The Stanegate Magazine
178 October 2020

The Stanegate

Newbrough, Fourstones and Warden

Editorial

These are certainly trying times; trying to remain positive. It would seem that since Brexit all forms of news feel duty-bound to exhaust the focal topic over a protracted period. This is happening as much at a local and social level as at a national and international level, with social media playing its part in spreading opinion if not fact.

Although Brexit was replaced by Covid Lockdown we recently saw Brexit making a return as we see Covid concerns spike again. It would seem that these are unprecedented times and yet recently there was mention of the difficulties we faced in 2001 with Foot and Mouth. Many will remember the requirement for vehicles' wheels and chassis to be sprayed, people having to wipe their feet on disinfectant mats. These were sad times that we did get through. In many ways what we experience in these times could be likened to periods of war.

During times of war communities come together to support one another, to think creatively about different ways of doing things. We are starting to see creativity in different styles of mask, but to help us get a break from constant reminders of our current situation we should take the opportunity to develop our creativity through trying out new hobbies. Just as some have taken up jigsaws, others are getting into painting and some into photography. With the spells of good weather there has been opportunity for gardening and wild fruit foraging for pie and jam making. It is through these creative distractions that we can share other subjects, to talk about and write about in a more positive light.

Janice Baylis, Kevin H Hilton, Stephen Pedley & Dave Spearman

Please send material to the editorial team at:

thestanegate@hotmail.com

The deadline for the November issue is Friday 13th October

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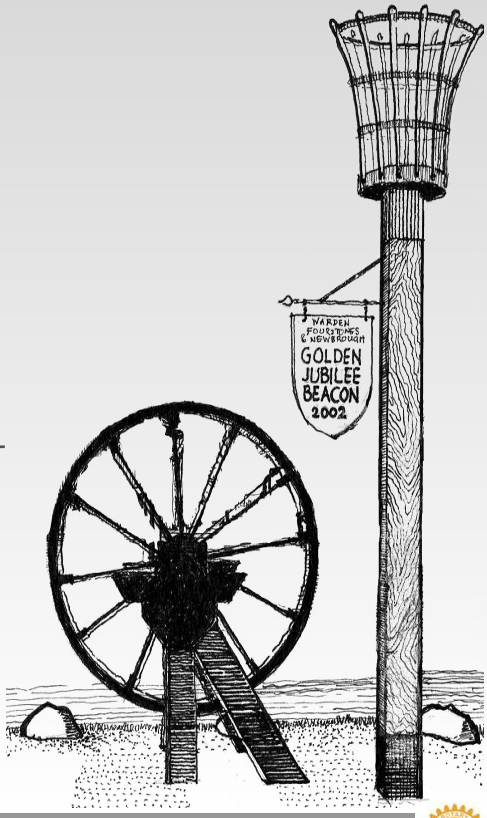

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Letters to the Editors.....

Dear Editor,

I should like to comment on the marvellous sight that greeted me at the south end of Warden Bridge.

When walking , one comes across a large bed of gladioli planted at the very end of the garden, set below the road. The flowers are tall and stately and every colour one can think of .There is even one plant that is two colours, red and yellow. Basking in the bright sunshine, they are a very cheerful sight.

Christine Blunt

Hi,

We have not long moved into the village. Thought the editorial for August was quite excellent in encouraging people and addressing living behind masks. Difficult if not impossible to see the outcomes, but establishes the principle of looking out for each other.

All the best ,

Rob Wigmoire

Please write to us ...

The Editorial Committee at The Stanegate welcomes your letters. Please write to us with news and views from the community.

Please send letters to:
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or email the editorial team
at thestanegate@hotmail.com

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

23rd School closes for Half term

31st Halloween

NOVEMBER

2nd Warden Parish Council 7pm

3rd School opens for Winter term

4th Newbrough Parish Council, on line, 7pm

28th—6th December National Tree Week

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Surviving Lockdown

Stephen Pedley

It was jigsaws last time. I am grateful for all the kind responses I have received, particularly for the helpful suggestion to limit myself to jigsaws for toddlers. Too late. I am now doing jigsaws blindfold, judging the texture of the pieces, the subtle shapes that they present, and the smell, I suppose, of those fingers that have moved the pieces before me. All this to survive lockdown.

I have discovered another puzzle to help me through. Cleaning the bath and loo and using Jif and Bleach and forgetting which is which for whatever purpose. It is hard work. Housework is hard work. I explore the bathroom on all fours and find all kinds of things, like desiccated spiders and long dead bluebottles. To clean the bath with Jif or Bleach you need muscle. The loo is easy. Chuck the stuff in and set the water closet in motion. It is best to have your head well clear of the bowl. Then Henry Hoover is brought into action. Be careful not to be strangled in his tentacles. Finally, the mop and the bucket for the final fling. You need your drying room after all of this. Hard work indeed.

To have discovered cleaning both bath and loo at so late an age is an unexpected and positive spinoff of the pandemic. It easies relationships in the house, one in particular. I would love to clean the bath and the loo everyday but then it would cease to be such a novelty. I envy those who spend their days on housework. Meanwhile if you are bored and looking for something to do, take down your Jif and Bleach and marigold gloves and then find the loo. You may, of course, never have used it and forgotten where it is. Then cultivate your sense of smell and that should lead you to the right place.

Upgraded Broadband Opportunity

Our community has the opportunity to access faster broadband. The Government has set up a Broadband Upgrade Fund and has identified Northumberland as 1 of 6 potential areas for the scheme.

We've all become more dependent on home technology during the pandemic - work, school, shopping, family life - but the Broadband service to our villages remains slow and unreliable.

It's up to us to register our interest if we want our community to benefit from the scheme. Its straight forward to do by following this link. We have until 30th September.

https://ca-north.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5060a2022e1081d67bbdd9b3a&id=c8add8dfcc&e=efd876c55f

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Interested in supporting Newbrough Town Hall?

The Town Hall has an ongoing list of tasks, both administrative and "boots on the ground" and we welcome any offers of support from all interested parties, either individuals or families. We particularly wish to engage with younger people, as they may want to engage more fully in community activities.

You do not necessarily need to become a member of the Committee or a Trustee, but simply willing to be involved in some of the event organisation, designing posters or such tasks as looking after the flowers in the planters, assisting [when we can] with annual events such as the Christmas Fair, Barbeques and also the regular Quiz nights.

Please contact Dave Spearman on 01434 674451 or by e-mail on davespearman@hotmail.co.uk to register your initial and non-binding interest in supporting this valuable community asset.

Do you have any used postage stamps?

Although the Methodist Chapel is closed we are still collecting used postage stamps for the Air Ambulance. These can be left in the bag on the back door of the Chapel.

Thank you

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Recipes From an Orchard Kitchen

Iain Bennett

Autumn is upon us and the nights are drawing in. All round the village there will be boxes of apples with signs saying “please take some” as people try to get through their glut of apples. It is also the time of lengthening nights and the approach of Halloween. This months recipes try to address both issues.

The Irish have strong Halloween traditions as have the Scots. It always amuses me when people talk about Halloween being imported from America. The traditions in Scotland and Ireland pre-date a country that has barely existed for 300 years. The Scots have guising where children dress up and go door to door receiving gifts to ward off evil spirits. In Ireland the poor went round the houses of the rich people and offered to pray or sing for any deceased members of the family in return for money. Both have traditions of bonfires and lanterns and both celebrate with food.

The recipe I have included is for Barm Brack a sweet fruited bread. The name is a corruption of the Irish Arán Breac which translates as speckled bread. This is remarkably similar to the Welsh Bara Brith which also is a rich fruit bread, the name of which also translates as speckled bread! Other explanations of the name are that “brack” means speckled and “barm” meaning a yeasty fermented liquor. It is traditional for objects to be placed in the loaf which predict the future for the finder. A ring signifies impending marriage, a thimble signifies spinsterhood, a coin signifies a rich future whilst a piece of rag signifies poverty,

I also mentioned apples, of course these also feature in Halloween traditions in games such as apple bobbing and an Irish game called snap apple where an apple is suspended by a piece of string and children try to get a good bite out of it while blindfold.

Finally, the apple is also used for divination if a girl peels an apple in one long strip and drops it over her shoulder it will fall into the shape of the initials of her future husband!

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

Barm Brack

Mixed Dried Fruit	300g/10oz
Strong Bread Flour	450g/1lb
Yeast	36g fresh, 1 sachet dried
Milk	250ml/9 fl. oz.
Butter	75g/3oz
Caster Sugar	75g/3oz
Mixed Spice	1 tsp
Egg	1, beaten

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A reminder to all my clients to continue with any relaxation moves that I've shown you.
Also keep doing your mobility exercises to keep yourself mobile.
Keep drinking your water and above all keep yourselves safe!
Any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

If using a mixer with a dough hook, put all the other ingredients, except the dried fruit, together and mix for 10 minutes until a smooth dough is formed. If you are making it by hand rub the butter into the flour first and then add the other ingredients, minus the dried fruit, and knead for 20 minutes. Regardless of whether you have mixed by hand or machine place the dough in a bowl and cover with cling film in a warm place for about 1 hour or until it has doubled in size.

Place the dough on a lightly floured surface, spread it out flat and place the mixed dried fruit in the middle. Fold the dough over the fruit on all four sides and then knead the dough until the fruit is completely incorporated. Flatten it again and then roll it into a sausage shape and place it in either a greased 2lb/900g bread tin or split it between two 1lb/450g bread tins. Cover with a floured tea towel or heavy cloth and leave to rise for 1 hour or until the dough is almost level with the top of the tin.

Bake in an oven at 200°C/400°F/Gas Mark 6 for 25 minutes, for the small ones maybe 25-35 minutes for the large one or until the loaf sounds hollow when tapped. Check regularly after 25 minutes. If the loaves start to brown too quickly cover them with a sheet of foil. Turn it onto a cooling wire and serve warm with loads of butter.

Apple and Cinnamon Loaf Cake

Self-Raising Flour	200g/7oz
Butter	75g/3oz
Light Muscovado Sugar	100g/4oz
Cinnamon	1tsp
Dessert Apples	2, about 300g/10oz before peeling and coring
Eggs	3

Grease two 450g/1lb loaf tins and pre-heat the oven to 180°C/160°C Fan/Gas 4.
Rub the butter into the flour with your fingers until a breadcrumb texture is achieved add the sugar and the cinnamon.
Peel, core and dice the apples and add to the mixture whilst beating in the eggs.
Divide the batter between the two tins and bake in the oven for 40-45 minutes until golden, firm to the touch and shrinking from the sides of the tins.

Turn out on a wire to cool.

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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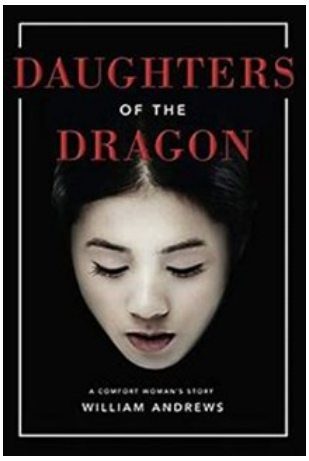
Stanegate Readers Review by Pam Wilson

Daughters of the Dragon by William Andrews



Every Wednesday at noon a group of elderly women march on the Japanese Embassy in Seoul, South Korea demanding an apology from the government of Japan. In all weathers, these are the last of an army of "Comfort Women " tricked into serving the Japanese military in North Korea during World War 2.

The story is how these young teenage girls - in particular two sisters - endured and very occasionally overcame their dreadful treatment and conditions.

After the war, the story follows the journey of one sister, who eventually escapes to South Korea and how her past cannot be forgotten or forgiven.

The author has in fact an adopted Korean daughter and has visited the country many times, interviewing many of these old women. Although a story of fiction, it is exceptionally accurate , based on his very thorough research.

Bonus Ball Draws

The draws for the Pensioners' Christmas lunch :

AUGUST

8th	Ida Stanners	41
15th	Jean Reed	21
22nd	R Telfer	12
29th	Katrina	16

Town Hall 200+ Club

The winning numbers for the September draw are :

First	P Redford	77
Second	E McDonald	131
Third	M Kirkley	213

Sadly Edna McDonald passed away recently and her winnings have been given to her family

Newbrough WI, September meeting Teresa Bessant

There were thirteen of us in the courtyard at the Town Hall on an unseasonably cold day and everyone was well wrapped up. Dave Spearman had opened the double doors into the lounge in case anyone was too cold to sit outside but we were all happy to gather socially distanced around the picnic tables. He also gave us some activity packs from 'Age Concern. Thank you Dave for being so helpful.

We have still been receiving copies of the Northumberland News from Cresswell House and these were distributed.

There was very little business to discuss, but we were told that Denman College will definitely close. There is a Northumberland Room with quilts and paintings that have been donated by our Federation and Dorothy Sowerby and Hilary Robson will travel down at the end of September to bring them back.

We were also told that there will be no WI meetings in October or November but we will try to have our Zoom Committee meetings to keep in touch.

Ann Wodzinski organised a quiz which was enjoyed by everyone. There were two people with the same number of points - Judith Kirby and Maureen Carr, but unfortunately only one prize. Thankfully it was a bar of chocolate which could be halved.

Everyone agreed it was a worthwhile afternoon and were disappointed we would not be able to meet again until at least December.

Green Notes

Laura Waugh

As seed gathering season is upon us, we might be inspired to collect seed, fruit and nuts to grow our own trees, to put in our gardens or to plant out in the community in the coming years. Growing trees from local seed can have great benefits in restocking areas with trees that are adapted to our local environment.

The Tree Council's – 'The Good Seed Guide' offers some useful advice on how it can be done.

English Oak *Quercus robur* / Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*
Collect the acorns from the tree or as soon as possible after they drop – usually from late September onwards. Separate acorns from their cups and float them in a bucket of water; plant the ones that sink. To avoid your acorns drying out – which will kill them – plant your acorns straight away in a seedbed to a depth of 10cm or singly, in pots, covered by a thin layer of compost. Protect from predators throughout the winter. Roots will grow during the winter and shoots will emerge late April.

Hawthorn – *Crataegus monogyna*
Collect the red berries, when they are ripe, from autumn onwards. Remove the seed from the flesh and wash them thoroughly. Soak the berries for a day or two, if the flesh is hard to remove. Stratify the seed, for one but usually two winters. Select and sow germinating seeds each spring.

National Tree Week is 28th November – 6th December and there is an opportunity throughout these two months to be involved in tree planting at Haydon Fell Plantation at Settlingstones. It is a newly planted semi natural mixed species woodland replacing a clear-felled Lodge Pole pine forest. The project is aiming to maximise biodiversity, carbon sequestration and water retention.

If you decide to grow a tree for a future community project or you'd like to volunteer to plant a tree at Haydon Fell Plantation, e-mail Climate Action Newbrough and Fourstones – climateactionnf@gmail.com

Also! As the uptake for Northumberland County Councils 'Free trees to help tackle climate change' was so popular this year, 1500 trees were allocated really quickly. You can register online now for your free tree in 2021 to make sure you don't miss out.

Do we have any landscape gardeners in the village who would help to partially clear a garden pond ? It has been a very successful growing season.

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Nature Notes

Summer goodbye

Once lush green roadside verges and waste ground that had displayed a colourful assortment of wildflowers from early spring onwards faded and vegetation became drab and brittle as summer ebbed away. By mid-September the spires of rosebay willowherb carried a few faded pink flowers, while the last strands of fluffy white seeds still clung to them. The odd dandelion or two in verges and tall hawkweed with several dandelion-like flowerheads on branched stems provided splashes of bright yellow in a matt surround. The trumpet-shaped flowers of scrambling hedge bindweed and some late bramble flower added touches of white to hedgerows and small colonies of white campion occupied the verge beyond West Boat.

Although most tree foliage was still largely a summer green approaching mid-September some was becoming suffused with autumn tints, while the first crisp sycamore leaves had drifted to earth days earlier. Horse chestnuts are always the first trees to display warm autumn colour and by early September the Newbrough horse chestnuts were already showing this. The one just across the road from the lodge cottage was sporting particularly bright orange foliage. Many large bunches of glossy purple-black elderberries hung from the large elder bush on the Mossy Bank.

On the 11th of September round bales of straw were standing in stubble in the fields beyond West Boat as a tractor led away the last trailer load of grain in the afternoon. At the same time the newly sown fields either side of the Long Bank were already carpeted in fresh green growth.

Addenda

A hummingbird hawk-moth was seen visiting a late flowering buddleia in Newbrough from the 9th to the 11th of September. The accompanying stunning photograph of it was taken by Kevin Hilton.

Warden dewpond was refilled by the rains of the 23rd and 25th of August after it had been reduced to a muddy puddle by the previous prolonged spell of dry weather.

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Warden Parish Council

Cllr Simon Robson

Virtual Meeting using Zoom Video Conferencing on Monday 7th September 2020

Another well attended zoom meeting and a full agenda.

It was pleasing to note that the vehicle operated speed calming apparatus had been installed and is now operational at the eastern entrance to the village. Thanks were extended to Cllr Gibson for facilitating and securing the funding for this.

Warden Parish Council (WPC) was also delighted with the progress being made towards the implementation of the Newbrough First School Safety Scheme. It was noted that the proposed 20mph speed limits were advisory only, and the WPC would request that they be mandatory.

WPC is asked to prioritise Local Transport requests on an annual basis. In the last year, improvements to the Mossy and Homers Lane have been carried out at the Council's request. The agreed priorities for 2021-22 were confirmed as: a request to reduce the speed limit from Quality Cottages to the Paper Mill level crossing to 30 or 40 mph, to undertaken road repairs for approximately 300m south west of the B6319 / Homer's Lane junction; and to extend the 30mph zone to the north of Fourstones to approximately opposite the layby.

WPC agreed to promote a litter pick later in September however this was subsequently postponed because of new Covid 19 Safety Rules. The request to provide a litter bin in the layby to the west of the level crossing next to the Paper Mill had been approved by Northumberland County Council (NCC). WPC agreed to request that NCC install a pole mounted wheelie bin to be funded by WPC.

The Allotments at the bottom of Frankham Bank have had a successful year with the majority of tenants cultivating their plots productively and in accordance with the Allotment Rules. Unfortunately one of the plots is in an unacceptable state despite a number of warnings. It was agreed that the contract should be terminated and the plot reallocated accordingly.

It was noted that the hedgerow from the garage west to school had been cut in a timely and professional manner. Although the hedge at East Fourstones had been trimmed it still needs further attention. Warden Bridge had been sprayed once for weeds, however the parapets had been missed and this should be addressed next year. It was noted that weeds are being sprayed next to hedgerows but leaf litter not being removed. It was resolved the Parish Council would liaise with the County Council to request the removal of leaf litter and the possibility of twice yearly weed spraying.

As reported previously the finances of the Council are healthy. An agenda item for the November meeting will be to discuss how to initiate and support projects and schemes to benefit local residents consistent with the financial powers of the Council.

WPC reconfirmed their objection to the proposal to extract sandstone from Prudham Quarry. The process to renew the Railway Inn's Asset of Community Value status has been commenced, and advice from NCC is awaited.

continued.....

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A further strategic consultation on the Northumberland Local Plan is commencing next month. WPC's main objections regarding the Wharmley Quarry proposals were submitted last year. The Government is currently seeking views on changes to planning policy and regulations. It was resolved that Cllrs Heminsley and Robson would draft a response to the proposal to be circulated prior to submission.

The Chair of the Town Hall committee reported on the receipt of support from the County Council during the Covid-19 pandemic, with all events and bunkhouse bookings having to be cancelled. The hall has re-opened, however some groups were not permitted to hold events. Cllr D Liddle agreed to take on a role as the WPC's contact point for the Town Hall Committee.

Cllr D Bowman agreed to organise repair of two benches in the Parish, and Cllr SJ Heminsley agreed to liaise with the Boatside Inn tenant regarding replacement of defibrillator pads.

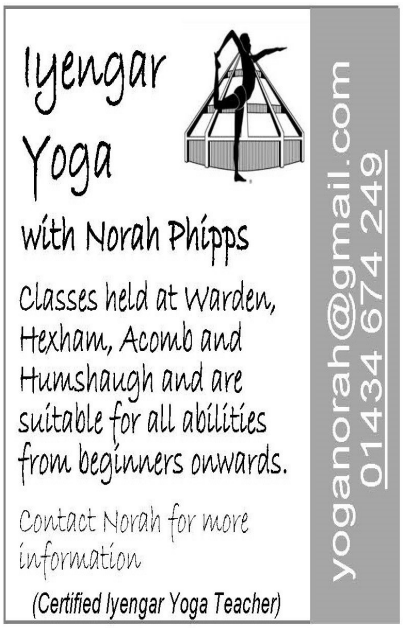
The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 2nd November 2020 at 7pm. The first item on the agenda for all council meetings is devoted to issues raised by members of the public. Please come along if you have any issues you would like to us to address.

Featherwatch

As an early sign of an approaching autumn a skein of two dozen unidentified geese was noted flying south down the North Tyne valley on the 16th of August and honking from an unseen skein was heard on the 27th.

There was no large early August pre-migration gathering of swallows at Park Shield as there have been in some past years, when on occasion hundreds of them have perched on the electricity wire slung between poles from the farm to Gate Cottage. A much smaller gathering of about forty birds took place early on the 24th.

On the 11th of September a mix of a dozen or so adult and juvenile swallows were hawking for flying insects above the fields and a small band of four were noted flying south on the 12th.



August Weatherwatch

August is often the warmest summer month in southern parts of the country, but this far north August weather is uncertain and July is almost always warmer. However, in a departure from the usual practice this August was warmer than July and it brought the bonus of being one of the warmest Augusts on Weatherwatch record.

The opening five days of the month were breezy and apart from variable sunny periods on the 2nd they were otherwise dull and cloudy. Light rain fell in the morning and evening of the 4th and a brief shower the next morning. While daytime temperatures were around the seasonal average the month's warmest daily minimum of 16.2C was recorded at Park Shield early on the 5th. Cloud cover restricted the daily maximum 20.7C, but temperatures then rose as hot continental air flowed up through the country. A heatwave across the south from the 7th until the 13th saw maximums of 30C+ each day in places, but while such heights were not reached here we nevertheless enjoyed a week of very pleasant summer warmth. From the 6th Park Shield recorded consecutive daily maximums of 23.9, 25.1, 21.7, 19.0, 22.4 and 23.6 Celsius. The warm spell was topped off on the 12th with a monthly maximum of 25.6C, which was the fifth highest Weatherwatch August maximum. Rain during this time was confined to a few showers on the 11th. In the cooler four days from the 13th rainfall was negligible and by the close of the 16th rainfall in the month to date amounted to a scant 6.4 mms.

Summer warmth returned on the occasionally showery 17th, producing a daily high of 22.2C. Light rain fell the next day, and while Storm Ellen battered parts of southern Britain with high winds and intense rains on the 19th and 20th we experienced nothing more than a few showers and some fresh breezes. Both days were warm, with respective maximums of 22.9C and 22.4C; the 20th being particularly sunny. But this proved to be the last hoorah for summer in August as successive low pressure systems from the Atlantic brought cooler and much wetter weather over the remainder of the month.

The 23rd notched up 15.0 mms of afternoon and evening rain and a belt of rain associated with Storm Francis added a further19.0 mms (c.75″) on the 25th. But as with Storm Ellen parts elsewhere suffered considerably heavier rainfalls and while strong winds blew up to gale force in places only fresh breezes blew again hereabouts. Varying amounts of rain fell each day to the 28th before the month ended with three dry days. The Park Shield total August rainfall of 68.8 mms (c.2.5″) was well below average and as in other previous months counter to a much higher than average regional total. For the time being at least our neighbourhood appears to be leading a charmed existence when it comes to excessive rainfall avoidance.

continued.....

"Vera" seeks winter quarters!

Vera, our 1984 Land Rover, is not looking forward to the winter, so we are seeking a suitable store or garage space from beginning of November to the end of March. Locked space not vital but vehicle is 6'6" [2.0 metres] high so a high entry is required. Ideally in Newbrough, Allerwash or Fourstones area. Daily access will not be required. Call Dave Spearman on 01434 674451 if you can help

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A qualified playgroup leader plus assistants run the playgroup.

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or call into one of the sessions

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The last days of August signalled the approach of autumn as the 28th recorded the month's coolest daily maximum of 13.4C and the Late Summer Bank Holiday on the 31st registered the lowest August daily minimum of 2.8C. After a fresh start to the Monday it was agreeably sunny into the early afternoon before cloud gathered. But it stayed dry and although the daily maximum was a modest 17.7C overall it was a respectable enough bank holiday and end to the month. The weather did falter over the last ten days or so of August, but earlier warm spells and a dry first half helped to make some amends for very disappointing July weather.

August Weatherwatch Factfile.
Temperature. Park Shield mean monthly maximum : c.19.1C. Mean monthly minimum: c.11.3C. Monthly mean : c.15.2C and c.0.5C above average. Ranking : sixth warmest of sixteen. E & NE England mean monthly maximum : 19.9C. Mean monthly minimum : 12.1C. Monthly mean : 16.0 and 0.7C above the 1981-2010 average. UK maximum : 36.4C at Heathrow and Kew Gardens (London) on the 7th. UK minimum : -0.4C at Glascarnoch (Ross & Cromarty) on the 24th.
Rainfall and Sunshine. Park Shield average rainfall : 95 mms. Ranking : eighth driest of twenty-three. 1 hour maximum : 5.8 mm to 16:00 on the 25th. E&NE England rainfall & sunshine 156% & 81% of the 1981-2010 average respectively. Capel Curig (North Wales) recorded 94.2 mms of rain on the 25th.
Note : August was just outside the top twenty wettest Augusts in an England and Wales series from 1766.
Winds. A breezy first week with west winds. Generally easterly until the 21st and then variable. Maximum Park Shield gust : 23 mph at c.13.00 on the 5th.

For information

As we know, the Parish Produce Show was cancelled this year, however surplus produce has gone to Hexham Food Bank.

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Newbrough Parish Council

Rob Macfarlane, Clerk

Notes on Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 2nd September 2020

This meeting was held remotely (virtually), under the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020. Cllr MW Gibson opened the meeting at 7.00 pm.

Newbrough School - Road Safety Scheme

The County Council has submitted the new scheme for the advisory 20mph speed limit for Newbrough School including 30mph repeaters in the form of road marking roundels and rumble strips. (This has been supported by the County Councillor and Warden Parish)

The Council agreed that the following additions should be added to the scheme-

Speed Limits and Safety Initiatives

Newbrough Bridge

With appropriate signage make it a priority for vehicles leaving Newbrough across Newbrough Bridge.

B6319 at St Aidans

Move the speed restriction signs further north. Residents of Newbrough and Fourstones have expressed concerns over the speed of traffic entering Fourstones from the north down past St Aidans on B6319.

Signage

The proposal of moving the Newbrough sign to a "cluttered" area closer to the school could cause other issues.

Sportsfield Association

An approach has been made to the Sportsfield Association and the land owners by Blue Flame Cricket Club with the view to moving their club to Newbrough. The present lease does not allow sub-letting and the owners will only lease to Parish Councils.

Climate Change and Green Issues

Climate Action Newbrough and Fourstones

The meeting held on 25th August focussed on the formalities of forming a constitution and electing appropriate officers. Relating to this the group discussed arrangements with Friends of the Earth, Bank Account, Insurance and AGM. Updates were given on various projects, including, Promote the bus, Off road cycle track, Food miles, Food waste, Community Energy, Tree planting, Library of things, Hub and Recycling.

The Good Verge Guide

Councillors have received a copy of this recent publication by Plantlife UK.

NALC Green Issues

As part of Rebuilding Communities NALC has planned several online events to make communities greener. The first, in partnership with the Woodland Trust, covers how local (parish and town) councils can provide sustainable wildlife habitats, tackle climate change with woods and trees, understanding the Tree Charter and its benefits (free trees!), and how to get involved in Tree Charter Day.
The second event will focus on what local councils can do after declaring a climate emergency, climate action plans, working with principal authorities, how to ensure community assets and biodiversity are sustainable and how to rebuild sustainable green communities.

Tree Charter (Charter for Trees, Woods and People).

The Council agreed to sign up to the Tree Charter project and contribute to delivering the principles of the charter. These include, Plant for the Future,

continued.....

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Celebrate the power of trees to inspire, Grow forests of opportunity and innovation, Protect irreplaceable trees and woods, Plan greener local landscapes, Recover health, hope and wellbeing with the help of trees, Make trees accessible to all, Combat the threats to our habitats and Strengthen our landscapes with trees

Haydon Fell Woodland

The Council welcomed the opportunity to participate in this initiative. The Climate Crisis has confirmed the need for more tree cover, but also more attention to all aspects of forest management through the crop cycle. The Council has had very constructive dialogues with developers of other local planting and felling schemes, largely driven by our precautionary attitude to off-site impacts such as scenic values and water quality, notably silt controls. It is very pleasing that the Haydon Fell operations will conform to national guidance on Forests and Water. In particular the Council welcomes the mixture of species, notably at the margins of the plantation, but also the diversity of conifer species within the productive area: a sensible precaution in view of the tree disease risks posed by climate change.

The next meeting of Newbrough Parish Council will be held at 7.00 pm, on Wednesday 4th November 2020.

Counter Quip

Kevin H. Hilton

Elaine Arkless came into the shop recently and told of a rabbit she had discovered trapped in the water trough up the hill above Fourstones Filling Station. Only when she lifted it out did she realise it was a young hare. So I said 'Something of a hare raising experience then.'

A regular customer came in with her young son. As she looked for what she needed he gazed longingly at the sweets on the shelf. Shortly he went and asked if he could have something from the sweet aisle. 'Okay. Just one.' He went and picked three chews from a box and went back to her. 'No. I said I'm only buying you one thing.' As he returned the three chews I saw the disappointment in his eyes change to inspiration. He came to the counter with the whole carton.

Dog Poo Bags

Over the last couple of months a number of people have been asking after the council poo bags which had run out at the village shop. Having got in touch with the council the shop now have a supply of bags. However, to get bags people will first have to sign up to the Green Dog Walkers initiative. The council leaflets are available at the shop.

Fourstones Filling Station & Convenience Store

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or

Melissa Beverley 07753 322009

1st Saturday in every month
Millennium Beacon, Fourstones 4:30—6:30pm
Sidgate, Newbrough 6:45-7:15pm
1st Monday in every month
Humshaugh 4:30-6:30pm
Barrasford 7pm
Gunnerton 7:45pm

Village Web Site

Iain Bennett

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

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

The "What' On" information is emailed out at the start of each month to all the members of an email distribution list on a blind copy basis, so no recipients see any other email addresses. If you would like to be included on the email distribution list please drop an email request to : fourstones.info@fourstonesandnewbrough.co.uk.

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

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

Old Sayings for October

Much rain in October, much wind in December

If there is thunder in October, January will be wet.

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Church Pages

Who's Who

Church of England

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

Rev'd Canon Chris Simmons

for all enquiries:
website: www.sjlwn.org
map: http://g.co/maps/4ncd

Methodist

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

Roman Catholic

Parish Priest: Father Christopher Warren
Deacon , Rev'd Martin Bell
St Mary's Catholic Church, Hencotes
Hexham NE46 2EB

Tel: 01434 603119

From the Registers

There were no baptisms or weddings
in the parish in August

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

On Wednesday 5th August at St. Michael and All Angels. Patricia Duncan late of Nether Warden

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

OCTOBER

All services are suspended and the Chapel

remains closed for prayers and meditation.

St. John of Beverley Church, North Road, Haydon Bridge, NE47 6LP

Welcome Back!

We are delighted to announce that we are now, once again, able to join together at 9.15 every Sunday morning for the celebration of Mass where everyone is most welcome to join us.

Very careful arrangements have been put in place so that you can feel safe and secure. Because of this it is helpful if you can let us know you are planning to come by booking on-line https://www.heavenfieldpartnership.org.uk or by telephoning 01434 603119

We are soon to start a programme in our parish of Holy Communion preparation for young people over the age of eight who are already baptised. It will make use of on-line and book based materials while we are unable to meet face to face.

If you are interested in finding out more about this programme or if you would like to know more about the Catholic faith please contact our parish via e-mail at catholichayd@aol.com or speak to Pat McMullon on 01434 602371.

Reverend Jeremy Thompson writes……

Dear Friends,

I am writing this on Thursday the 17th September. An announcement about local lockdown rules for Northumberland is imminent. By the time you are reading this those rules will be in place and we will be, once more, coming to terms with another change to the way we live. There is a broad spectrum of opinions regarding all the changes we have had to face in the last 6 months. I know that to be true from having spoken to a number of you about this. There are those amongst us who make Jiar Bolsanaro the President of Brazil, who is on record as saying that Covid19 is no worse than a bit of a cold, look positively cautious. And others who are so risk averse that the desert Father hermits of the early years of Christianity, living alone in the desert, had more social interactions. The majority of us fit somewhere in between trying to make sense of "guidance" that carries the force of the law if not followed. Which is at the same time simple: The "Rule of Six" according to Matt Hancock can be summed up in one sentence -"… you can't gather in groups of more than six except for schools, work, those exceptional life events, and it's super-simple." But actually really difficult when we start to unpick it and try to fit it into real-life situations.

Oh, what to do. What to do?
Well as Christians we know that we are obliged to follow the rule of law. Yes, there are occasions when civil disobedience is the right thing to do but now is not it. These laws have been passed in an attempt to keep all of us safe and well. So they should be followed. But more importantly, we need to pause and recognise that more than a slavish following of rules for the sake of following rules we are called by Jesus to love our neighbour as we do ourselves and, to do to others as we would have them do to us. To cast care aside and throw caution to the wind, even if it is founded on a sincerely held principle, and so to put others wellbeing at risk can't be described as loving. Similarly, I don't suppose any of us actively wants to contract the illness. If others around us are behaving in a cavalier manner, we will be at risk. So following the rules; wearing a face-covering as required, keeping a social distance from others, washing our hands regularly is very much a case of doing to others what you would have them do to you.

We must hope and pray that these current measures are effective (which they stand more chance of being if we comply) and that they will have the desired effect of reducing the number of infections occurring in our communities and so making us a whole stronger and safer.

Please do stay safe, keep well and may God bless you in all you do.
Jeremy

October Church Services
Parish of Warden with Newbrough

The pattern of worship established last month will continue this month

1st Sunday of the month at 9.30am Holy Communion at Warden and at Greenhead. At 10.30am Zoom worship

2nd Sunday of the month at 9.30am Holy Communion at St. John Lee and at Haltwhistle. At 10.30am Zoom worship

3rd Sunday of the month at 9.30am Holy Communion at Newbrough and at Greenhead. At 10.30am Zoom worship

4th Sunday of the month at 9.30am Holy Communion at St. John Lee and at Haltwhistle. At 10.30am Zoom worship

5th Sunday of the month at 9.30am Holy Communion at Fourstones and at Greenhead. At 10.30am Zoom worship

Due to the current Covid19 restrictions, we will not be having a Harvest Lunch this year. However, we will celebrate Harvest on Sunday 11th of October on Zoom.

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

We are here for you.