may be able to remove surface spots and blemishes.

Runner beans should be long and straight, with as smooth a skin as possible. If they have a curve show them nestling into each other and it is better to have six curved pods rather than a mix of curved and straight.

Beetroot should be matched for size and shape. The judge will cut a wedge out of one of them and is looking for growth rings, the appearance of which is a de-merit. To minimise this, lift your roots the day before show and immerse in a bucket of water overnight, washing and trimming the leaves on show day.

In our uncertain summers it is difficult to get fully grown, ripe, matched **sweet peppers** but that is your goal. All-over colour is the ideal but unripe streaks are rarely avoidable.

Apples – cooking Bright green, uniform fruits will catch the judge's eye. Some cookers are angular, almost seeming to have corners, rather like a sweet pepper. This is a feature of some varieties and not a reason to be marked down.

Apples – dessert (eating) They must look fully ripe. (Not easy with some late-maturing varieties.) They should be free of external marks and blemishes. Use a damp cloth but be careful not to scrape the skin or bruise the fruit.

FOR BOTH KINDS OF APPLE, THEY MUST BE SHOWN WITH THE STALK STILL ATTACHED.

Three sticks of rhubarb – trimmed There are two main points in showing rhubarb – straightness and length of stem. Cooks may want thin, pink stems as their ideal but on the show bench go big and straight. Pull the stems from the plants – don't cut them. Trim the big leaf to a nice fan shape about two inches from where the leaf meets the stem.

Heaviest potato Self-explanatory. No limit or regulation on form or colour. The tuber must be clean and dry. It wouldn't happen at our show but there are apocryphal tales of heavy material e.g. lead being secreted in tubers!

Pair of vegetables (same variety) not listed elsewhere in the schedule. Let your imagination run riot! Follow the general rules for showing vegetables – see last month's Stanegate. Are your aubergines, chillies, white turnips, swedes, chard, squashes, pumpkins etc. worthy of a place on the bench?

continued.....

Three red onions from sets – dressed. Dressed means removing any loose skin from the bulb to reveal what should be a shining ruby-red surface. There is a temptation to peel away more and more levels to achieve perfection – don't. The judge might overlook minor surface spots but a smaller bulb ready for an Irish stew will gain few points. Formerly show onions would have their necks cut off at just over an inch above the bulb and the remaining stalk bent over and bound with wool or fine string. This looks attractive but is less common today.

Three onions from sets – dressed. Remarks similar to the above. Remove loose or marked outer skin to reveal light tan/green skin below. Do this a week or more before showing and leave in sunlight to gain a pale brown tan.

Three onions from seed – dressed. The remarks above equally apply to onions grown from seed. Size impresses the judge, but uniformity of the trio is more important. Regular exhibitors show them sat upon metal rings but bottle tops from juice bottles serve the same purpose.

Pair of garlic bulbs. Clean the bulbs carefully to remove any dry soil. The object is to have the cloves covered by a milky white skin.

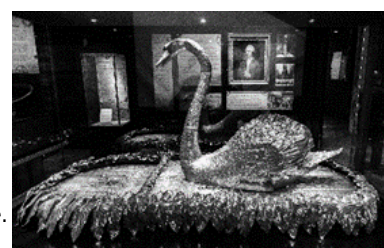
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INSPIRING WOMEN

Newbrough WI



A party of 14 members and friends travelled by coach to the Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle on the 8th June. After coffee members divided to spend time in the many sections. The costume area was a favourite alongside the gallery where Canaletto's Grand Canal in Venice paintings were displayed.

The magnificent Silver Swan was much admired although the ancient mechanisms were not in good working order so the picking up of the silver fish could not be demonstrated. A good film showed it in action though.



A delicious afternoon tea was enjoyed before the bus departed for home.

On Saturday 8th July members are invited to Newbrough School Summer Fayre to see the Maypole (donated by the WI) in action demonstrated by the pupils. The Fayre starts at 12.30pm.

July 13th will be the Northumberland Federation walk hosted by Newbrough WI. Walk leader is our President, Judith Kirby, supported by Catherine Grant and Ann Wodzinski. There will be 38 walkers starting from the Town Hall for coffee and returning for lunch. Members who are not involved in the walk or early preparations should arrive about 12.30 to help where possible and importantly have lunch once the guests have left and before the meeting which will start at approximately 2pm. There will not be an evening meeting.

Val Johnston

Town Hall Generator



On 9th June Guy Opperman, together with representatives from Northern Powergrid Foundation, presented Newbrough Town Hall with a cheque for £20,000 from The Foundation in support of a generator for the Town Hall to become a community hub for residents of villages Newbrough, Fourstones, Warden and the outlying areas in emergency events.

In the coming weeks plans will be made to purchase the generator and also install a foundation for it to the north of the switch room in the Hall

Dave Spearman

Haydon Fell Plantation Tour

There was a good turnout for Steven Ford's invited tour of his plantation on the evening of 14th June.

With overflow parking provided in the field off the Stanegate the group was led south up onto the fell where the different tree sections of the plantation were pointed out.

A Northern marsh orchid was one of a number of highlights of the tour which lasted 2 hours and was enjoyed by all.

Thank you Steven.

Kevin H. Hilton



Senior Citizens' Trip



I am currently working on arrangements for the Senior Citizens' Trip. Nothing is written in stone, but the probable date is Thursday 24th August. The Tom Benson Charitable Trust has kindly offered £400 to support the trip. Last year's tour to Heighley Gate, Morpeth and Rothbury cost £400.

I am looking at destinations which would cost a similar sum, but if I can find an additional source of money, we could branch out a little. One suggestion is that there is a modest charge e.g., £5 per head. Ideas for destinations would be very welcome. Already mentioned are the Scottish Borders, Windemere and Barnard Castle.

Rob Tindall (674324, robmtin@aol.com)

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MOVERS STORERS SHIPPERS

William Charlton and his family:

Part One - Searching for William

St Peter's churchyard is a particularly beautiful place to wander at this time of year. Walking there recently I happened to notice, on the Charlton family tombstone, that William Charlton (1825 - 1859) died on Hammond Island in the Pacific Ocean. I had no idea where the island was and I began to wonder what led to William's death, so far from home. Delving into the internet I soon discovered that Hammond Island, (now known as Keriri Island) is one of a string of tiny islands in the Torres Strait between Papua New Guinea and the north coast of Queensland, Australia.

But what connected this remote place to a young man from Newbrough? Perhaps he was ship-wrecked? I began my search for William by looking for records of wrecks in the region around the date of his death, 2nd November 1859. Many ships came to grief in the area, especially during the sailing ship era. I found two likely candidates, the *Sapphire* (749 tons), and the *Marina* (529 tons), both of Liverpool. They were wrecked off Raine Island on the Great Barrier Reef within days of each other. However, tiny Raine Island lies over 200km south-east of Keriri Island where William died. I would have to dig deeper if I was to find a link between either of these ships and William's fate.

I found that *The Sapphire* was a newly built sailing ship purchased to carry Irish emigrants on assisted passages from England to Australia in 1859. Having completed her first voyage, she was hired in early September 1859 to take a cargo of horses to Madras, India. At around the same time, the *Marina* left New Zealand carrying logs to Calcutta.

The first news of the fate of the two ships came towards the end of October 1859 when the crew of the *Marina* arrived at Port Curtis, Queensland in two lifeboats, having abandoned the wrecked vessel on 5th October. Their survival was remarkable enough but the story they had to tell was far more extraordinary.

The *Marina's* crew spoke of their astonishment when they saw the *Sapphire* lying wrecked on the same reef on which their own vessel had perished. Boarding the deserted ship, they were faced with the awful sight and smell of dead horses. On the following day they landed on the uninhabited

Sir Charles Hardy Island. There they found messages left by survivors from the *Sapphire* describing how their ship had been wrecked and that they had been sheltering on the island for nearly two weeks. The *Sapphire's* crew left personal letters to their families knowing that they might not survive. They were already on minimum rations and feared they would be attacked by indigenous local people if they beached on the mainland. Realising that the *Sapphire's* survivors must have left just a few hours earlier the *Marina* crew attempted to catch up with them. Briefly catching sight of a sail, they signalled but there was no response. They had to give up the chase and eventually landed at Port Curtis.

On hearing the news of the wreck of the *Sapphire*, *HMS Cordelia* was despatched to search for survivors. No one was found and the search was reluctantly called off. At this point I began to question whether there was a connection between the two wrecks and William Charlton. As all the crew of the *Marina* had survived, this shipwreck could be ruled out. Furthermore, the messages left by the *Sapphire* crew on Sir Hardy Island described the very difficult situation that they were in, but none of the crew had been lost at that point.

Then I came across an article titled *The Two Companions, Sapphire and Marina* by Allan Morris, and discovered the whole story. On 19th February 1860, four months after the search for survivors had been called off, a ship with tattered sails, low in the water, limped into Port Curtis. It was the *Marina* and on board were 11 starving survivors of the *Sapphire*! Having left Sir Charles Hardy Island, the 29 crew members spent many weeks in open boats trying to reach Port Curtis, battling headwinds but eventually heading north on the prevailing currents, reaching the mainland on 12th October.

After a week or so they went further north to the inhabited islands of the Torres Strait to collect supplies. Landing on Friday Island on 2nd November a party of 17, led by Captain Bowden, crossed to Keriri Island to obtain turtles and other provisions from the local inhabitants. Tragically a fight developed between the landing party and the local people following a dispute over the turtles.

continued.....

Two able seamen, Richard Law and **William Charlton**, jumping from a canoe, tried to seize a turtle which they believed they had purchased. Captain Bowden was then killed by a spear. In the fight that followed Richard Law was the only member of the party to survive.

The account mentions that William could not swim, which suggests that he may have drowned. The remaining members of the *Sapphire* crew fled southwards and retraced their journey all the way back to Raine Island and the wrecks of the *Sapphire* and *Marina*. Rather than risking another long journey in open boats they decided to re-float the *Marina*. Although badly damaged, she had remained buoyant, thanks to her cargo of logs. The 700-mile journey back to Port Curtis was painfully slow with constant groundings and acute shortage of food but they eventually coaxed the ship into port. They were rewarded with a bounty payment for the recovery of the *Marina*.

I have enlisted the help of our local historian, Rob Tindall to gather more information about William's Newbrough parents and what happened to his brothers in the Australian Gold Rush. Find out more in the August edition of the Stanegate.

David Penn



Featherwatch

Early talk was of few swallows this spring, but they were an everyday sight in June, often seen either looping around in the air or at rest on neighbourhood wires, singly or in pairs. On the 17th, some half a dozen stubby tailed youngsters, with attentive parents, were perched on a wire opposite the copse above the St. Aidan's Terrace layby.

The house martin population has declined by almost 40% in the last twenty-five years and is UK red listed, so it is good to see a number jinking about at the Front in Fourstones and around Butt Bank; identified by flashes of white rump.

The common swift is the last aerial summer visitor to come and does not normally arrive here until early May. An early one, perhaps of others, was spotted on 29th April, although this was above the Tyne bridge at Hexham. They are seen locally, but range more widely and are usually glimpsed in highspeed passes, such as ones seen from Fourstones filling station in early June.

After a dramatic decline of almost 70% in the last fifty years or so the beautiful summer visiting yellow wagtail is also on the UK red list. By happy chance a female and a brighter yellow male were noted picking up insects along the Park Shield access road early on the 14th of June.

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“Lessons In Chemistry” by Bonnie Garmus

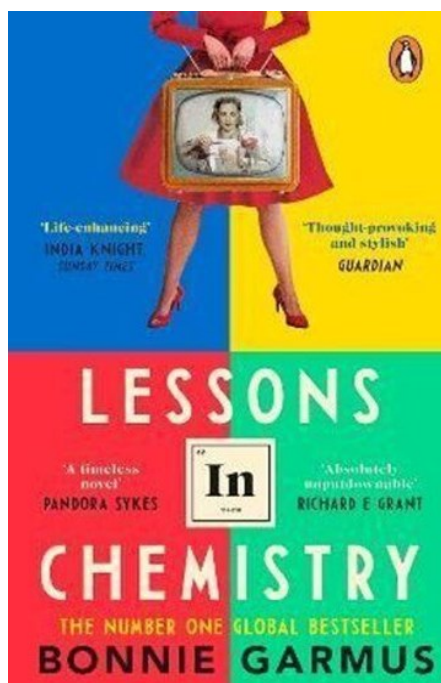
Bonnie is a copywriter and creative director who has worked in the fields of technology, medicine, and education. *Lessons in Chemistry* is her first novel and became a national best seller upon publication.

The book is about a 30 year old female scientist in the 1960s who is opinionated, funny and intelligent. She is a feminist long before it was fashionable to be one.

The central elements of the story are how she was cheated out of a doctorate and lost the love of her life – Calvin Evans, a kindred scientist, expert rower and the father of her daughter, Madeline.

Elizabeth Zott is an expert in abiogenesis (“the theory that life rose from simplistic, non-life forms”). After losing her job and with a young baby to support she gets hoodwinked into hosting a television cooking show called “Supper at Six.” But she isn’t going to smile and read the cue cards. Zott ad-libs her way into a role that suits her, bringing her knowledge of science into all her recipes. Her aim being to empower and educate women.

The story includes a mystery involving Calvin’s family and a look at the politics and dysfunction of the local television station. There’s also Zott’s love affair with rowing and her unconventional approach to parenthood and her deep connection to her dog, Six Thirty.



Beyond the entertaining sub plots and witty dialogue is the hard truth that, in 1961, a smart, ambitious woman had limited options. We see how a scientist relegated to the kitchen found a way to pursue a watered-down version of her own dream. We see how two women working in the same lab had no choice but to turn on each other. We meet Zott’s friend and neighbour, Harriet, who is trapped in a miserable marriage to a man who complains that she smells.

“Lessons in Chemistry” will make you wonder about all the real-life women born

ahead of their time – women who were side-lined, ignored and worse because they weren’t as resourceful, determined and lucky as Elizabeth Zott. She’s a reminder of how far we’ve come, but also how far we still have to go.

There were mixed feelings from the group about the book however overall most of the group enjoyed it. Most thought it was funny and a good read, cleverly written with an underlying message about how women were treated by their male counterparts in the workplace. However some felt the story lost momentum half way through. Some enjoyed the character of Six Thirty the dog, others didn't and weren't sure of the dogs relevance. They all agreed it was a reminder of the sexism and prejudices towards women at the time which made for a good discussion.

Chuckle Corner

- 1 I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- 2 Borrow money from pessimists -- they don't expect it back.
- 3 Half the people you know are below average.
4. 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- 5 82.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.

Recipes from an Orchard Kitchen

Iain Bennett

It's July so Hail to the strawberry. Strawberries are a member of the rose family and are named for the habit of placing straw underneath the plants to protect the fruit from rotting. An alternate explanation is from the word strewn which describes their straggling growth. Technically they are not a berry due to the fact they bear all their seeds on the outside and are known as accessory fruits.

Archaeological evidence suggests that we've been eating the wild strawberry since the Stone Age.

The modern strawberry was first cultivated in Brittany in the 1750s and was a hybrid of a North American and Chilean strawberry plant. They can grow from the seed but usually reproduce by producing runners that root and become separate plants.

A strawberry plant will usually be productive for 5 years. It is thought that the habit of serving them with cream dates to Cardinal Wolsey who served them at a banquet for King Henry VIII.

Because of their heart shape and red colour, they have long been associated with the Roman goddess Venus.

In medieval France newlyweds were served a soup made from strawberries. There is a legend that if a double strawberry is halved and shared between two people then they will fall in love.

They need not be a guilty pleasure as 5-6 strawberries supply your entire vitamin C requirement for a day. A 100g/4oz portion of strawberries contains only 50 calories and they are rich in nitrates, fibre, and folic acid.

And now to the recipes. I have made the cheesecake many times and it is very good to make and eat. The Mary Berry recipe gave me some qualms the first time I made it but as usual it's a Mary Berry recipe so is bombproof.

Three things to be aware of are:

- 1) the amount of strawberries seems excessive – don't worry they cook right down.
- 2) Don't worry about not completely covering them with the remaining batter as it all melts down and smooths over.
- 3) Finally, when you remove the cake from the tin be very careful it is quite fragile and breaks apart very easily. I would actually leave it to cool in the tin for 30 minutes rather than 15 as Mary

Strawberry Cheesecake

Base

Digestive Biscuits 175g/6oz, finely crushed.
Butter 75g/3oz, melted.

Cheesecake

Strawberries 225g/½lb, hulled and halved
Caster Sugar 75g/3oz
Gelatine Leaves 2, softened in cold water.
Cream Cheese 300g/10½oz.
Double Cream 150ml/5oz, whipped.
Natural Greek Yoghurt 150ml/5oz



Line a 20cm/8in spongiform cake tin with non-stick paper. Break up the biscuits by putting them in a plastic bag and hitting them with a rolling pin, alternatively gently pulse them in a food processor. If you want, you can substitute ginger biscuits for digestives. Mix the biscuit crumb with the melted butter. Spread the resultant mixture over the lined base of the cake tin. Press it down firmly and evenly and leave to chill whilst you make the filling. Place the strawberries with 25g/1oz of the caster sugar and 2 tbsps of water in a saucepan and cook on a moderate heat until the strawberries are soft.

Pour the mixture into a blender and puree it. Pass the puree through a fine sieve back into the saucepan and warm it again until hot. When it is hot squeeze the water out of the gelatine leaves and add them to it, stirring until the gelatine is completely dissolved. Put to one side to cool.

Mix the cream cheese and the remaining sugar in a mixing bowl. Add the cooled strawberry puree and beat again. Finally fold in the whipped cream and the yoghurt.

Pour over the biscuit base and chill for a minimum of 6 hours or overnight.

To serve, run a round bladed knife round the outer edge and release the cake tin. Transfer to a serving plate and decorate with some more halved strawberries. Covered, the cheesecake will keep for three days in the fridge.

Mary Berry's Strawberry Dessert Cake

- Self-Raising Flour 225g/8oz
- Baking Powder 1½tsp
- Caster Sugar 225g/8oz
- Eggs 2 large
- Vanilla Extract 1 tsp
- Butter 150g/5oz, melted.
- Strawberries 350g/12oz. hulled and sliced.



Pre-heat the oven to 160°C/Fan 140°C/Gas 3. Grease and line a 20cm/8in loose bottomed cake tin. In a bowl mix the flour, baking powder and sugar. In another beat the eggs and vanilla extract then stir the two together, along with the melted butter, until thoroughly mixed. Place half the mixture in the cake tin and then lay the sliced strawberries on top to within 1 cm/½ in of the edge.

Cover with the remaining cake mix and bake in the oven for 1½ hours or until the cake is golden brown and shows signs of shrinking away from the side of the tin.

Leave to cool in the tin for 15 minutes then turn it out and peel off the baking paper.

Serve warm with cream.

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 a e-mail at orchard.kitchen@orchardkitchen.co.uk.

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May Weatherwatch

After an underwhelming March and April the arrival of May marked the start of much improved spring weather, although it was indifferent on the May Day bank holiday on the 1st. The daily maximum of 17.9C at Park Shield on the 3rd was the first 16C or over of the year and the latest occurring since the cold spring of 2013. Cloud cover and a cooling easterly breeze on the 4th resulted in the month's lowest daily maximum of 10.3C, but this and the 11.1C recorded in similar conditions on the 12th were the only lapses in a month where daily maximums, although never soaring, were often comfortably above the seasonal average.

A few large raindrops splashed down from towering cumulus clouds on the afternoon of the 5th before two brief claps of thunder at twenty-past four were followed shortly afterwards by a sudden cloudburst, when almost three millimetres of rain cascaded down in a matter of minutes. Rain fell fairly steadily in London on Saturday the 6th, Coronation Day, where the daytime temperature crept up to 13C, while the day here brought a warm maximum of 19.0C and varying sunny periods into the afternoon. A couple of millimetres or so of rain fell in a sharp shower after 8pm at Park Shield, but as an example of how localized weather can be an evening downpour at Bellingham led to flash flooding that caused extensive damage to its two schools and washed away sections of the footpath up to Hareshaw Linn.

An appreciable 10.6mm did fall at Park Shield on the 8th, mostly in the morning, but while light rain fell early on the 9th, torrential rains and thunderstorms were widespread across many parts to the south. Following afternoon showers on the 10th a little rain fell on three days up to the 19th, after which there was no rain at all over the remaining twelve days of the month. The cool and soggy Mays of 2012 to 2015 recorded substantial rainfalls of 100 mm+, but six of the driest Mays on Park Shield record have occurred in the succeeding

eight years. The total May rainfall of 26.0mm made it the sixth driest in a twenty-six year series.

As well as being dry the second half of May was warm and generally sunny. In the warmest spell of the month maximums of 20.0C and 20.2C on the 19th and 20th were followed by a monthly maximum of a modest 21.2C on the 21st, which was also the first 21C daily maximum of the year. This was later than usual, but actually earlier than the previous two years. Two further 20C + daily maximums were recorded on the 25th and 26th. The temperature dipped to a chilly May minimum of 1.8C in the early hours of the Spring bank holiday on the 29th, but the sun shone brightly during the day with wisps of morning cloud and a partial fine veil of cirrus in the afternoon. A light easterly breeze made a pleasant 20.1C maximum feel a touch cooler. The single 21C+ daily maximum of May was far behind the ten of five years ago, but by dint of largely warmer nights it came within the merest whisker of joining 2018 as the warmest May on Weatherwatch record.

May Weatherwatch Factfile

Temperature. Park Shield mean monthly maximum : c.17.4C. Mean monthly minimum : c.6.8C. Monthly mean c.12.1C and c.2.5C above average. E&NE England monthly mean: 11.8C and 1.1C above the 1991-2020 average. UK maximum : 25.1C at Porthmadog (Gwynedd) on the 30th. UK minimum : -2.2C at Glascarnoch (Ross & Cromarty) on the 2nd. May was the seventh warmest in a UK series from 1884.

Rainfall & sunshine. Park Shield average rainfall : c.55 mm. Rain days :10. 3.0mm to 17.00 on the 5th. E&NE England rainfall and sunshine : 60% & 100 % of the 1991-2020 average.

Winds. Variable and very light. Park Shield maximum gust :18 mph on the 4th and 16th. UK maximum gust : 54 mph at Warcop Range (Cumbria) on the 4th.

200 CLUB

JUNE

1st	Maureen Carr	93
2nd	Alan Barber	156
3rd	Simon Auton	39

Just Passing Through

Visiting supercars

Everyday Fourstones life was briefly spiced up in the twenty minutes or so either side of noon on Saturday 21st of May by the attention-grabbing sight and sound of thirty-two “supercars” being driven through the village. Throaty exhausts burbled as they climbed the Long Bank on their way to a week’s tour of bonny Scotland.¹

These were hand-built German Weismann coupés and roadsters, many silver or bronze, driven by members of its car club who had disembarked from the Amsterdam to Newcastle ferry earlier in the day.

For the more technically minded.

Since 1993 Weismann has produced a series of increasingly fast high-performance sports cars powered by BMW 6 cylinder, V8 and V10 engines.

Retro-styled models reminiscent of iconic British sports cars like the Jaguar XK120 and Austin Healey 3000 have top speeds of up to 183 mph. However, high performance and craftsmanship come at a price; in the UK models over ten years old can command over £200,000. The new “Project Thunderball” EV (electric vehicle) roadster will do 0 to 62 mph in 2.9 seconds.

Although prices start at an eye-watering €300,000, the first year reservations (2024 delivery) are already sold out.

¹The tour programme includes : “city tours, ghost tours, boat trips, Scottish dancing, whisky tours, Highland Games, eating “haggis”, golfing and of course counting sheep.”

Two-wheeled transport

The years rolled back for two-wheeled transport in Fourstones on the Saturday afternoon of June 3rd over the hour or so after 2.30pm as a string of perhaps two dozen or so vintage motorcycles, believed to be British, were unhurriedly ridden in twos, threes and fours, through the village and up the Long Bank.

They appeared to range from post-war models to older bikes from as far back as the 1920s. Riders wore full motorcycle leathers and some at least sported half helmet “skidlids” and gauntlet gloves from a past motorcycling age.



The following Saturday saw a change to two-wheeled pedal-power as over thirty riders tackling the 60km Challenge Route, part of the annual “Haydon Hundred,” cycled from Haydon Bridge and past Allerwash, before turning left at Butt Bank and heading west up The Stanegate.

We do seem to attract a lot of visitors!

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Nature Notes

*May, with alle thy floures and thy grene,
el-come be thou, faire fresshe May.*¹

A fondness for May exists today as much as it did when these lines were written by Geoffrey Chaucer around six hundred and fifty years ago. This spring, flowers were at once their most varied and abundant in May and trees that showed few if any green leaves at the beginning of the month were in full leaf by its end.² But fresh May green is always fleeting and before long they subsided into deeper, less vibrant summer tones.

A handful of meadow buttercups were in flower in a West Boat verge on 11th May³ and soon afterwards old pastures in the neighbourhood, including a steeply sloping field on the Mossy bank, were peppered in countless golden specks. Flowering



seems to have been particularly prolific this year. It continued into June and on the sunny morning of the 10th a pair of brown hare lay side by side among the tangle of slender-stalked meadow buttercups in the Close at Park Shield.

Towards the end of May hawthorn hedges and bushes were decked in full white blossom. Blossom extended into June, although by 25th May the petals on the earliest blossom in the valley bottom were tinged brown. Shiny black “St. Mark’s” flies, dangling long legs, hung in the air above hawthorn hedges; its other name is the hawthorn fly. Also in late May tall cow parsley was at its spring best, forming frothy white floral avenues when flowering in verges both sides of byways, such as those at the southern end of Church Lane. The impressive horse chestnut tree standing there bore white “candles” on 18th May, while in the remarkably early spring of 2011 horse chestnut were tiered with these on the 26th of April.

A touch of creamy white elderflower showed in an elder bush opposite the main entrance to Fourstones Paper Mill on 22nd May; a day earlier than first noted on the Mossy Bank last year, but later than the earliest Nature Notes record of it on the 19th opposite Hardhaugh Cottages in the warm spring of 2014. Elderflower soon appeared on bushes elsewhere and by mid-June their saucer-shaped umbels were a conspicuous sight on elder bushes across the parishes.



Very occasionally dog roses flower in May; the last time was three years ago, but first flowering usually occurs in early June. This year white petalled flowers were noted on a straggling bush beyond the layby above St. Aidan’s Terrace on the 2nd; a day after the meteorological start of summer. Thanks to fine weather dog roses in white and pink, and shades between, were still flowering profusely along local hedgerows and fence-lines in mid-month.



A constant high-pitched whine on the 12th was the early summer sound of mowers cutting haylage.

¹ The Canterbury Tales. The Knight’s Tale.

² Except ashes. And more bare branches show advancing die-back.

³ First noted on May the 14th 2022.

Bonus Ball Draw

MAY

20th	Christine Robley	20
27th	Stuart Smith	54

JUNE

3rd	Colin Cowen	17
17th	Alan Charlton	3

Church Pages

Who's Who

Church of England

Rev'd Canon Jeremy Thompson
Rector of St John Lee and Vicar of Warden &
Newbrough
St John Lee Rectory
Hexham, Northumberland
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tel: 01434 600268

website : www.sjlwn.org

Methodist

Deacon : Anne Taylor
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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

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

Christenings

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

On Sunday 25th June at St Peter Newbrough:
Cole Richard Slaughter of Bywell Avenue,
Hexham

Weddings

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

On Saturday 10th June at St Michael & All
Angels Warden:
Bea Straker and Jack Gaffney

Funerals

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

On Monday 19th June at Peter Newbrough :
Ann-Marie Alexanders, formerly of Simmonds
Court, Humshaugh

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

Preachers for July 2023

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2nd | Service at Trinity, Hexham, for
Richard Porter |
| 9th | Vicky Herod |
| 16th | Mrs J Cameron |
| 23rd | Joint Service at Acomb Methodist
Church with West End |
| 30th | Mr N Fullard |

All services are at 10.30am
All are welcome

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

Messy Vintage at Methodist Chapel

Tuesday 11th July at 2.30pm

The theme will be Sand Art

Everyone is welcome to join in or sit and watch!

Friday Coffee mornings

Coffee, tea and a chat

Friday 7th July
and
Friday 21st July

11am – 2pm

All are welcome



Letter from Father Luke.....

Judging by the sun pouring through my window as I write this it seems right to say that we're well and truly in Summer. Having never been one for long walks or bike rides, summer always puts me in the mood for reading. Be that in the garden or by the beach, we're hopefully a little less busy this time of year and taking the chance to crack the spine of some spiritual reading - it is a great way to relax in the sun. So, I thought I'd spend this letter recommending a few ways that we can make our summer reading a little more spiritual.

'The Man who Left his Mark' by Peter Kreeft. In the autumn those Catholics who follow the common lectionary will find the Sunday readings coming from the Gospel according to St Mark. Peter Kreeft's short book is a wonderful guide in helping take this, the shortest of the Gospels, and making it relevant for our world today. With his trademark wit, Kreeft presents the Gospel of Mark in response to 250 modern questions. A light read that prepares us well for the next year of Sunday readings.

'The Lighthouse' by Michael O'Brien, a short yet moving novel from one of the greatest authors of the last hundred years. The Lighthouse tells a simple and yet profoundly moving and spiritual story of a man who lives his life in solitude - an island lighthouse keeper; it chronicles his search for meaning, faith and friendship on a rock floating amidst troubled waters.

continued.....

'The Quiet Light' by Louis de Wohl. De Wohl has written a whole series of historical novels on the lives of the saints. In The Quiet Light he presents the life of St. Thomas Aquinas, the greatest theologian of the middle ages. The events of his life are set against the background of the political conflicts of his day. This is one of those wonderful pieces of fiction that weaves truth and pious imagination together in such a way as to leave the reader with a desire to pray. If St. Thomas isn't your speed perhaps consider 'The Joyful Beggar' about St. Francis of Assis, 'Lay Siege Heaven' about St. Catherine of Sienna or 'The Golden Thread' about St. Ignatius of Loyola.

'Living Well Today' by Thomas Dailey. This delightful book presents the gentle spirituality of St. Francis de Sales in a marvellously accessible fashion, bringing the wisdom of the saint to bear on a whole variety of day-to-day issues with advice on how to infuse our every activity with a spirit of Christian prayer. From our daily routine, to meals, work and leisure this elegant book gives common sense advice from one of the Church's most beloved guides.

Hopefully something has piqued your interest and this summer you'll find a book to rest and pray with,

All the best for summer,
Fr Luke Wilkinson
Assistant Priest
St Mary's Hexham
St John's Haydon Bridge
St Oswald's Bellingham

Parish of Warden with Newbrough

Church Services for July 2023

2nd July	Trinity IV
8.00am	Holy Communion at St. John Lee
9.30am	Parish Communion BCP at St Michael & All Angels, Warden
10.00am	Morning Prayer at St Aidan Stagshaw
11.15 am	Zoom Worship
9th July	Trinity V
8.00am	Holy Communion at St Michael & All Angels, Warden
10.00am	Parish Eucharist in person and live-streamed from St John Lee
16th July	Trinity VI
8.00am	Holy Communion at St John Lee
9.30am	A service of the word at St Peter Newbrough
11.15am	Zoom worship
23rd July	Trinity VII
8.00am	Holy Communion at St. Peter Newbrough
10.00am	Parish Eucharist broadcast live from St John Lee
30th July	Trinity VIII
8.00am	Holy Communion at St Aidan Fourstones
10.00am	Parish Eucharist in person and live-streamed from St John Lee