

**Newbrough, Fourstones and Warden**

# The Stanegate

## Editorial

The end of another year and the start of its successor! Are you a 'glass half-empty' or a 'glass half-full person? The turn of the year gives ample opportunity for both personalities to express themselves.

2011 has been a strange year. The acquaintance you meet at the Garage may well say that meteorologically it has been a lousy year. Has it? He is forgetting how an early Spring developed into a real scorcher of late Spring and early Summer. Remember the way the hedges and fruit trees were blanketed in blossom? But the freezing start to the year! Remember the fun the kids - and many adults - had sliding and sledging. Late Summer and Autumn haven't been memorable but we've had only one night of hard frost and one of our team is still picking alpine strawberries. Inflation has been rising whilst wages haven't, but the usual suspects have had their share of foreign holidays and if keeping the kids' largesse at its traditional level means cutting down on Dad's pints and Mam's fags there may be a positive somewhere. The Village Society may have folded and the whist players stacked their cards but we've Zumba-ed our way to fitness and laughed ourselves to tears at the pantomime. And we're still here.

So what does 2012 hold? Nationally we have the Olympics and the Queen's Jubilee to look forward to. Nearer home the Toon are riding high again and even Sunderland are hanging in there. Locally the runes are more difficult to read but we have a wealth of people in our community who are willing to do their bit (and more) to make sure that the 'half-empty brigade' are constantly pleasantly surprised. We've just noticed our glasses are half-empty so can we have a refill.

A very Happy Christmas and All Health, Wealth and Happiness for 2012 to you all when it finally arrives

Janice Baylis, Jo Grey  
Pat Johnston & Rob Tindall

Send material to [RobMTin@aol.com](mailto:RobMTin@aol.com)  
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