

The Stanegate Magazine
207 June 2023

The Stanegate

Newbrough, Fourstones, Warden
and surrounding hamlets

**You are invited to
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Open Garden**

the first weekend in June

**Saturday and Sunday 3rd and 4th June
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There will be a plant stall, all contributions welcome, art work for sale, and refreshments available.

Proceeds from this open weekend will go towards the restoration fund of St John of Beverley, Haydon Bridge.



Entry £5, children free.

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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 July issue is
Friday 16th June 2023**

Apology from the Editorial Team

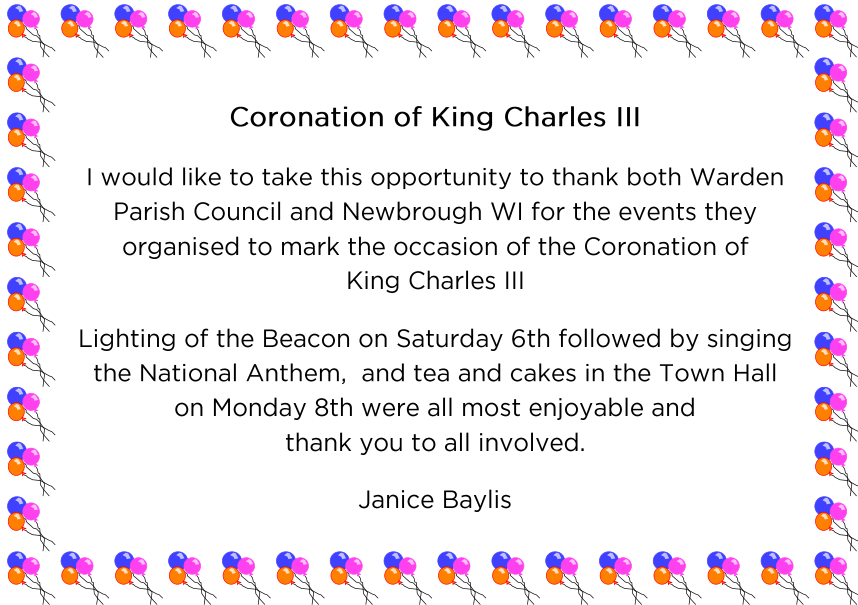
Climate Literacy

In Cllr Nick Morphet's article in our May edition, the editorial team had changed the words : "Tyndall Centre for Climate Research" to "Tynedale Centre for Climate Research" .

Nick has written...

"I would love us to have a world-leading climate research centre in Tynedale, but we don't! The Tyndall Centre is based in Norwich with branches in Newcastle, Manchester, Cardiff and China (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyndall_Centre)."

We clearly should have clarified this with Nick in advance of going to print, for which we apologise.



Coronation of King Charles III

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Warden Parish Council and Newbrough WI for the events they organised to mark the occasion of the Coronation of King Charles III

Lighting of the Beacon on Saturday 6th followed by singing the National Anthem, and tea and cakes in the Town Hall on Monday 8th were all most enjoyable and thank you to all involved.

Janice Baylis



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

Calendar of Events

JUNE

- 5th School opens for Summer term
- 8th Newbrough WI Visit to Bowes Museum
- 9th Coffee morning 11am - 2pm, Methodist Chapel see p21
- 13th Messy Vintage, Methodist Chapel 2.30pm, see p21
- 15th Quiz Night at the Town Hall, 7.30pm for 8pm
- 23rd Coffee morning 11am - 2pm, Methodist Chapel see p21
- 24th Midsummer Day

****SAVE THE DATE****

**Saturday 8th July
SCHOOL FAIR**

Advertising

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Saturday 6th May 2023

Cllr Simon Robson

Residents of Fourstones, Newbrough and Warden gathered at the Beacon on the evening of Saturday 6th May to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Frosty's Fish and Chip van provided sustenance and the gathering was entertained by the playing of the official Government Coronation playlist including tracks by the Beatles, Tom Jones and the Spice Girls.

The Beacon was lit at 8pm and the National Anthem was sung. The skies then opened to bring an end to a fairly brief but enjoyable event.



Just Passing Through

At around noon on the sunny Saturday of the 13th of May a small knot of half a dozen or so mature Scouts climbed the Long Bank and crossed the West Fell on their way to the Look Wide cairn in Carr Edge Wood Plantation which commemorates the world's first official Boy Scout held nearby in 1908.

They were marshalled by a pair wearing DayGlo jackets; one was orange and the other matched the luminous yellow of gorse bushes in full bloom on the fell.

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April Weatherwatch

April was a nondescript month that was cooler and a little wetter than average, with no weather of any real note. The month's lowest daily maximum of 8.1C at Park Shield on the 1st was followed by frosts on the 3rd and 4th, although both days were bright and sunny. The 5th was clouded, with morning and evening April showers and there were more over-night into the 6th. The next three days were dry, with the 8th posting a briefly warmer daily maximum of 15.3C.

April showers turned to more persistent bouts of rain in an unsettled spell from the 10th to the 13th, particularly on the 12th when the Météo France named storm, Noa, crossed the country. However, although southern parts of England, notably the south-west, were battered by high winds and heavy rains, the deep low pressure system had considerably less impact in West Tynedale. Park Shield recorded the odd overnight gust of 30+mph, but the rain mostly held off until late in the day, which accrued an unremarkable 9.8mm. The 24.0mm that fell collectively over the four days proved to be almost half the April total.

The best part of April's mediocre weather came from the 14th to the 21st. This eight day period was completely dry and contained many of the month's warmest days. Pipping the 15.7C of the previous day the poor 15.8C of the 17th was the monthly maximum, the lowest April monthly maximum in ten years and the joint lowest in the Weatherwatch years, which began in 2005. On the 22nd rain fell at times throughout the day. Its total rainfall of 10.0mm made it, by a squeak, the wettest April day, while the 4.6mm that descended in the hour to 6pm was more than fell in the whole of April 2020.¹ Then, up to the 28th, rain was confined to

a couple of light, isolated showers before April ended with two showery days. This led to a total Park Shield rainfall of 50.8mm which made it the twelfth wettest April in a series of twenty-six.

After a short hail shower had pattered down on the chilly afternoon of the 24th the temperature slid to below zero Celsius late in the day and Park Shield April's lowest minimum of -2.8C followed in the early hours of the 25th. Some slight end of month warmth after a final frost on the 26th did little to help the April monthly mean which was the fifth lowest on Weatherwatch record.

Weatherwatch verdict. Despite its mediocrity, April was not entirely without interest.

April Weatherwatch Factfile

Temperature : Park Shield mean monthly maximum : c.12.2C. Mean monthly minimum : c.2.8C. Monthly mean : c.7.5C. E&NE England monthly mean : 7.3C and 0.2C above the 1991-2020 average. UK maximum : 21.2C (70.2F) at Kinlochlewe (Inverness-shire) on the 17th. UK minimum : -7.4C at Tulloch Bridge, (Ross & Cromarty) on the 25th.

Rainfall and Sunshine Park Shield average rainfall : c.45 mm. Rain days : 14. E&NE rainfall & sunshine : Rainfall and sunshine : 102% & 101% of the 1991-2020 average respectively.

Winds : Light and variable, but mainly easterly in mid-month. Maximum Park Shield gust 34 mph at 23:55 on the 11th. UK maximum gust : 96 mph (Needles IOW) on the 12th.

¹ Park Shield recorded an April rainfall of just 3.4mm, which is the lowest month's rainfall on Weatherwatch record.

Reminder



Please keep your dogs on a lead and stay to the footpaths when there are sheep and lambs in the fields

Bonus Ball Draw

APRIL

22nd	Mr Weaver	46
29th	Neville White	59

MAY

6th	Stewart Thompson	7
13th	Barry Dixon	28



We have been very busy in school recently – as always! Here are some highlights.

Hexham Book Festival

Class 1 and Class 4 had fantastic visits to the Book Festival. Class 1 had front row seats at a workshop led by Philip Ardagh and based on his books ‘Bunnies in a boat’ and ‘Bunnies on a bus’. The children were exceptionally well-behaved and loved the session. Class 4 attended a workshop led by Abi Elphinstone.

Two of the children were invited onto the stage because Abi recognised them from the day before, when she had met them in the bookshop looking at her books! Again, it was a really interesting session and the children were great ambassadors for our school. We have since added some Abi Elphinstone books to our library!

Coronation Lunch

We celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III with a celebration lunch in school – and invited parents to share it with us. It was lovely to be able to sit down with so many from our community, the first time we had done this since pre-Covid! It was a very colourful occasion as the children all dressed in red, white and blue for the day.

A huge thanks to Michelle Bridges and Linda Cowen for all their hard work which went into cooking and serving our delicious roast dinner!

Summer Fair

Planning is already well underway for the summer fair which is our most important fundraising event in the school year. There will be all the usual stalls, a barbeque plus the popular dog show.

This year, the fair will be on Saturday 8th July
We’d love to see you there!

Jo Trotter
School Head



Town Hall / Village News

The Town Hall Committee would like to thank Michael and Sandra Gibson for their re-planting of the four planters at the Memorial and at the front of the Town Hall. Their efforts were completed in time for the Coronation holiday weekend with red, white and blue bedding plants. The planters have been much admired by visitors and local people alike.



200 CLUB		
May		
1st	Janice Baylis	111
2nd	Judith Whitaker	56
3rd	Neville White	168

The meeting on 11th May was well attended and President Judith Kirby welcomed two guests and WI Advisor, Moira Bengston, (Bardon Mill WI).

The monthly meeting was held first and the business dealt with. A Maypole has been purchased to donate to the village school. Two members booked for croquet at Belsay and plans were finalised for the June outing to Bowes Museum. The bus will leave Newbrough Town Hall at 10am on Thursday June 8th.

Some members had provided a tea at Newbrough Town Hall for the village in commemoration of King Charles III's Coronation. They were thanked for a very successful event. Donations amounting to £130 were received which were given to the Food Bank.

Moira gave a short talk on the AGM Resolution for the provision of "clean water for people and wildlife". Members voted for the Resolution but gave discretion to the delegate when she hears the arguments for and against.

We then held our AGM. Carol Ellis was re-elected Town Hall representative and the Treasurer Val Johnston reported that the finances were in a very healthy condition. The secretary Teresa Bessant reported that we had had a busy year, joining in events and visiting other WIs. The President thanked all the committee for all their hard work and the membership for continuing to support the WI. Moira supervised the re-election of our President Judith, and was thanked and presented with a small gift.

Catherine Grant won the competition with a tweed purple thistle and Maureen Carr was runner up with a pretty purple scarf. Guest, Lynne Garton, won the raffle and Val won the flowers.

Members of the committee were all re-elected and welcomed a new member Catherine Grant. Next month will be the outing to Bowes Museum on the 8th June.



Warden Parish Council

Chairman's Report 2022–2023

Cllr Simon Robson

Another busy year for the Parish Council started with arrangements being made to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and ends with preparations being made to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

The Platinum Jubilee events organised by a variety of local organisations successfully brought the community together on a number of occasions. Although the rain caused some logistical issues for the lighting of the beacon, this did not dampen spirits and the feedback from attendees was very positive. Hopefully the events organised for the Coronation weekend will be similarly successful although I note that rain is forecast for Saturday evening.

The Parish Council has supported a number of local organisations with grant funding during the year. This support has helped the cricket club which continues to go from strength to strength, The Stanegate Magazine that continues to provide a hugely valuable service to our parishioners, and the imminent repair to the MUGA (multi use games area).

The general environment of the villages is important to our residents. The Parish gardeners continue to provide an excellent service in maintaining our green spaces. This has been

supplemented by the work carried out by volunteers clearing debris from underneath the hedges through Fourstones, and the litter picks organised by Cllr Charlton and well attended by local residents.

The village signage project is nearing completion with the concrete bases in place for the installation of the stone signs at Warden to follow imminently. Thanks to Dave Spearman and the Town Hall for the provision of attractive planters adjacent to village signs. A new seat is soon to be provided at Crossgates funded by Cllr Morphet.

Speeding continues to be a concern of parishioners. A successful petition enabled the Chair to make a presentation to the Northumberland Council Local Area Committee recommending the introduction of a mandatory speed limit in the vicinity of Hardhaugh and the Paper Mill. The presentation was received positively and an action plan from the Highways Department is awaited.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank fellow Parish Councillors for the contributions they have made during the year, the fantastic support we receive from Cllr Morphet, and the professional advice and support we receive from the Parish Clerk. It is important that we remain relevant and continue to support the well-being of our community to the best of our ability.

* * * * *

The Annual General Meeting was followed by the May meeting of the Parish Council. Cllr's Robson and Charlton were elected as Chair and Vice Chair for the coming year. The following summarises the main points discussed not mentioned in the Annual Report.

A member of the public raised the issue of road sweeping and gully clearance and Cllr Morphet agreed to follow this up with NCC. Cllr Charlton reported that the litter pick had been successful with good attendance from local residents. It was suggested that the next litter pick could include more general village maintenance including weed clearance.

Local Transport Plan Requests were discussed and it was suggested that Mossy drainage and road surfacing, and footway accessibility should be the main priorities. Cllr Morphet confirmed that the Chair will be invited to the next meeting of the Active Travel Route Partnership to ensure that our local communities have a voice in their deliberations.

It was agreed to progress the provision of a defibrillator at Fourstones Filling Station (to supplement the defibrillator provided by the Parish Council at the Boatside Inn). The Chair will seek quotes for procurement and installation and the Clerk will progress a grant application.

The meeting concluded with a reminder of the arrangements for the event to celebrate the Coronation.

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Green Notes

'The answer lies in the soil': but what is the question? We all need to know!

I grew up in an urban environment where we called soil 'dirt'. In a spectacular and welcome example of re-education, David Montgomery wrote a book called, 'Dirt: the Erosion of Civilisations' (2012). He reminded us that, '*soil is the root of our existence, supporting our feet, our farms and our cities*'.

We both use and abuse soil, much abuse arising from ignorance of the beautiful complexity of this vital resource. Soil is **alive**: Charles Darwin observed that, in a field of sheep, there was more biomass of life beneath the grass than above it! The roots of the plants on which we depend are our explorers of this dark world and they report back: healthy soil - good plants.

We are now keen on national accounts of vital natural goods and services. In 2019, the Environment Agency published 'The state of the environment: soil'. Soil degradation costs us £1.2 billion per year (stretching from adding nutrients for crops to clearing roads after 'dirty floods' and dredging silted rivers). Over 2 million hectares of soil are at risk of erosion in England and Wales. UK soils currently store 10 billion tonnes of carbon (80 years of UK greenhouse gas emissions). However, intensive agriculture has caused arable soils to lose 40-60% of their organic carbon...the litany of damage goes on!

Alongside increasing medical awareness of 'microbiomes', e.g. in our gut, soil scientists are researching the micro ecology of soils to find the key carbon controllers. The notion of the 'wood-wide web' of fungi, circulating chemical information between trees has become captivating. Citizen scientists are measuring decomposition rates of tea bags as a measure of microbiome activity. Depressingly, a major new threat to the soil microbiome is our microplastics waste.

Returning to 'What is the question?' I think the question is, 'Do we understand the fundamental planetary support soil provides and therefore give it the respect, enhancement and restoration it deserves'? We all need that 'soil moment' every day! There may be some comfort in the pledge to reverse soil degradation and restore fertility by 2030 (in the UK 25-year Environment Plan) - but why leave it to the Government?! In England only one in eight fields has high earthworm numbers: get them back into a soil near you! And get that 'dirt' back in your fingernails!

**Malcolm Newson on behalf of
Climate Action Newbrough-Fourstones**

Nature Notes

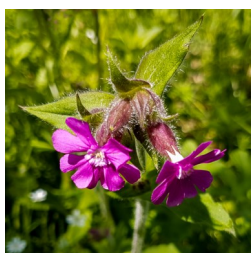
Blossom by blossom the spring begins. Algernon Charles Swinburne (1837-1909).¹

Cherry plum blossom brightens early spring days, although this was the fourth year in the last five that it first appeared before the official start of spring. White blackthorn blossom began showing on leafless bushes and hedges in late March. Up at Whinny Hill some of the last blossom had turned a rusty brown by the 8th of May.² Ornamental and native cherry trees began blossoming some time before this. On the 12th of April the pink blossom on an old ornamental cherry in the walled garden of Newbrough Park was eye-catching. On the 19th young cherries in the Boatside Inn car park carried paler pink blossom, while white blossom was breaking out on the cherry trees close by the Newbrough cricket pavilion, those opposite the layby at the north end of Crow Wood and the two at the back of the layby above St. Aidan's Terrace.

Clusters of native bird cherry blossom hung in a cut back hedge on Church Lane on the 1st of May and in hedges elsewhere. The several bird cherry trees standing in the hedge-line towards the north end of Homers Lane showed blossom on the 23rd of April and were in full blossom on the 8th of May, as were the pair of pink ornamental cherries at Whitehouses. But the cherry blossom season is not long-lived and by then the lower cherry in St. Aidan's layby was already bare and the petals of the upper one, which had been at the height of blossom only two days before, were scattered like confetti on the ground around it.

continued overleaf.....

After gradual leafing, early month warmth saw hawthorn hedges fully clothed around the end of the first week of May. White flecks of blossom were first noted in south facing hedges at West Boat and the road down from Allerwash on the 2nd of May, while on the same day a few small white clusters showed together on a hedge at the south end of Homers Lane. This ended a four year run of first sightings of May blossom in April. By the 10th of May blossom had broken out in the hedges on the Mossy Bank and many others across the neighbourhood.

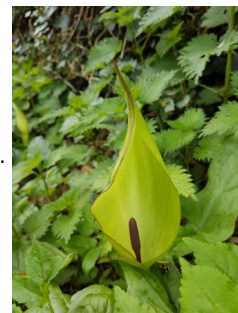


Of some familiar spring wild-flowers, dazzling white greater stitchwort was first noted in a verge at West Boat on April the 18th and groups of red campions were first recorded by the river-side path below Allerwash Mill on the 20th of

April. These first sightings, the latest since the cold spring of 2018, can be attributed to a cold March and cool early April.

Garlic mustard was just breaking into flower in the verge running up to St. Peter's Church on the 16th, a handful of days later than first seen in the two previous years and, unusually, some time after the first sighting of an orange tip butterfly, as their first appearances tend to closely coincide. By the end of the first week of May armies of garlic mustard fronted hedgerows and walls across the neighbourhood, while the increasing number of downy "clocks" in maintained roadside verges signalled the coming end to the main dandelion season. Untended verges had become a lush mix of greenery, including grasses, large tongued dock leaves, more slender sorrel leaves and burgeoning stinging nettles. Wild

garlic filled Crow Wood with scores of white flowers and a pungent garlicky smell. It was also flowering here and there along roadside verges, together with clumps of sky blue forget-me-nots, sprinklings of greater stitchwort and small stands of red campion. Often hidden by competing vegetation the pale green cowls of wild arums enclosed purple spikes, or spadices.



Although not yet in full bloom, rangy cow parsley was conspicuous in verges before the end of the second week of May. By then ever-late leafing ash trees were still bare, while many other trees were approaching full leaf. Always early into leaf, horse chestnuts were already clothed in full foliage by the end of the first week of the month, when the silky lime green of newly emerged leaves adorned beech trees.

Acknowledgement

Thanks to Mary Wilson for her continued contributions.

¹ Although the Victorian poet Swinburne never lived in the county, his mother came from a wealthy Northumbrian family. In his youth he spent summer holidays with his grandfather at Capeaton Hall and considered himself a Northumbrian. Although little known or studied nowadays, Swinburne was famous in his day.

² In the colder, more traditional Northumbrian spring of ten years ago the blackthorn hedge opposite Kiln Cottages did not break out into blossom until the 5th of May.

St. George's mushrooms

Stanegate readers mowing lawns this spring might have found fungi with creamy rounded caps and tightly packed gills squatting in their grass. These are likely to have been St. George's mushrooms (*Calocybe gambosa*). They are so-called because they traditionally appear on St. George's Day, the 23rd of April, although they do appear in the weeks either side. Several were noted at Park Shield during a lawn cut on the 19th of April and others appeared before cuts in May. They are much prized by foragers for their unique taste and texture, but 'elf and safety dictates that they should only be eaten if positively identified.

General

- Read the rules in the schedule carefully.
- Allow yourself plenty of time to stage your exhibits.
- Before leaving the hall count the number of blooms, vegetables or articles and check that they are according to schedule.
- Where the schedule asks for a pair, or a greater number of items e.g two carrots, four cooking apples, six eggs or six sweet peas, try to produce identical twins, quadruplets or sextuplets.
- If in doubt ask a steward (committee member) they will be happy to give advice.

Vegetables

- Clean vegetables by holding them under a cold water tap, using a sponge to remove the soil – never use a brush
- Never use an oily substance to clean vegetables. Occasionally carrots are cleaned with butter, but it is easily seen and most judges will mark them down.
- Where a root vegetable is white, it is advisable to leave lifting until the last possible minute, particularly in the case of parsnips.
- Trim the roots on onions and shallots, but not leeks or root vegetables such as carrots or beetroot. Trim excess outer leaves on brassicas.
- Consider size when showing potatoes. Choose tubers uniform in size, free from blemish and typical of the variety.
- When showing a collection, arrange your box, board or plate so that the vegetables are presented in the best possible combination of colour and size.
- Whatever the vegetable, make sure that it is presented against a white background.
- Present your vegetables with the best side to the judge. First impressions are very important.

Cut Flowers

- All flowers should be shown in peak condition – not tired or limp
- Cut a day early and put the stems in water almost touching the flowers. This makes certain that the stems are fully charged with water so that they won't flag on the show bench.
- The appearance of the flowers can be improved by using oasis, moss or scrunched up newspaper in the vase to help the flowers stand upright.
- Present the vase so that as much of the flowers as possible can be seen by the judge.
- Never crowd a vase by gripping the stems together.
- Remove all damaged petals and leaves.
- Always check that you are showing the correct number of stems.

Pot Plants

- Show in an appropriately sized pot.
- Wash the pot – make sure it is clean.
- A pot plant is judged on the quality of the foliage as well as the flower.
- Stake to show the plant to best advantage but hide the stake as far as possible.

Fruit

- The fruit should be well coloured, blemish free and regular in form.
- They should be firm to touch and shown against a white background.

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Barbecues

Barbecues are all about the social atmosphere where we gather to drink, converse, laugh and grab a tasty, tender morsel from the barbecue.

In times gone by the charcoal makers were wealthy men. Barbecuing is so popular now and it is a good thing to buy your charcoal locally to support the economy and not the briquettes, some of which contain chemicals which can alter the taste. Tongs are essential and oven gloves are useful.

Rum Ribs

Paste

5 tbsp maple syrup
2 tsp chilli paste
1 tsp ground ginger
1 tsp Worcester sauce
1 tsp paprika
1 tsp ground cumin
1 tsp Chinese 5 spice
½ tsp ground nutmeg

Sauce

small piece of ginger, peeled and grated
3 cloves of garlic, peeled and chopped
125 mls tomato ketchup
60 mls rum
1 tbsp Worcester sauce
3 tbsp cider vinegar
1 tsp Dijon mustard
½ tsp chilli flakes
60 gms soft dark brown sugar

1 kg back ribs



Combine the paste ingredients and 2 tsp salt and rub over ribs. Cover with cling film and leave overnight or a few hours in the fridge. When ready to cook, wrap in a foil parcel and cook on barbecue until tender. These can be cooked directly on the barbecue if desired.

Make the sauce by putting all ingredients into a pan. Add 80mls of water and simmer for 15/20 mins or until thickened. Season to taste. When ribs are cooked, brush with sauce.

Mango Salsa

1 ripe mango, diced
½ onion, diced
½ cucumber, diced
1 bunch fresh coriander, chopped
Juice from 1 lime
Mix all the ingredients together and season to taste



BBQ Vegetable medley

1 head broccoli 1 cauliflower 3 courgettes 250gms cherry tomatoes
2 cloves garlic, peeled 1 tsp dried chilli flakes Olive oil, one knob of butter, parmesan cheese
6 anchovy fillets (optional)



Trim broccoli and cauliflower stalks. Cut into florets. Blanch for 1–2 mins. Strain into bowl and add sliced courgettes with sliced tomatoes, salt and pepper. Add a drizzle of oil.

Mix together and place on barbecue for 10–12 mins until nicely charred, turning frequently.

Melt butter and oil in pan over the heat. Add chopped garlic and chilli flakes and anchovies if used. Warm gently stirring. Remove veges and pour over the anchovy mix. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese.

Rum and Caramel Bananas

4–6 tin foil sheets
50gms butter
40gms muscovado sugar
2 tsp treacle
2 tbsp spiced rum
4–6 bananas



Mix together butter, sugar and treacle. Add rum.
Make a split in the curve of the bananas. Do not cut all the way through.
Spread a spoonful of the butter mix inside each banana.
Place the bananas curve side up into tin foil parcels and wrap up completely.
Place on barbecue for 10–15 mins

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

Midsummer Day : facts you may not know?

Are you familiar with Midsummer Day (traditionally June 24th) and Midsummer Eve (June 23rd)? Below is an explanation as to why it's called "Midsummer" when the day is so near the first day of summer (the solstice).

What Is Midsummer?

Many northern countries celebrate a solstice holiday known as **Midsummer Day**. It's an ancient day that many people still enjoy because summer calls for celebration! In mid-June nature has burst into life and it seems like the Sun never sets. In fact, in the north of Sweden, it doesn't, and in the south, only for an hour or two.

Historically, this day marks the midpoint of the *growing season*, halfway between planting and harvest. It is traditionally known as one of four "Quarter Days" in some cultures.

The night before Midsummer Day is called **Midsummer Eve** (June 23rd) which is on or near the shortest night of the year! Celebrations for Midsummer typically begin on Midsummer Eve. Dancing, feasting, bonfires, and general merrymaking are hallmarks of the night!

The First Day of Summer ...

Astronomically speaking, summer begins on the solstice. In 2023, the solstice arrives on Wednesday, June 21st. At this moment, the Sun reaches its highest and northernmost points in the sky, and Earth's North Pole tilts directly toward the Sun. In fact, the Sun's path of declination appears to stop before reversing direction.

"Solstice" is a combination of the Latin words *sol* for "sun" and *stitium* for "standing." (In late December, the Sun appears to stand still again, when we experience the winter solstice, ie the shortest day.)

Weatherwise, the days around the solstice are recognised as the height, or middle, of summer. Crops are well under way and looking promising and growers celebrate their anticipated harvest at Midsummer festivals.

For some, the summer solstice is a magical time, one of new beginnings celebrated with bonfires and festivals. In agricultural communities, fine weather on Midsummer Day portends a fruitful season.

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Church Pages

Who's Who

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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

MAY

Christenings

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

On Sunday 30th April at St Peter Newbrough:
Flynn Leadbitter of Sidgate, Newbrough

On Sunday 30th April at St Peter Newbrough:
Esther Olivia Murray of Millersfield, Acomb

Weddings

There were no weddings in the Parish in
May.

Funerals

There were no funerals in the Parish in
May.

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

Preachers for June 2023

- 4th Local arrangement
- 11th Deacon Anne Taylor
- 18th Service at Haydon Bridge with
Deacon Anne Taylor
- 25th Mrs Sandra Martin

All services are at 10.30am

All are welcome

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

Messy Vintage at Methodist Chapel

Messy Vintage is fun and fellowship to share with Christ with the older generation. This started in St Peter, Jersey.

In the chapel we set out tables and chairs, tablecloths, fine china, serviettes and cake stands laden with small cakes, sandwiches, scones and fancy cakes. People come, men and ladies, some live alone, others come for fellowship, friendship and some just to watch what goes on.

Deacon Anne opens with a welcome, explains what the theme of the month is and we sing some hymns, have a bible reading, a craft and then tea.

There is always a lot of chatter and laughter as some of us struggle with glue, scissors, sequins and felt pens. We all show one another our efforts, mostly different, at the end before we have tea.

Messy vintage makes space for friendship and conversation.

We meet once a month, usually the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm in Fourstones Methodist Chapel. Everyone is very welcome so give it a try.

Margaret Bogie

Messy Vintage

Tuesday 13th June at 2.30pm

The theme will be Pentecost

Everyone is welcome to join in or sit and watch!

Friday Coffee mornings

Coffee, tea and a chat

Friday 9th June and Friday 23rd June

11am – 2pm

All are welcome



Letter from Reverend Jeremy.....

June always feels like an unusual month to me. In April, we experienced the excitement of Lent and Easter, and this year, in May, we were thrilled by the Coronation and its Bank Holidays. Now, as June arrives, it seems like a somewhat empty month, lacking much anticipation or excitement until the Summer Holidays come in July and August.

However, I don't believe that having some downtime now and then is necessarily a negative thing. There is nothing wrong with the ordinary, routine, everyday life that we all must lead from time to time. Taking a break from excitement and adventure allows us to recharge and rediscover ourselves. Even Jesus recognized the need for downtime. He often retreated from the noise and chaos of his disciples, the Pharisees, the sick, the lame, and all the other pressures surrounding him. He would frequently go up a mountain to find solitude and recenter himself before plunging back into the busyness. It was in those moments, he was closest to God.

Discovering God in the simplicity of everyday tasks is a profound blessing that all of us can achieve. We can follow the example of people like Brother Lawrence, a 17th-century monk who spent his entire life as a cook and later as a sandal mender in a small monastery in France. After sustaining an injury during his military service, Lawrence was limited in his abilities compared to the other brothers. However, he could cook, and later on, he could sit at his workbench mending sandals. In these simple tasks, Lawrence found the presence of God. As he noticed God in the ordinary, routine, mundane aspects of his life, God's light and love radiated through him. Despite his humble position in the monastery, he became a sought-after spiritual guide, with people travelling from all over France to seek his counsel. Yet, he always practised the presence of God while working in the kitchen or sewing sandals.

June may be a quiet month, but may that quietness provide you with the space to encounter God in the everyday, ordinary tasks that fill your days.

With every blessing,
Jeremy

Parish of Warden with Newbrough Church Services for June 2023

4th June	Trinity Sunday
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
11th June	Trinity 1
8.00am	Holy Communion at St Michael & All Angels, Warden
10.00am	A Service of the Word in person and live-streamed from St John Lee
18th June	Trinity 2
8.00am	Holy Communion at St John Lee
9.30am	A service of the word at St Peter Newbrough
11.15am	Zoom worship
25th June	Trinity 3
8.00am	Holy Communion at St. Peter Newbrough
10.00am	Parish Eucharist broadcast live from St John Lee