

The Stanegate

Newbrough, Fourstones, Warden
and surrounding hamlets

**THINK
DON'T TOSS IT
BIN IT**

The appalling increase in litter/rubbish around our
villages cannot have gone unnoticed.

As well as blighting the area and harming wildlife,
this is utterly disgusting, particularly along the Mossy.

Whoever you are, PLEASE take your litter home.

An update from the Editors.....

A very generous donation from an anonymous
benefactor has enabled two further full print runs.

Our plan for future editions will be included
in the April edition of Stanegate.

Please send material to the editorial team

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

thestanegate@hotmail.com

**the deadline for the April issue is
Friday 17th March 2024**

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Letters to the Editors.....

Dear The Stangate,

As an avid reader of The Stangate each month, reading the Nature Notes and Weatherwatch gives me so much pleasure. The detail and information that these articles provide is fascinating, the author or authors must have lived in the location for a long time and, also have had their own pleasure in logging information and also to do monthly updates to share to The Stanegate readers.

Well done whoever you are, thank you for your monthly updates and look forward to all your future articles, as we progress through the seasons on 2024!

Sheena Ridley
A fellow nature and weather watcher!

Thank you

On behalf of Fourstones with Warden Methodist Chapel, thank you for donations to the Red Bin outside the Methodist Chapel. The West End Food Bank was very grateful .

Many thanks also to all the staff at the Red Lion for the wonderful hot meal provided at the over sixties Christmas celebration. The quick service could not have been better and everything was perfect once again, thank you.

Margaret Bogie

Over Sixties Lunch

Unlike some neighbouring parishes we are very poor about shouting about our successes and what we do well. Perhaps it's a collective modesty. I would call it false modesty. If you won't shout, I will. And what am I going to shout about? The Over Sixties Lunch, of course!

As I headed to my table in the Red Lion, I met Andy and asked him how things were going. He admitted that it was hectic as, in all his career in hospitality, he had never had to cope with eighty-two people, plus volunteer helpers in a single sitting. He needn't have worried, as the meal – turkey and all the trimmings with a choice of puddings – was excellent. Two games of bingo followed the meal, and I have to confess that I successfully called, "House" for the first time in my 80+ years.

continued overleaf.....

Calendar of Events

MARCH

- 1st St David's Day
- 4th Warden Parish Council
Town Hall, 7pm
- 6th Newbrough Parish
Council, Town Hall, 7pm
- 8th Methodist Chapel
Coffee morning, 11am–2pm
- 10th Mothering Sunday
- 10th Clocks spring forward to
British Summer Time



- 12th Messy Vintage, 2.30pm
Methodist Chapel
- 14th WI monthly meeting
Town Hall, 7pm
- 15th Film Night at the Town
Hall. 6pm. WALL-E.
See p16
- 19th Spring Equinox 2024
- 21st Quiz at the Town Hall
7.30pm for 8pm
- 22nd Methodist Chapel
Coffee morning, 11am- 2pm
- 28th Maundy Thursday
- 29th Good Friday
- 29th School breaks for Easter
Holidays
- 31st Easter Day



There were so many raffle prizes that at one stage I thought we wouldn't be back home in time 'to bar the hens in'. Some sheltered folks hadn't been aware that we have such a talented combo of home grown musicians. They know now, but where have they been for the last few years?

These events don't happen by themselves. The organisation was faultless. I don't dare to try to list all those involved because I'm sure to offend by missing someone but there are some I can't ignore. Christine is the principal mover. She runs the weekly bonus ball competition to finance the event and buys or begs all the prizes for the raffle – and for those not attending the prizes aren't your traditional smelly stuff and boxes of Dairy Milk. Husband, Kenny is there to support her, but

where does he get those shirts? Another couple to merit mention is Maureen and Stewart. She for going around quietly selling raffle tickets and carrying and clearing while he was loud and upfront as bingo caller and announcer of winning tickets. Chris more melodically than Stewart fronted the band. I've already mentioned Andy but he, Sue and the regular Lion staff cannot be given too much praise for hosting and catering for the afternoon.

It was an occasion to shout about even if it does create waves of envy in all those under-sixties who don't qualify, but it is something to look forward to.

Rob Tindall

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

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Fourstones, Hexham, NE47 5LW

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

Mossy Roadworks and the 687 bus service 19th February for six weeks.

Not sure if this is 100% accurate but this is the current understanding of how the 687 bus route will be affected.

The GO NorthEast timetable for the service from Newbrough to Hexham and vice versa does not appear to have been updated but the diverted route from Newbrough to Hexham via Chollerford, Wall and Acomb, clearly suggests that the times will be incorrect. The re-routing will mean that there will be no pick ups or drop offs from Hardhaugh, The Boatside or Two Mile Cottages.

It seems that Northumberland County Council has advised GO NorthEast that they are allowing the 687 Hexham – Newbrough service through the roadworks that are used for school runs, ie the 08.09 from Newbrough and the 15.35 from Hexham. They also advise that, subject to safe conditions, they will open the road to one lane each weekday from 4pm to 8am using two way traffic lights. At week-ends, with no road works during the two days, it would appear the road will be open 24/7 but may be down to one lane with traffic signal control.

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| 1/12 page | 6.0x5cm | £30 |

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Private and community advertising is free.

Dorothy Bowman

1942 - 2023



Dorothy Bowman (nee Weymes) was born in Corbridge on the 4th of February 1942 to parents Bobby and Betty. She first lived at High Stonecroft. She was the first of three children, later being followed by Ian and Lesley.

She started school at Newbrough Primary and later attended Shaftoe Trust Secondary School in Haydon Bridge. She was a bright girl and did well at school. Later on she joined Pointings Dye Works in Hexham and worked there in the laboratory.

Dorothy met and married local boy Dennis Bowman when she was 20 and they had two children, Kenneth and Pamela.

Dorothy and Dennis were an enterprising couple and after a spell dabbling with farming and livestock production, whilst based at Hunter Hill, near Allendale, they moved to Fourstones, to the site of the old limeworks and colliery in 1965.

Businesswoman Dorothy, as well as Dennis, eventually ran several businesses in the area - the car parts business that was to become Hadrian Car Panels, three local motor factors in Hexham, Carlisle and Newcastle and not forgetting the petrol station and garage in Fourstones. A good number of the local population would see employment in those businesses over the years.

Away from work, Dorothy was a practical lady and kept herself busy, both in the garden and doing her hobbies of embroidery, crafts and cooking. She was an active member in the local Women's Institute and Embroiderers Guild, as well assisting the Parish Council in the valuable work they do.

Dorothy sadly passed away on the 12th of December 2023 after a short and unforeseen illness, leaving her husband Dennis, two children, six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She will be greatly missed by many.



Nursery places available for 3 year olds from April

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Fridays 7.45 am — 12.30pm

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Green Notes

Climate Action Newbrough and Fourstones

Laura Waugh

At the time of writing a tree planting volunteer day was planned for **Thursday 7th of March** at Haydon Fell. A mix of deciduous trees donated by Climate Action Newbrough and Fourstones through the Woodland Trust are set to be planted.

The volunteer group will also be working in Haydon Bridge Willow copse on **Thursday 21st March** having a tidy up after the last session of willow coppicing and we will be practising weaving skills by making a willow dome. If you would like to be involved in this or in other local woodland management and tree planting please contact Laura at volunteering@living-woods.org.uk

A wonderful Forest Bathing event was held in the woods in early February at The Garden Station Langley. People gathered around a campfire to meditate, practise breathwork, connect to nature and simply be. We celebrated Imbolc and the returning light. There was a cacao ceremony and we weaved a Brigid's cross from rush.

Laura will be running another restorative and relaxing day in the woods to celebrate the Spring Equinox on Saturday 16th March.

If you're interested in any of the above these events please contact : lwnatureconnection@gmail.com.

A private woodland in Newbrough will be one of the future venues.



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At the end of the first half term of 2024, when I'm writing this, it's a good time to reflect on the learning which has happened over the past few weeks- and it has been fantastic!

In English, our Year 5 and 6 children have been studying 'Great Expectations' by Charles Dickens – both written extracts and film versions. Below I have included some short snippets from the children's fabulous writing. I think they have created some amazing imagery!

I'm also going to share some photos of the art work that the children have produced this half

term. The theme was 'Fantasy worlds' and the children have been inspired by the work of surrealist artists in creating their mythical creatures.

The Stanegate simply isn't big enough to share all of the fantastic work produced across the school this half term- but if you want to find out more about our school, you are always welcome to give us a ring and come and visit! We currently have places available for nursery children (from 3 years old) after Easter (see p4). Do get in touch !

Jo Trotter
Head Teacher

Silence. I waited. Nothing else around me except a scarce number of dusty prayer books and some cobwebs that I cannot bother to clean up. The door creaked a creak that I cannot ignore. My eyes darted around the room at my pictures. Marvellous pictures- the type that you cannot take your eyes off. He had entered. The boy that I was waiting for. Pip. William



No one wants to visit me anymore. I am too old and frail for anyone to visit me. I'm an old woman with a spear through her heart. I heard footsteps slowly up the corridor. Slowly and sadly. My wooden door is tall, so tall. My drapes are blue and everywhere are cobwebs, so dusty. The wallpaper is peeling off like dead skin. The clock stopped at twenty to nine. My old staircase is falling with a massive hole inside of it. My old armchair is falling apart and broken. My belongings and special possessions are broken. My old doll is scary. I heard a knock at the door. Luke

A little frightened boy walked in -his snow boots two sizes too big; wearing his mucky hat, his filthy top and wearing his baggy trousers. He was as skinny as a shrimp. He looked like he was a mouse walking into a giant haunted house. I am the only ghost in here. Amy

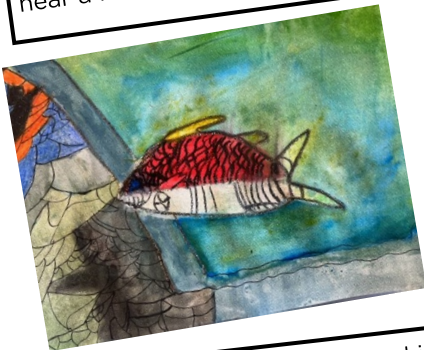


Pip glanced at my chandelier. Then his eyes moved to my jewellery, my glorious jewellery. He froze like a statue. He came to me, creaking the floorboards. As he stepped the floorboards spit out dust. Pip was startled by looking at me. I was curious about Pip and it didn't stop me. Aidan



I knew it was Pip... All along. I could see him, but he was unaware of me. The thing that made it obvious he was there was the creaking of the floor. I could see the broken glass that I once drank wine out of. I spotted his hands shaking and his teeth clattering. The more he stayed, the more he feared. There was a shocked look on his face, I had been found. He just stood, stood as if he knew my cunning plan. The boy was startled, but still calm. The darkness ate everything but Pip; he's not the brightest boy, but

I glance at the tall, wooden door. Unopened for years. The drapes are a dusty purple and I keep them closed. I hear footsteps, they sound small. I hear a knock. It is barely audible. Is it Pip at the door? Bertie



He looked tired, tired but also nervous. His expressions were strange but readable, confused and alarmed, intrigued and curious. The more he ventured; the more his eyes wandered until they rested on me. He looked as if he was never going to look away. Staring at me forevermore, looking at me as if I have a spear through my heart. Dead. Max

He looks scared, terrified, petrified indeed he seems strange, too strange because I told him to play but he silently ran around the room. Is something wrong with him?

The boy is Pip, whom Estella wanted to see. My precious clocks have stopped at 20 to 9, a strange occurrence indeed, extremely strange. I wondered what I should allow them to do so that I can snap their hearts into pieces like a twig. Leon

I could see he was poor. His boots were scuffed, and his clothes ripped. I moved. His wavy eyes bolted about like a crow's. He was a curious boy, not at all like Estela. There was a scuttle of a mouse. Pip, who was petrified, moved closer. Crows squawked at the window as if it was a graveyard. He looked like he had stepped from heaven to hell. When I spoke I saw the fear in his eyes. Evie

Finding care and support at home in and around Fourstones and Newbrough

Finding the right home care can be tricky, but there is support available. Northumberland County Council's adult services team offer free advice about care options. (01670 536 400 / onecall@northumberland.gov.uk.) They also offer a free needs assessment, a detailed written statement describing your needs and giving advice on managing them.

A separate financial assessment will determine whether you are eligible for financial support from the council. This will depend on your income as well as your assets. If you have assets worth over £23,250 (excluding your home) you will pay the full cost of any care and support regardless of income. You may still be eligible for Attendance Allowance (up to £101.75/week) or other non income assessed support though.

Adult services may also help you find care, or you may choose to find a carer directly. There are two main care options: care agencies or a self-employed / independent carer. Both routes have their advantages. Care agencies can often offer guaranteed care often seven days a week. Independent carers generally cost less and you get a direct relationship with a known individual you trust.

Finding a good private carer can be tricky, so introductory agencies help match people looking for care with independent carers for a fee. Whichever route you take, understanding your care needs and seeking help are the key.

Further help:

- Carers Northumberland: 01670 320025 , www.carersnorthumberland.org.uk
- Independent age helpline: 0800 319 6789, www.independentage.org
- Local GP practices' Care Coordinators, www.haydonbridgesurgery.co.uk, www.humshaughandwarkmedicalgroup.nhs.uk
- Family, friends, neighbours, community organisations... there may be more people willing to help than you realise.

Written by Sparrow Self-Employed Carers, an introductory agency based in Hexham.

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JANUARY

| | | |
|------|------------------|----|
| 6th | Susan Smith | 41 |
| 13th | Stewart Thompson | 7 |
| 20th | Rob Tindall | 42 |
| 27th | Catrina Mews | 16 |

200 Club

FEBRUARY

| | | |
|-----|--------------|-----|
| 1st | Doreen Dodd | 149 |
| 2nd | John Daglish | 105 |
| 3rd | George Shaw | 40 |



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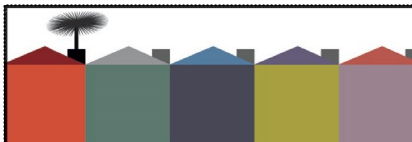
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When there's a rook, there's a crow/and when there's crows, there's rooks.

Adapted from an Old Norfolk adage.

Carrion crows are usually seen singly or in pairs, whereas their close relative the rook is a very sociable bird. In winter flocks roost together in trees, before they fly off to forage for worms, beetles and other invertebrates in surrounding farmland during the day ; sometimes in the company of another relative, the jackdaw.

A flock of two hundred or more made repeat visits to autumn sown fields at Park Shield in the first half of February. On the 7th the light brown soil of High Long Bank, the field on the west side of the road that it takes its name from, was widely speckled black with feeding rooks. On the 12th attention was turned to Harper Hill, another autumn sown field over the road, where a less scattered flock, disturbed by the approach of a lone Eurofighter Typhoon just passing through, took to the air with loud, short 'caws' of alarm. After hanging there until the threat was past, they floated back down to earth and continued foraging.



Gregarious as they are, rooks nest communally. In the two small rookeries on either side of the road at Thornton Towers there was

rook activity among the handfuls of conspicuous twiggy nests in leaf-less mid-February treetops.

There will be a noisy confusion of raucous cawing there over the current nesting season. The small rookery behind the lodge cottage opposite St Michael's church in Warden was abandoned some years ago and the trees have now largely been felled and the copse re-planted.

Historically, countryfolk lumped crows and rooks together ; both suffering persecution for damaging crops. But 'scarecrow' is something of a misnomer because scarecrows were not intended to guard cereal crops from solitary carrion crows, but from flocks of grain devouring rooks. The misnomer lives on with modern day: 'crow scarers', one type of which is a gas gun and 'bangs' at set firing times. Nowadays, these are set up in fields in winter to deter flocks of woodpigeons from eating arable crops before they become established. The lack of distinction between rooks and crows is also echoed in the name of Crow Wood, because at the time it was named there will have been a rookery there.



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Newbrough WI



Despite the threat of snow the February meeting was well attended. Members and a visitor were welcomed by President Judith Kirby.

Secretary Teresa Bessant gave notice of several events coming up in March and April : an invitation to Catton Birthday Party, the Easter treats day at Cresswell house and a craft day. The South Tyne Group meeting evening is on 13th April and the competition is a decorated Easter hat using recycled materials.



We then had an enjoyable time making craft items led by Susan Sutton one of our own talented members. We made flowers and hearts and Jenny Cutter, another talented member, showed us how to use a pom, pom gadget.



The competition caused much interest as we all took photos of our younger self for other members to guess who. Catherine Grant won by a large margin. There were 3 joint 2nd places. The raffle was won by Susan Sutton and the flowers by Judith Kirby.

Our next meeting is on March 14th, at 7pm at the town hall and is a talk by Chris Baylis on how the UK sees the North, and electric vehicles. Catherine Grant and June Kendrew are hostesses and Vanessa Ashton is organising the raffle. Prospective members and guests can be sure of a warm welcome.

Hexham Courant and 'Village News'

If anyone in Newbrough, Fourstones or Warden would like to pick up the baton and write our regular reports for the Courant, please contact the Stanegate at:
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Nature Notes

Snowdrops are a heartening sight on chilly January and February days, but even then there are other tell-tale signs of winter passing. Emerging wild arum leaves are always an early herald of spring. A single pencil of leaf poking through earth beneath a hawthorn hedge at West Boat on the 16th of January was the earliest sighting on Nature Notes record. By the end of the month many more had sprung up, with a ribbon of them under the hawthorn hedge on the north side of the Mossy Bank producing a conspicuous show of shiny arrowhead shaped leaves in early February.

The roadside verge below St. Peters Church almost invariably produces the neighbourhood's first flowering daffodils, bringing a touch of spring in midwinter.



This year two almost in full bloom provided bright yellow flecks that stood out on a grey February the 1st. By the 10th five were in full flower; while an increasing number of furred yellow flowers were showing through protective papery sheaths.

The early blossoming cherry plum is another pointer to the coming spring. On the 10th of February, the earliest date on Nature Notes record, the first few flowers were noted in the hedge at Butt Bank. On the same day small hazy green patches of hawthorn leaves were showing in the hedge by the layby at the south end of Homers Lane and in the hedgerow running up the road from the old Fourstones post office. Like cherry plum this was the earliest date on Nature Notes record.¹

The high winds of either Storm Isha or Storm Jocelyn brought down an old, ivy-covered tree at the entrance to Allerwash Hall, blocking the road until a chainsaw was put to work. At the south end of Homers Lane near the nursery, one trunk of a large twin-trunked tree was wrenched off and fell on the field side of the roadside wall. Small fallen branches lay in places in Crow Wood, where snow-drop drifts were in full flower in the first week of February.

¹ Both records date back to 2011.

Reminder to dog owners

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



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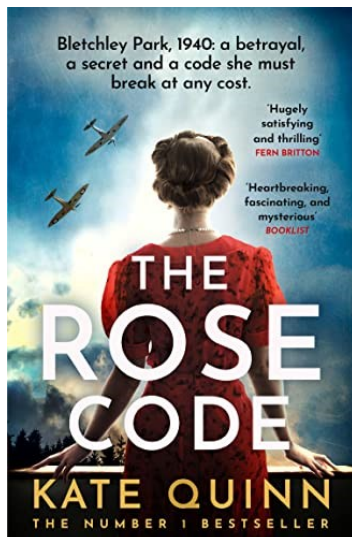
‘The Rose Code’ by Kate Quinn

I recommended this book to our reading group after it was lent to me by a friend. Written by Kate Quinn, an American historical fiction writer, I found it fascinating, easy to read, well researched, and engaging, I enjoyed reading it and found it interesting on several levels.

The narrative is set against the backdrop of WW2 and gives an insight into the secret world of Bletchley Park (BP) ... it tells of mystery, intrigue, espionage, friendships forged and broken, betrayal and romance ... an exciting combination, what's not to like !

The main characters are three young women, previously unknown to each other who are recruited to work at BP. They are from very different backgrounds. Osla, a high society debutante wanting to be valued and useful in the war effort, Mab, from a poor background looking for a rich husband and to escape the secrets of her past and Beth the timid, introverted local girl bullied by her controlling mother.

Life for all at BP was intense, always time pressured and frenetic.....the working environment was bizarre, eccentric, almost bohemian and ahead of its time in many ways, with a tolerance for behaviours not accepted generally in the outside world. The women who worked



there as code breakers and cryptanalysts were highly valued by their male, mostly academic, colleagues and had a prestige in the workplace which was unheard of at that time.

There are different threads to the narrative dealing with the effects of such high pressure work on mental health and what we now know as PTSD...these are sensitively described bearing in mind there was little if any support for such things, however the peer support for colleagues and the ability to try and let off steam in various wacky ways

was very evident. The wedding of Prince Philip and Princess Elizabeth also features in the plot, resulting in broken dreams and a broken heart for one of our girls.

The girls' social and domestic lives are described well, they do all find love with varying outcomes, sadly not always the happy endings they hoped for given the times they were living in.

Most of our reading group enjoyed the book, found it well paced and atmospheric and appreciated that the three women were the main characters in the narrative. Some felt it was a bit long despite being an easy read but all agreed it would make a good tv drama, indeed it would!

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Town Hall News

Sheron Robson, Co Chair

Warm Wednesdays

Warm Wednesdays continue to go from strength to strength with a loyal bunch of followers, although we have capacity for more, so why not give it a try. A warm welcome awaits alongside a bowl of delicious soup (usually two choices) and a freshly baked roll on our regular community open day in the hall between 11- 3pm every Wednesday up til the end of March.

We keep the lounge toasty, and there is tea and coffee available all day and sometimes a cake or sweet treats. Come with friends, or make new ones there. Provided free of charge by the Town Hall, although you can make a donation towards costs if you wish.

We have been attracting attention in high places too! The Corporate Director of Public Health for Northumberland, Gill O'Neill paid us a visit in January. She was full of praise. So much so, we have the Chief Executive of the County Council, Dr Helen Paterson coming in March for a visit and a bowl of soup. Both visits will be filmed, so watch out for the feature film in a cinema near you!

Warm Wednesday finishes on the last Wednesday in March, but we are planning a monthly afternoon tea over the summer – so watch this space for details!

This month the Hall is hosting a **will-writing workshop** with Stephen Browell who is a local solicitor on Tuesday 19th of March from 10-1pm.

Also as part of the **Tyne Valley Film Festival** we are showing WALL-E, a Disney/Pixar production set in the distant future about a trash collecting robot who falls in love and saves the planet. The film has themes of environmentalism and anti consumerism and is largely told without dialogue and not since Chaplin's "[Little Tramp](#)" has so much story—so much emotion—been conveyed without words.



When hope arrives in the form of a seedling, the film blossoms into one of the great screen romances as two robots remind audiences of the beating heart in all of us that yearns for humanity—and love—in the darkest of landscapes.

We are showing the film at **6pm on Friday 15th of March** as it is a story accessible for all ages. The bar will be open at 5.30 for drinks before the film and popcorn will be available to snack on.

Tickets will be £3 for those under 25, or 2 under 25 tickets for £5 then £5 for over 25's.

Tickets for this event will just be **available on the door** - no need to pre-book.

Easter / Spring theme for our **quiz night this month** This great value, local night out, will be on Thursday 21st March with some seasonal questions thrown in. £2 entry and up to 6 per team. Snacks provided at half time.

Winners take home the glory, and a free round of drinks at the next quiz!

Doors open at 7.30 and the quiz starts at 8pm

Regular group bookings in the hall that all welcome new members include:

Yoga on a Monday at 6.30

(contact JJyoga83@gmail.com or check the town hall facebook page for details of the class and how to book. We've had a couple of new joiners recently, so if you've been considering it, it's a good time to start!

Art Club on the last Tuesday afternoon in the month (Contact Lynne.garton23@gmail.com for details)

Bowls on a Wednesday at 7pm (For more details and to join contact Paula Hall on 01434 674 406)

The Town Hall is a brilliant resource for all of us so I'd encourage you to do everything you can to support it, by booking your family parties and get-togethers here, coming along to the regular events and yes, even volunteering to help out.

Watch out for an appeal for some extra hands to help us install new bike racks outside the Hall, hopefully during the Easter Bank Holiday weekend..

Food for Thought

Sylvia Richardson

We will all be looking forward to Spring and all it has to offer, but first we have an early Easter. Easter has a huge significance in the Christian calendar, the day of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection of Christ.

Easter is associated with special foods, eggs and chocolate eggs, roast lamb and ham, hot cross buns, Simnel cake and Easter biscuits

Smoked ham, leek and cheddar tart

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 8oz short crust pastry | 1 1/2 oz butter |
| 1 finely sliced leek | 2 large eggs |
| 9oz double cream | 2 fl oz mil |
| 4 oz grated cheddar cheese | 2oz cubed ham |
| Parsley | salt and pepper |



Grease an 8" flan tin. Roll out pastry thickness of £1 coin and press into tin. Leave in fridge for 1/2 hour. Set oven to 175C. Bake blind for 30 mins.

Filling

Heat butter in pan and sauté leek until soft.

Mix eggs, cream and milk in a large bowl. Add cheese, leeks and chopped parsley. Season well.

When pastry shell is cooked add filling and bake for 50 mins or until set.

Mini egg cheesecake

Mix 8oz crushed chocolate digestive biscuits with 3oz melted butter. Place in 8" loose bottom tin

Filling

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 12 oz cottage or cream cheese | vanilla essence |
| 10oz double cream | 1/2 oz sachet gelatine dissolved in 1/8 pt water |
| 4oz icing sugar | chocolate mini egg chopped roughly |



Place cheese, sugar and 1 tsp vanilla essence in liquidiser.

Liquidise then add the cooled gelatine. Liquidise again.

Whip cream until thick then add the mix in the liquidiser to the bowl of cream

Fold in the chopped eggs. Pour over the biscuit mix in the tin and refrigerate

When set, decorate with mini eggs and a nest.

For the nest

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1 oz shredded wheat | Crush the shredded wheat and shape into a nest shape |
| 2 oz chocolate | Melt chocolate and butter. Place nest into a small bowl lined with cling film |
| 1/2 oz butter | Pour over the melted chocolate and leave to set. Add mini eggs. |

Quick flake cake

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 3 eggs separated | 14oz condensed milk |
| 2 lemons | 1/4 pt double cream |
| Cadbury flakes / mini eggs | |

Whisk egg yolks and condensed milk together.

Add finely grated rind and juice of 2 lemons

Whisk egg whites until stiff and fold into the cream with chopped mini eggs or 3 chopped flakes

Place in loaf tin and freeze overnight. When needed, turn out and decorate with flakes or mini eggs





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January Weatherwatch



The New Year had only just begun when the strong winds and heavy rains of Storm Henk brought widespread damage and flooding to southern parts of the country on the 2nd of January. However, like other previous named storms, its impact was less pronounced here than in places elsewhere. The wind scarcely blew on the day and the unexceptional 10.8 mm of rainfall recorded at Park Shield was the only sign of a passing low pressure system. The days up to the 5th were mild, but grass was a frosted white on the morning of the 6th as high pressure began to edge in. It became firmly established and led to a two-week spell of cold winter weather that extended up to the 19th.

Air frosts on the 7th and 8th were followed by four frost-free days before further frosts occurred on seven consecutive days from the 13th as chilling Artic maritime air flowed south. The 17th registered both January's lowest minimum of -6.1C and its lowest daily maximum of -1.0C. The temperature failed to rise above freezing-point again the next day, when a daily minimum of -5.3C and daily maximum of - 0.8C were recorded. An air frost early on the 19th was the tenth and last of the month at Park Shield. Meanwhile, showing how localized weather can be, the lower level Butt Bank weather station recorded three air frosts, on the 15th, 17th and 18th and a monthly low of -3.0C on the 17th that was half that of Park Shield.

On the credit side, the cold spell was very dry. Park Shield registered only 3.4 mm of rain during this time and a fraction less fell at Butt Bank. With the temperature close to zero Celsius snow showers fell in the late morning of the 16th, turning to fine rain in the afternoon when what little snow that had settled on higher ground had melted away. But the coldest part of the month was also the sunniest. The almost cloudless 15th and the 17th were particularly bright as the sun shone from sunrise to sunset.

The cold spell ended with the return of the Atlantic low pressure systems that had shaped much of the country's weather in November and December.

The first, Storm Isha, arrived quite abruptly late on the 21st. Over a night of wild winds, maximum gusts of 48mph and 52mph blew at Park Shield and Butt Bank respectively in the early hours of the 22nd. At the same time Storm Isha ushered in much milder conditions that extended to the month's end. The Park Shield daily maximum on the 21st was 12.3C and after this several double digit Celsius daytime maximums were comparable with mid-April average. The January maximum of 12.6C recorded in the late evening of the 23rd coincided with the first battering winds of Storm Jocelyn¹, which arrived hot on the heels of Storm Isha and generated 50 mph gusts at Butt Bank late on the 23rd and early on the 24th.

The milder conditions in the latter part of the month slightly outbalanced those of the colder stretch to produce a slightly less chilly than average January. The depressions either side of the cold spell meant wetter weather, including 17.8 mm at Park Shield on the 29th, which was marginally more than the amount attributable to Isha and Jocelyn combined. But higher rainfall was confined to a handful of days and the Park Shield total of 59.2mm was below the c.70mm average. Nineteen of the previous twenty-six Januarys were wetter.

January Weatherwatch Factfile

Temperature. Park Shield mean monthly maximum : c.6.4C. Mean monthly minimum : c.1.3C. Monthly mean : c.3.9C and c.0.9C above average. E&NE England monthly mean : 4.0C and +0.3C above the 1991-2020 average. UK maximum : 19.9C at Achfary (Sutherland) on the 28th. UK minimum : -14C at Dalwhinnie (Inverness-shire) on the 17th.

Rainfall & Sunshine. E&NE England rainfall and sunshine : 116% & 122% of the 1991-2020 average respectively.

Winds. A generally settled first half of January an often windy latter part of the month. UK maximum gust : 99 mph at Brizee Wood (North'land) on the 21st. ¹ Isha and to a lesser extent, Jocelyn, caused widespread disruption and power outages.

Church Pages

Who's Who

Church of England : appointment pending

Meanwhile Reverend Jane Penn is helping out during the time of vacancy

3 Red Houses
Newbrough
Hexham
NE47 5AA

tel: 07747 865747

Methodist

Reverend Michael Holland
Tynedale Methodist Circuit
Fern House
Catton
Hexham
NE47 6QS

Tel: 01434 683732

Roman Catholic

Parish Priest : Fr Jeffrey Dodds
Assisted by Fr Paul Kilduff
St Mary's Catholic Church
Hencotes
Hexham
NE46 3EB

Tel: 01434 603119

From the Registers

February

There were no Christenings, Weddings or funerals in the Parish during February.

Following the retirement of Canon Jeremy Thompson any enquiries relating to Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals for St. Peter's, Newbrough should go to Churchwarden Reuben Straker at reuben.straker@btinternet.com and for St. Michael's Warden, to George Benson at office@chesterestate.co.uk

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



Coffee mornings

Friday 8th March, Big Brew 11am - 2pm

Friday 22nd March, 11am - 2pm

Soup and a bun

All are welcome



Messy Church

Tuesday 12th March

Theme : "Eggciting News"

£1 entry fee

Letter from Reverend Jane Penn.....

Jesus said, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.' (St John's Gospel, chapter 12)

A seed is a small thing that looks as if it's dead – but of course, as I learnt in biology at school, it's dormant, it's sleeping, and it carries the germ of life within it. At this time of year we're seeing the burgeoning of life once again after the long winter. Seeds, bulbs, corms, buds, roots, they are all waking up again and life is flowing through them. We see leaves, flowers, vegetables rising from the ground, springing from branches, grow-ing up in the fields and in the woods.

While all this is happening the Church is in the season of Lent. Christians are focusing on the darker side of life. I think it's important to do this – because we do all go through dark times personally, and the world is in a dark time. I'm thinking particularly of the wars in Gaza, Ukraine and elsewhere, and the looming reality of climate change, the damage that we humans have done, and are still doing, to God's creation.

This Lent my personal attention is on lament, with a focus on climate change. Lament for what we have lost already. Lament for the people who bear the brunt of temperature rises and extreme weather events – the world's poor, who contribute little to the cause of their devastation. Lament for the reluctance of governments and corporations to make the radical changes that are needed to take us from the brink of runaway temperature

increase. Lament for my own part in all this. Lament encompasses grief, anger, sadness, guilt, despair and incomprehension. Focusing on lament helps me to give expression to these things, to recognise my own reaction to what is happening. And it helps me to have compassion for the many people now, especially young people, who are suffering from climate grief and anxiety.

Dwelling in lament, owning the reality of what is happening, that is like the burial of the seed in the dark earth. It's like the burial of Jesus Christ in a lonely tomb, after his crucifixion. We mark his crucifixion on Good Friday, 29th March this year. Of course the thing about the crucifixion and burial is that on the third day after it he rose, into a new kind of life, like the green shoot that springs up, looking for the light.

Jesus' disciples, his friends and family, standing at the foot of the cross, as they grieved they didn't know what was coming. Like us when we lament, they didn't know the hope that new life is round the corner. Imagine their joy when they encountered the risen Christ!

There's space in life and in faith for Lent, Good Friday and Easter. There's room for darkness, for lament, for hope and for joy.

With every blessing
Jane Penn

EASTER

Easter is the most important festival of the Christian Church. It recalls the resurrection of Christ Three days after his crucifixion. Establishing the date of Easter has been a source of controversy for centuries. Unlike Christmas Day, the events of Easter – Good Friday and Easter Sunday – do not fall on a fixed day but move from year to year according to the relationship between the Spring Equinox and the twenty-eight-day lunar cycle. In the western Christian Church Easter may fall between the 21st March and the 25th April.

For many, Easter is regarded as the Spring festival and some believe the name derives from the *Eostre*, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of Spring and fertility. The association with eggs makes sense in this context but it is not obvious where the rabbits fit in!

Parish of Warden with Newbrough

Church Services for March 2024

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Sunday 3rd | 10.00am | St Michael and All Angels, Warden |
| Sunday 10th Mothering Sunday | 10.00am | St John Lee |
| Sunday 17th | 10.00am | St Peter, Newbrough |
| Sunday 24th Palm Sunday | 10.00am | St John Lee |
| Thursday 28th Maundy Thursday | 10.00am | St Peter, Newbrough |
| Friday 29th | morning | St Peter, Newbrough |
| | afternoon | please see noticeboard in Church for time please see noticeboard in St Peter's Church for confirmation of time |
| Sunday 31st | 10.00am | St John Lee |
| Easter Day | 10.00am | St Michael and All Angels |
| | 10.00am | St Aidan, Stagshaw |

During Lent 'Stations of the Cross' will be held in St Aidan Fourstones at 6.30pm and at 4.30pm every Wednesday at St Aidan, Fourstones for Evening Prayer

Enquiries regarding Church Services to Ian Bell, Verger
01434 674653

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

Preachers for March

| | |
|------|--|
| 3rd | Jacqui Cameron |
| 10th | Christine Thompson |
| 17th | Reverend Michael Holland (Holy Communion) |
| 24th | Service at Haydon Bridge with Jacqui Cameron |
| 31st | Ian Warburton |

All services at 10.30am
Everyone welcome