

The Stanegate Magazine
206 May 2023

The Stanegate

Newbrough, Fourstones, Warden
and surrounding hamlets

Coronation of King Charles III

Saturday 6th May 2023



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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 June issue is
Friday 12th May 2023**

Letter to the Editors.....

Dear Team

Thank you for continually producing such an informative magazine for all the residents of our villages. It's especially a great guide for new residents, I feel.

Sandra Bowdon

Thank You

Gill Charlton

Wow ! What a great turn out we had for April's Litter Pick. Admittedly the weather was kind to us but it was lovely to see such a commitment to ensuring that our villages are kept smart and litter free.

Thank you to all involved, we couldn't have achieved what we did without your help.

A few of the many helpers on the day



National Bike Route

Heading west along the Stanegate



Calendar of Events

MAY

- 1st May Bank Holiday
- 2nd Warden PC, Town Hall, 7pm
- 3rd Newbrough PC, Town Hall, 7pm
- 6th The Coronation of King Charles III
Lighting the Beacon at 8pm
- 8th The King's Coronation Bank Holiday
- 9th Messy Vintage 2.30 see p13
- 11th Newbrough WI Town Hall, 7pm
- 12th Coffee morning See p13
- 18th Quiz Night at the Town Hall, 7.30 for 8
- 26th Coffee morning See p13
- 27th School closes for May half term holiday

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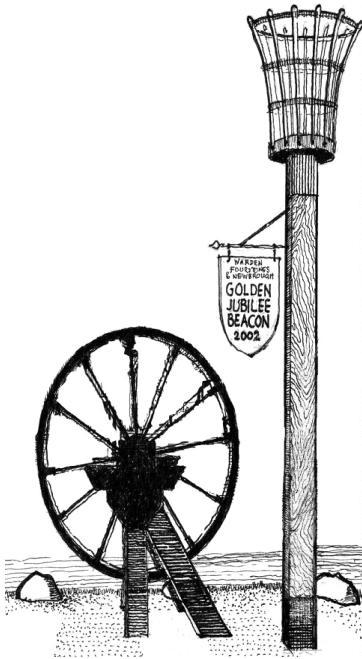
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Coronation of King Charles III

Saturday 6th May 2023



The Beacon will be lit at 8pm
with residents invited to
congregate from 7pm.

Please bring your own refreshments

Frosty's Fish and Chips will also be here from 6pm

Reminder ✂ THE 'ALL STARS' ARE BACK! ✂

Our 8 week series of 'All Stars' will start on 9th May at 5.30pm and each session will last for 45 minutes. 'All Stars Cricket' provides a fab experience for 5-8 year olds who are new to the game or keen to return for more.

The 8 weeks of fun, activity and skills development is fully inclusive, designed to support a wide range of abilities & different learning needs, is safe & fully accredited. Focused upon giving children a great intro-duction to the sport with an emphasis on fun, learning will include catching, throwing, batting, bowling, teamwork and communication.

Soft balls and plastic bats are used and all participants are given their very own cricket kit bag, full of everything they need to play the game.

Mums and Dads are encouraged to take part too!

To register your child's place, please visit
<http://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars>

If you have any further queries, please contact
newbroughcricket@gmail.com

Featherwatch

April is the main month for the arrival of our summer visitors.

Sand martins skimmed over the South Tyne below Allerwash Mill on the 1st of April.
The simple two note ditty of a chiffchaff, heard at the north end of Crow Wood on April the 4th, loudly proclaimed the arrival of spring.

Two swallows were spotted over Stonecroft on 16th April and were also seen at Fourstones Paper Mill and Allerwash Mill on the 18th.

Invited editorial

Let's get the bus today

David Penn

You may have heard on the local TV news and newspapers that there is renewed concern about the future of rural bus services. The government has announced that the £2 flat rate fare scheme and post Covid Bus Recovery Grant will both be extended to the end of June. Of course, for those who qualify for a state pension, the free bus pass continues to be available. Passenger numbers have not fully recovered to pre Covid levels and operators were warning that they would have to reduce services unless more support was provided. This announcement provides a breathing space which will allow time for longer term plans to be put in place.

The region's local councils have got together and come up with a joint Bus Service Improvement Plan which promises rural areas at least a two hourly service, but this will require additional funding from central government. The government has now released its 'Bus Back Better' strategy and this should give us some idea of the level of support which we can expect in the longer term.

Meanwhile the more of us who use the bus the better. Planners take note of how much the buses are used and this extra time is an opportunity for us to show that numbers using the bus are going up. Compared to many rural communities Newbrough and Fourstones are quite well served by bus. We enjoy a two hourly service, even on Sundays. I don't expect passenger numbers will grow so much that double deck buses will make a comeback but this rare visitor did make an appearance in February.



There was a time when Charlton's double deckers were the mainstay of the Hexham to Newbrough service, with some journeys going though to Settlingstones or Haydon Bridge. It is just over 100 years ago that M. Charlton & Sons began their Hexham to Newbrough service . By coincidence both the buses pictured here were originally London buses. The Go Ahead bus above worked routes in Central London before being semi retired to the Northeast.

The Charlton bus built in 1937, one of the first diesel engined buses, was sold to Charlton's to help cope with the post war surge in bus passenger numbers.

There is an excellent article in the Hexham Historian magazine 'Buses along the Tyne' by Mollie Telford which gives an account of the M Charlton Bus Company 1919 to 1959. (Hexham Historian No. 28 /2018).

Photo courtesy of Hexham Local History Society.
Details of the current service can be found overleaf.

M.Charlton & Sons was founded by WW1 veteran Matthew Scott Charlton. He was succeeded by his son Jack who led the firm during its heyday in the 1950s. Many Stanegate readers will remember Jack and his long years of service on the parish and district council and his contribution to the community through the Rotary Club and other charitable work. He lived to be 94. Most appropriately, Newbrough Parish Council erected a fine stone built bus shelter at Sidgate in his memory in 2005. More recently funds he bequeathed to the people of Newbrough were used to provide social housing in the village and the development, at Butt Bank, is named Charlton Place in recognition of his many contributions to the life of the community.

Go North East : Tynedale Links 687 Newbrough to Hexham (major stops)

Newbrough Church Lane (e-bound)	07.09	08.09	09.29	11.29	13.29	15.49	17.49	18.49	19.49
Fourstones Broadway	07.13	08.13	09.33	11.33	13.33	15.53	17.53	18.53	19.53
St Andrew's Cemetery	07.20	08.20	09.40	11.40	13.40	16.00	18.00	19.00	20.00
QE High School	07.22	-	09.42	11.42	13.42	16.02	18.02	19.02	20.02
QE High School	-	08.22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hexham Bus Station 'Stand B'	07.27	08.27	09.47	11.47	13.47	16.07	18.07	19.07	20.07

Hexham to Newbrough (major stops)

Hexham Bus Station 'Stand D'	06.45	07.45	09.05	11.05	13.05	15.25	17.25	18.25	19.25
QE High School	06.50	07.50	09.10	11.10	13.10	15.30	17.30	18.30	19.30
St Andrew's Cemetery (w-bound)	06.53	07.53	09.13	11.13	13.13	15.33	17.33	18.33	19.33
Fourstones, Broadway	07.02	08.02	09.22	11.22	13.22	15.42	17.42	18.42	19.42
Newbrough Church Lane (w-bound)	07.06	08.06	09.26	11.26	13.26	15.46	17.46	18.46	19.46



There have been some big changes happening at the school recently. As of April, we have made the exciting move to be part of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Learning Trust (DNDLT).

As a Church of England primary school, we have always had close links with our diocese and have always had fantastic support from them, so when we were considering the option of potentially joining a multi-academy trust, it was natural to look in that direction. After all, this is not a decision to be taken lightly as it potentially effects everything that we do. The governors visited schools in several different Trusts across the North East, talking to their staff and governors and carefully weighing up the pros and cons but finally decided on the DNDLT as the right place for us.

Will it mean big changes? Well, probably not! Our name, our uniform, our curriculum and our ethos will all stay unchanged but what is different is the support available and how that is offered to staff and pupils. We will be working together with other church schools across the two dioceses to help all of our children to be the best that they can be.

The DNDLT motto is: 'every child matters and no child is ever left behind' and that is certainly something we can all agree on!

Jo Trotter
Head Teacher

The April meeting was chaired by Judith Kirby and she welcomed members and guest speaker Abi Grocock, from Royal Northern Sinfonia. Several members were absent because of ill health.

Judith dealt with the business in the absence of the secretary. Last minute arrangements were made for the group meeting at Bardon Mill with a few members attending and supplying refreshments. Judith will be our model in a charity shop outfit costing no more than £15. The Domino team were given meeting arrangements.

Abi then gave us an interesting illustrated account of the Northern Sinfonia. It was founded in 1950 and is the only full time Chamber orchestra in the country. Its home is in the Sage, Gateshead. Abi described how they kept music alive during the pandemic. They are just starting to tour world wide again after all the disruption. They often work with a chorus of 50 singers and for certain pieces of music they have to employ additional orchestra members.



Vanessa Ashton won the raffle and Susan Sutton the flowers. Valerie Johnston won the Navy Blue Colour with a book, Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice novel presented to her as a Sunday School Prize. Catherine Grant was second with an attractive scent bottle.

The next meeting is on May 11th and is our AGM. Hostesses will be Ann Wodzinsky and June Kendrew. The raffle is to be organised by Doreen Dodds and the competition is for the colour purple.

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Thanks!

Climate Literacy

A progress report on emissions reductions

Readers with good memories will remember that the theme of my last “climate literacy” article was net zero targets. In it I explained that the route that we take to net zero is far more important than the date at which we get there. For that reason, I thought it might be a good time to tell you where Northumberland is currently at on its emissions reduction pathway.

Before I start, I should explain that the government releases emissions data broken down by local authority area every June, but there’s a time lag of 18 months (so, for example, the 2021 results will be released this June). I should also remind you that the Tyndall Centre for Climate Research tells us that if Northumberland is to make a “fair” contribution to the objectives of the Paris Agreement it must decrease its carbon dioxide emissions by at least 11.2% every year.

Northumberland managed to reduce its CO₂ emissions by more than 11.2% in 2012, 2013 and 2014, but then progressed stalled. From 2015 onwards we’ve only averaged a 5.8% reduction. The latest results are for 2020, and show that the county’s CO₂ emissions fell by 22.3% - with significant assistance from the pandemic. If we exclude this “anomalous” figure, we’ve only averaged a 2.4% reduction since 2015. The data for 2021 will be affected by the pandemic too, so we won’t find out how we’re really doing until we get the 2022 data - in June 2024.

Although the latest CO₂ emissions data was unhelpful, it was accompanied for the first time by county-level data on methane and nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions - allowing us to calculate our total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for the first time. It soon became apparent that the county’s GHG emissions are two-and-a-half times its total CO₂ emissions, making the 2030 net zero CO₂ target seem like no more than a stepping stone on the way to net zero GHGs.

Most of our methane and N₂O emissions come from farming, meaning that farmers and farm subsidies will be a critical part of the solution to the climate crisis here in Northumberland. The Council had pre-empted the new data by commissioning the Future of Farming report, the purpose of which is to advise the Council on how it can best support the county’s farmers on the road to net zero GHGs. The report was released in November 2022, and you can read it here: <https://bit.ly/3G0myPr>. The Council hasn’t settled on a target date for net zero GHGs yet, but is likely to go for 2040 - which is the date that the National Farmers Union has chosen.

Next time, why limiting average global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees C really matters!

Cllr Nick Morphet

Just Passing Through

Almost a year to the day since their last visit, rural peace in Fourstones was temporarily shattered again for around an hour or so from eleven-thirty on the morning of Saturday the 25th of March as a steady stream of bikers taking part in the *Kielder 500*¹ roared down into the village from Tower Tye. Kev and Co. at Fourstones Filling Station had a hectic time catering to riders who re-filled petrol tanks and re-fuelled themselves with an assortment of tea, coffee, cold drinks, sandwiches and hot pies. Kev and Co. might have to do this all over again when the last of the RallyMoto Cup events, the *Dark Skies Rally*, takes place over the weekend of the 28th/29th of October.

¹ *The Kielder 500* is a two day navigation event for “big” trail motorcycles of over 140kg, with riders covering courses of around 250 kilometres each day, largely over the gravel tracks and fire roads of Kielder Forest. The event was the first of three in the 2023 “RallyMoto Cup” and a £175 entry fee sell out. In all it attracted a very healthy 184 entrants in two similarly sized classes; Rally Class and Adventure Class. Bellingham’s Brown Rigg Lodges provided overnight room accommodation and camping facilities.

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Stanegate Readers review by Jackie Wood

'The Messenger' by Megan Davis

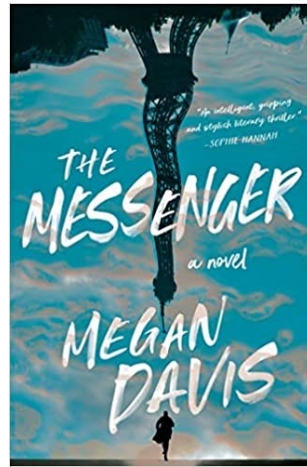
It is the usual policy of our group to read books recommended by the members and not hardbacks, but this month's choice was neither.

We were asked by Susie Troupe, the organiser of the Hexham Book Festival, to take part, with other book groups, in reading this particular novel.

The author is appearing at the Festival and most of us shall be there to hear her speak. Although this is her first novel, she has worked for the film industry and her credits include Atonement, In Bruges, Pride and Prejudice and the Bourne films.

The story takes place in Paris and centres round a privileged boy called Alex, who lives with his domineering drunken father. The suffocating atmosphere in the apartment they share becomes intolerable to Alex, so he escapes into the city streets where he meets Sami who shows him how to survive. But, they need money so they hatch a plan to steal from Alex's father, expecting him to be absent from the apartment.

Unfortunately, it all goes wrong, as his father is found dead. Both boys are sentenced for the murder and sent to prison. Alex is released after seven years and his main purpose is to find who did kill his father and why. He also feels guilty that Sami has a longer sentence, due to the



evidence that he has given. Whilst searching for the truth and to atone for his sins it leads him to uncover a disturbing truth with far-reaching consequences.

At the end of the book are author's notes, explaining where her ideas came from, which no doubt she will expand on at her talk.

The book is written in the Then and Now, which certainly confused one of us. Several of the group did not enjoy it at all, whilst some of us really liked it.

It would certainly make a good film and perhaps as one of us suggested it is really three stories in one:- Who committed the murder; a political and journalistic mystery and the story of Alex's dysfunctional and complicated family.

Another of the group had lived in Paris and remembers the tension between the wealthy Parisiennes and the tented communities which were beginning to spring up in the city. The extremes of poverty and wealth living side by side, and the development of darker hidden no go areas were well described.

I really enjoyed the book, finding her descriptive text excellent and although it was a long novel, very easy and quick to read. Perhaps my only criticism, was the end, which seemed to happen all of a sudden.

It is definitely a holiday read.

From the Orchard Kitchen

Iain Bennett

Hello from the Orchard Kitchen. This month the article is more about the food than actual recipes. Once again May is upon us and the jewel in the crown of British vegetables is available - asparagus.

Asparagus is a member of the lily family and related to bluebells and the onion family. Originating in the Middle East (the Persian word *asparg* means sprout), the plant was grown by the Greeks and Romans. As early as 200 B.C. Romans had a published guide on the cultivation of asparagus and were the first to preserve asparagus by freezing. The asparagus was eaten in season and then choice spears of asparagus were taken by fast chariots and runners to the snowline of the Alps. It was then kept there for 6 months until the feast of Epicurus. The Emperor Caesar Augustus described 'haste' to his underlings as being 'quicker than you can cook asparagus.' Cultivation continued in Syria, Egypt, and Moorish Spain, but it did not reach northern Europe until 1538. Asparagus boomed in the 17th century. Louis XIV and Pepys were both big fans of the big stalk, which, despite its appearance, has no aphrodisiac properties. Commercial production of "sparrow grass", as it came to be known among market traders, only developed in the 19th century when improved communications allowed the fresh crop to be rushed to market while still in good condition.

It is not surprising that asparagus is relatively expensive, even in season. Asparagus takes three years to grow before the first crop can be picked. After three years of production commercial

asparagus crowns are replaced, so this means that half of an asparagus producers land is always unproductive. Asparagus must be handpicked and graded into bundles. Under ideal conditions, an asparagus spear can grow 10" over the space of 24 hours. The thickness of spears depends on a number of conditions including the depth of the crown and soil density. The spears are graded into spru, medium and jumbo by thickness.

Asparagus comes in green or white varieties. The white is blanched in the same way as celery by earthing up soil around the growing stalks. The white is particularly popular in Germany where it is made into a creamy asparagus soup. To really appreciate asparagus pick it fresh, snap the woody base off and lightly steam or boil for 3-5 minutes. Then just eat it as it is, maybe with a little butter or a hollandaise sauce or dipped in a soft-boiled egg. It may be expensive, but the season is very short, the vegetable delicious and you know that you're worth it!!

Also, available at this time of year is wild garlic. Crow wood is abundant with it and its pungent smell clears the head better than any eucalyptus oil! Wild garlic's Latin name is *Allium ursinum* which translates as "bears garlic". It gets this name due to the fact that it appears in the woods at the same time as the European Brown Bear awakes from hibernation. Luckily, we don't need to over concern ourselves with wild bears in Crow Woods! Its country name is ransom which is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word *hramsa*. The Romans called it *herba salutarisor* healing herb.

Poached egg with Wild Garlic Hollandaise Sauce

For the hollandaise:

Melt 175g/6oz butter in a pan. The butter will separate into a clear liquid (clarified butter) on top of white solids. Leave to cool until just warm.

Over a pan of simmering water whisk 2 egg yolks in a basin with the juice of a lemon and some pepper. Whilst continuing to whisk slowly, add the clarified butter. The sauce should start to thicken. If it gets too thick add a little water. When the sauce is ready gently stir some roughly chopped wild garlic leaves into it. The amount is up to you. This amount of hollandaise will serve 4.



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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March Weatherwatch

Although March is the first month of spring there was nothing particularly springlike about the weather this past March as its mean monthly temperature was below that of February. Although not common this does occasionally happen, as it did in 2006 and 2013.

After overnight rain into the 1st and 2nd their days were largely clouded, as were the following four days. A frosty and almost cloudless morning on the 7th brought welcome sunshine, but a shower of soft hail fell in mid-afternoon when the Park Shield daily maximum reached only 4.2C. The temperature then slumped to -5.3C late in the day and sank overnight to a numbing -8.1C at sunrise on the 8th. As well as being this year's March minimum it was also the lowest Park Shield March minimum in a thirty-five year record. The frosty 9th dawned with a sprinkling of lying snow and posted the lowest March daily minimum of a chilly 2.5C. A little more snow fell at times over the day, leaving white traces on bare surfaces. Heavier overnight snow led to a very wintry scene the next morning as almost 5cm of "the white stuff" lay on level ground. This mostly melted away into the afternoon, but some patches lingered on into the 11th which brought another frost and light late evening snow.

Conditions were milder on the 12th and 13th which both recorded maximums of 11C+, but wet came mixed with warmth. The 12th was showery, while mostly afternoon and early evening rain made the 13th the wettest day of the month. Wintry weather soon returned as an early frost on the 14th was followed by afternoon sleet. This turned

to snow which swept in around two-thirty, causing a short but dramatic white-out before the sky cleared to reveal a snow-covered landscape. The day ended with bright sunlight. After another frost on the 15th snow still lay on higher ground until dissolved by afternoon rain.

The 16th marked the beginning of a milder period of weather that extended to the 24th when all daily maximums, apart from a leaden and rainy 19th, were in double figures Celsius. After further frosts on the 27th and 28th Park Shield recorded a modest monthly maximum of 14.8C on the 29th, with March overall ending among the coolest on Weatherwatch record. Nevertheless, when rainfall is considered, our small part of England fared much better in March than other parts. Many suffered more than twice the average rainfall, whereas the Park Shield total was a well below average of 41.4 mm which made March one of the least rainy in a twenty-five year series.

March Weatherwatch Factfile

Temperature. Park Shield mean monthly maximum : c.8.9C. Mean monthly minimum : c.1.7C. Monthly mean : c.5.3C. Days with frosts : 10. UK maximum : 17.8C at Santon Downham (Norfolk) on the 30th. UK minimum : -16.0C at Altnaharra (Sutherland) on the 9th.

Rainfall and Sunshine Park Shield average rainfall : c.60 mm. Rain days : 23.

24 hour maximum : 7.0mm on the 13th. E&NE England rainfall & sunshine : 157% & 81% of the 1991-2020 average.

Winds. Light for the most part. Some easterlies up to the 11th then westerly for the most part. Maximum Park Shield gust 33 mph on the 22nd.

Another must read from Bear Lawrence

Kevin H. Hilton

Bear in Mind

If You Bully Me or Cross Me,
You Must Expect a Reaction



Bear Lawrence

Remember Bear with ME? An autobiographical account of living with ME/CFS, well Bear has now published his second book on Amazon, *Bear in Mind*, another brilliant read.

This account deals with institutional bullying and not only how it causes mental and physical health issues for employees but also how employees can go about defending themselves.

Another 'must read' for improving our awareness.

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

Messy Vintage at Methodist Chapel

Tuesday 9th May, at 2.30pm

“King of Kings”

Everyone is welcome to join in or sit and watch!

Friday Coffee mornings at Methodist Chapel

Coffee, tea and a chat

Friday 12th May : 11am – 2pm

Friday 26th May : 11am – 2pm

All are welcome



Ne're cast a clout till May is out

You may have heard the old saying 'Ne'er cast a clout till May be out'. It's been in use since at least the 18th century. A clout is an old word for a piece of clothing.

Some people think 'May' refers to the month but others take it to mean the May flower or hawthorn. The tree flowers in late April or early May.

In other words, the old saying means don't take your warm clothes off until the May blossom is out because cold weather can return during the spring months which is what is happening at the moment.



Please write to us



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Nature Notes

An unusually mild February that prompted some very early leafing and flowering proved to be a false spring as wintry weather returned in March. Vegetative growth stumbled before recovering in milder weather at the end of the month and in early April. After the earliest recorded Nature Notes hawthorn leaves on the 17th of February, a frosty March checked leafing, so that by the end of the second week of April the greening up of hawthorn hedges was still generally ongoing. Odd stretches, however, such as the one opposite and up from the layby above St. Aidan's Terrace, were more densely covered in fresh green leaves.

In the days long before salad crops could be picked up from supermarket shelves all year round, hawthorn leaves were the first edible leaves of the year and a valuable source of nutrition after a winter on short rations, especially in times of real want. Because of this they were known as bread-and-cheese. A number of Bread and Cheese Lanes in England are named after the hawthorns that lined them. Blackthorn was flowering at Park Shield on the 20th of March; the same date that it was first noted there in 2019 and the joint earliest on Nature Notes record. Its pure white blossom broke out on bushes and hedges in the remaining days of the month and bloomed on into the third week of April.

The first coltsfoot and lesser celandine flowerings mentioned in last month's Nature Notes were also the earliest in a record of some fifteen years or so. One of coltsfoot's old country names is : "son-before-father" because its flower appears before the leaves. Lauded by the poet Wordsworth for their : "glittering countenance", lesser celandines slowly dotted verges through March. In warmer Marches they form glossy, golden mats around mid-month, as happened in 2020 and 2021, but this year the main flowering season began in the first week of April. Familiar dandelions, first noted in a Homers Lane verge on the 17th of March, were flowering in many small random clumps along roadside verges in the second week of April. Several pale yellow primroses with deep yellow throats

were first noted flowering behind the Armco barrier by the bridge over Newbrough Burn at Allerwash Mill on the 27th of March, a week later than in the milder March of two years ago.

Scatterings of delicate wood anemones were in flower in Crow Wood on the 21st of March, the traditional first day of spring, which is around the time they usually begin flowering there. A spiky, white wild garlic flower, the first of the many thousands that fill Crow Wood each spring, was noted at the north end of Crow Wood on the 4th of April, around a week earlier than last year. Like wood anemones, this was within the usual time frame of their first flowering, but some way short of their earliest recorded Nature Notes flowering date of the 20th of March back in 2005. On the 7th of April, and around a week ahead of last spring, the floodbank between Warden Bridge and Hardhaugh was speckled yellow with cowslips.

Flying insects became active on warmer early spring days. Among them, a white-tailed bumblebee was foraging on the 29th of March. A peacock butterfly, a small white and a male orange tip were all seen on the sunny 8th of April, the warmest day of the year to date; the orange tip sighting being the earliest in sixteen years of Nature Notes' recording.

Green claws of recently emerged leaves hung from the Newbrough horse chestnut trees on April the 12th, while some sycamores were showing their first few pale green leaves, tinged with red. At the same time, countless swollen leaf-buds poised for bud burst gave the crowns of trees a pinkish lustre when reflecting spring sunlight.



Village News

The Town Hall has been successful in an earlier application to the Northern Powergrid Foundation who earmarked £2.5 million to support community organisations which suffered power outages in Storm Arwen. The Hall has received £20,000 which is for a **standby generator** which will allow the Hall to operate, at least in a partial fashion, should future power outages occur. Later in the year, when the decisions as to the dimensions of the generator and its position have been finalised we will seek some volunteers to assist with the construction of the generator base, which is probably going to be in the area to the north of the meter/switchroom.

External bike racks are to be installed at the Town Hall during May, not a major job, but Dave Spearman would ask if those who can lend a hand can contact him on 674451 and we can agree a suitable date.

The Bunk House re-opened after Easter, following a complete interior re-decoration undertaken by Rod Henderson, continuing the preference of the Hall committee to engage local tradesmen for such work.

Hall activities continue, with Yoga at 18.30 on Mondays and badminton on Tuesdays, although the carpet bowls has ceased for the summer. The next Quiz will be on Thursday 18th May, bar open at 7.30pm and a start at 8pm with nibbles at "half -time"

On Bank Holiday Monday [8th May], granted to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles, the Town Hall committee together with the WI are holding a **tea, coffee and cake afternoon** from 2pm to 4pm either in the courtyard, if fine, or in the lounge if wet. All are of course welcome and if you want to bring a little something along, (an experimental quiche perhaps?) feel free to do so, and of course bring your friends and family.

200 Club : If anyone has forgotten to pay and would like to be included in the remaining draws, please contact Elaine on 01434 674904 dave or email elaine.arkless@gmail.com

Bonus Ball Draw

MARCH

25th Barry Dixon 28

APRIL

1st Katrina 49

8th Colin Cowen 17

15th Clare Arthur 29

200 CLUB

March

1st Linda Cowen 46

2nd Divina Wallace 201

3rd George Walton 114

April

1st Katrina 162

2nd Dave Charlton 33

3rd Tim Grew 99

Village Notes in the Hexham Courant

A reminder that our villages are no longer represented in the Hexham Courant village notes each week.

Is there anyone in the village who would be willing and able to take on the task reporting 'What's On' to the Hexham Courant weekly, although the role could perhaps be shared.

If you are interested, please email : thestanegate@hotmail.com

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Church Pages

Who's Who

Church of England

Rev'd Canon Jeremy Thompson
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website : www.sjlwn.org

Methodist

Deacon : Anne Taylor
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NE48 2EH
Tel: 01434 220283

Roman Catholic

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

From the Registers

APRIL

Christenings

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

On 23rd April at St Michael & All Angels,
Warden : Milo Lees-Millais of Lincoln Hill

Weddings

There were no weddings in the Parish in
April.

Funerals

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

On 14th April, at Newcastle West Road
Crematorium: Irene Anne Robson,
formerly of High Stonecroft

St John of Beverley, Haydon Bridge

If you have any queries about service times
please contact:

St Mary's Catholic Church
Hencotes, Hexham

or call 01434 603119

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

Preachers for May 2023

- 7th Rev Jenny Porterpryde, 10.30am
- 14th Circuit Service at Wylam Methodist
Church, 10.45am
- 21st Local arrangement, 10.30am
- 28th Mr Ian Warburton, 10.30am

Everyone welcome to these services

Letter from Deacon Anne.....

'So, neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose and they will each be rewarded according to their own labour. For we are co-workers in God's service...' 1 Corinthians 3: 7

As the days lengthen and the weather warms up, I begin to spend more time in the garden. First of all, tidying up, cutting back, weeding and turning over the soil and then deciding what I might plant in my vegetable plot and planters. The thing is, with me moving on this year, whatever I decide upon, vegetables or flowers I will probably not see the end result because I will be moving in the late Summer. So, the question is, do I not bother to plant something in the garden that I will not see or get the benefit of ? or do I leave it for who ever comes next ?

The same could be said about all our work, the giving of our time or investing in any upcoming projects. Do we continue with what we are doing even though we might not see the fruit of our work? The thing is with ministry you might never see the fruit of the seed you planted, you may never know the effect the word of God has on people's lives, or the help you gave someone, part

of the job is just to plant the seed and leave the rest to God as he alone can make things grow. Isaiah 55: 10-11 however gives us some encouraging words,

'As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth. It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.'

The passage suggests that nothing returns empty, that whether we see the end result or not or whether it is someone else that will benefit from what we do, it is still worth doing. With ministry it is not just about the here and now but for things beyond our time here on earth, for eternity. So, whatever we do for God whether big or small, it is worth doing and can affect our life and the lives of others, forever.

So yes, I think I will put somethings in my veg plot whether I or someone else gets the benefit of it and I will continue to serve the communities in which I work until I leave in August this year.

Parish of Warden with Newbrough Church Services for May 2023

7th May	Easter 5. Coronation weekend
Services this weekend will use material created to mark the Coronation of King Charles III	
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
14th May	Easter 6
8.00am	Holy Communion at St Michael & All Angels, Warden
10.30am	Act of Remembrance at Newbrough Town Hall
10.30am	Act of Remembrance at St John Lee
21st May	Easter 7
8.00am	Holy Communion at St John Lee
9.30am	A service of the word at St Peter Newbrough
11.15am	Zoom worship
28th May	Pentecost
8.00am	Holy Communion at St. Peter Newbrough
10.00am	Parish Eucharist broadcast live from St John Lee