The Stanegate Magazine
152 June 2018

The Stanegate

Newbrough, Fourstones and Warden

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Editorial

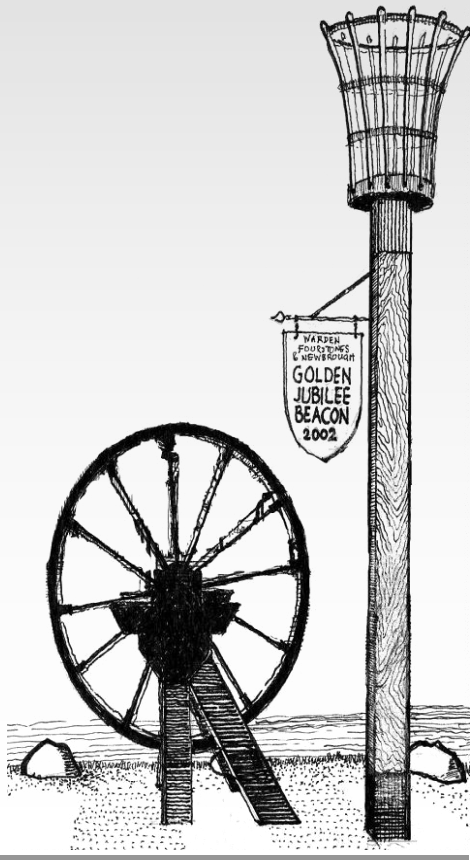
So spring has arrived with some very fine weather, birds both busy and pleasantly noisy, and trees and flowers finally showing their true colours. The salmon fishermen are not so busy, being unhappy at the lack of rain which has caused river levels to drop and their elusive prey preferring to remain at sea. Farmers seem to be overrun with multiple lambs but are now seeking some prolonged rain for their crops.

Since our last issue the community has also been very active, not just picking litter, but also attending several village events including the splendid and well supported afternoon tea at the Primary School following the very welcome news that it will not be closing. Many of our readers, not invited to a certain wedding in Windsor, rejoiced at the Royal spectacle from afar, though a number attended a "pre-wedding" lunch with parents and pupils also at the School.

The first of three summer features at the Town Hall, a comedy night, was held on the Wedding Day evening with a Race Night and a Quiz also programmed for June and July. We urge you to support these events to boost the use of the facility and also to financially support the Hall.

We look forward to the summer, long evenings and a continuing busy village life.

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



Please send material to the editorial team at:
thestanegate@hotmail.com

The deadline for the July issue is Friday 15th June

Produced and published by The Stanegate Editorial Committee

Warden, Fourstones and Newbrough Litter Pick

Rob Tindall

Not many people know this, but the distance from Westerhope to Fourstones is a Big Mac. Our nearest McDonald's is in that suburb of Newcastle, but the packaging ends up in Fourstones. Ergo, as Pythagoras might say, from first bite to discarding the remnants out of the car window, is the distance between the two points.

The litter pick organised by Warden Parish Council through our three villages on 29th April uncovered other strange phenomena. Did the discarder of the trainers and one sock hop all the way home?

Were the contents of the numerous empty spirits bottles consumed neat or mixed with the liquids from the ubiquitous soft drink cans? The owner of the (once) white bath towel and siphon mechanism from a toilet cistern can probably still reclaim them from the waste recovery centre at Hexham.

Seriously, the band of pickers who gave up their Sunday morning deserve the thanks of our communities. Let us now see if we can keep our byways litter free for as long as possible.

Calendar of Events

June

1st	Parkinson's Group, Town Hall, 10.30am—12.30pm
4th	School returns
13th	St Aidan's Youth Club, Town Hall, 5pm—7pm
14th	Newbrough WI, Town Hall, 7pm
22nd	Race Night, Town Hall, 7.30pm
27th	St Aidan's Youth Club, Town Hall, 5pm—7pm
29th	Methodist Church Coffee morning, 10am—1pm

July

2nd	Warden Parish Council, Town Hall, 7pm
4th	Newbrough Parish Council, Town Hall, 7pm
6th	Parkinson's Group, Town Hall, 10.30am—12.30pm
7th	School Fair, 12noon—2pm
11th	St Aidan's Youth Club, Town Hall, 5pm—7pm
12th	Newbrough WI, Town Hall, 7pm
19th	Quiz Night at the Town Hall—details to follow
20th	School closes for Summer Holidays
25th	St Aidan's Youth Club, Town Hall, 5pm—7pm

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Newbrough WI May meeting

Val Johnston

Dorothy Sowerby , President, welcomed members on a lovely Spring evening and we sang Jerusaleum. Doreen Dodd read the minutes of the previous meeting and various matters arising were discussed. The craft afternoon had been enjoyed by all who attended. (See Joe the Quilter, page 7, for more detail). Those members who were present, please bring your silhouettes to the next meeting.

There were a good few entries promised for Federation day (16th June) and these should also be brought to the June meeting if possible. Names were taken for the Group meeting and for the Northumberlandia visit.

The AGM business was dealt with. WI Advisor Kathleen Jones from Corbridge was welcomed to help with this. The treasurer reported that our finances are fairly healthy. Doreen gave the secretary's Annual Report. The year had been a busy one with members taking part in a lot of Group and Federation activities as well as our own , and we enjoyed a varied programme of speakers. The President thanked a number of people and reported the WI had had another successful year.

There was then a secret ballot for President and Dorothy was re-elected.

Kathleen gave a résumé of the Resolution to try and make treatment for Mental Health conditions more widely and readily available. This was discussed and generally it was felt that a WI campaign would add further weight to the present media programme and members voted in favour of supporting the resolution which will be put to the National AGM in June. Ella White was re-elected Treasurer and Teresa Bessant was elected secretary by the new committee.

The Competition for a motto to go on the Programme was won by Katrina Mewes, with :

'Do not mind what anyone tells you about anyone else. Judge everyone and everything yourself.'

The Raffle was won by Kathleen Jones, the WI Advisor. The competition for the 14th June meeting is the letter U and hostesses will be Julia Waugh and Sandra Hodgson. The speaker will be Claire Batey from the Alzheimer's Society.

New members are always welcome.

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:
The Stanegate
8 Broadacres, Fourstones
NE47 5LW

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

Newbrough Parish Council

Rob Macfarlane

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on 2nd May 2018

Chairman's Report 2017-2018

The Chairman thanked councillors for their attendance at the six meetings held throughout the year and their contribution to parish affairs. He stated that he was grateful to vice-chairman Iain Hunter for deputising and leading funding efforts. He thanked County Councillor Gibson and the clerk Robert Macfarlane for their help and advice. The Council is also very grateful to Deb Hoare, Internal Auditor, Sam Lawrence, Town Hall Caretaker and to Steve Davies and P MacDonald for looking after hedgerows and grass areas throughout the parish..

The Council supports the Tyne Rivers Trust in their quest of looking into streams "without fish that should have fish". After recent flooding, the foot bridge and the weir in Crow Wood has needed maintenance and repair. The Chairman was pleased to see that the Newbrough river path had been restored and kept strimmed thanks to the efforts of The Angling Club, and the Fourstones riverside path will be repaired by the Tyne Rivers Trust. It's good that the Trust has been working with anglers, the Council, land owners, NCC RofW Officer and the Environment Agency to address these issues. A Newbrough Water Walk leaflet is in printable draft form and should be ready soon.

Thanks to Hugh Walton for all his work for the Sportsfield Association. Following a delegation of young people, the Council pledged their support to assist in the preparation of the sportsfield to facilitate youth cricket. It was also recognised that the Sportsfield also provides parking for Newbrough School and good use is made of the bottle bank situated in the car park. Hopefully issues relating to the recent vandalism to the pavilion have been resolved.

The County Council have granted all six planning applications in Newbrough parish including the very controversial 16 houses between Butt Bank and Red Houses to which the community and Council strongly objected. An appeal to The Secretary of State proved fruitless. However, after sustained lobbying and persistent efforts, the Council finally persuaded the County Council to name this development Charlton Court.

The Chairman recalled the story of when Andy Mitchell found himself in the Red Lion with a sense of déjà vu. Andy realised that nearly ten years ago he had worked on the adjacent Newbrough War Memorial. He visited the memorial and was glad to see it in good condition but noticed one of the bronze plaques had a fixing cap missing. He sent a replacement in the post; how very kind of him.

The project to remodel and allow disabled access to the War Memorial is progressing well. The planning application submitted by architect Butler Haigh has been approved by the County Council and has Listed Building consent. The Council will produce a booklet to commemorate the end of World War One.

Following up a number of requests from residents/ passengers, the parish council, working closely with Hexham Town Council, installed a litter bin adjacent to the new bus shelter at Sidgate. A photo opportunity was held with the Chairman, June Kendrew and Dennis Bowman. It will soon have a suitable notice board.

During the year the Council supported several worthy causes including, Newbrough Town Hall, Parochial Church Council, Sportsfield Association, Sport Tynedale, British Legion, Great North Air Ambulance, Tynedale Hospice at Home and Sick Children's Trust.

For the Local Transport Plan Programme the Council identified priorities for the south side of the Stanegate footpath from Butt Bank to the School and traffic speed along Stanegate. The Council has some concerns over inadequate street lighting and one area identified is the stretch between the west junction of Sidgate and the Stanegate to the Lodge.

Following a consultation process by the County Council - Newbrough Parish Council expressed strong objections to any proposal to close Newbrough Church of England Primary School. The Council fully supports the School's Governing Body as well as the parents, pupils and the wider community who are all keen to keep this school functioning in Newbrough. It is an excellent school (as reflected in recent OFSTED and SIAMS inspections) with a growing reputation and an increasing number of pupils. In addition to this the school has excellent facilities, it is a very active community school and has valuable nursery provision.

Warden Parish Council

Wesley Foot

Notes of the Meeting held on 1st May 2018

Election of Parish Roles & Representatives

After excelling in his first year as Chair of Warden Parish Council, Cllr Heminsley was unanimously re-elected for a second year Cllr Tindall was also re-elected unanimously as Vice-Chair. The role of an official Newbrough Town Hall representative is still under discussion with Newbrough Parish Council.

Village Litter Pick

The first parish litter pick took place on Sunday 29th April and was a huge success with 30 volunteers collecting 40 bags of rubbish from Warden, Fourstones & Newbrough. It was agreed that the parish looked much tidier and the event would hopefully become a regular fixture. It was noted that Paper Mill staff had kindly joined in with the spring cleaning and had been seen tidying up the Paper Mill site.

Northumberland Day

This year Northumberland Day will be on Sunday 27th May and, to celebrate, Warden PC have invited the Reverend Jeremy Thompson to conduct a short service at 4.30pm at the Millennium Beacon followed by a social BBQ. All are welcome and meat packs are available to reserve in advance from the Village Store priced at £3 for adults and £1 for children. Don't forget to bring your own drinks!!!

Newbrough School Consultation

There was much relief at the news that Newbrough Primary School had been spared from closure, as a result of the County Council's recent consultation. The school can therefore continue to provide the increasingly successful educational environment and community support that it has done for many years.

Roads

The poor state of the roads at the bottom of the Mossy Bank and on Homer's Lane are continuing to be a major concern for Warden PC, with repair works restricted by the need to address collapsed drainage culverts and a landslip respectively. A Parishioner had written to raise the issue of the blocked drains at the bottom of the Mossy Bank, but unfortunately Warden PC are restricted by what they are able to do by virtue of road maintenance being a County Council responsibility.

It was noted that the level crossing at the Paper Mill was due to be closed overnight on the 12th May to carry out work. The speed limit reduction at Hardhaugh was discussed, with the issue of how to fund it being the major stumbling block. Having originally quoted a cost of £8,000 for the scheme, the County Council were supposedly unlikely to fund the scheme due to the lack of recent accidents there.

Parish Seats & Repairs

Cllr Bowman reported that seat repairs were continuing to progress well, and that the new picnic table had now been installed at the Millennium Beacon.

Footpaths

Cllr Foot reported an ongoing issue with the reduction of the pavement width between Hardhaugh & Quality Cottages due to tree debris that had built up. The Parish Clerk was asked to enquire with the County Council whether they would be able to clear it.

Planning Applications

18/00885/FUL: Mr & Mrs Oakley – Proposed replacement of gable and 2 storey side extension, new bedroom pod extension and new boot room extension at the Old Mill, Nether Warden.

No objections submitted by Warden PC.

The next meeting of Warden Parish Council will be on Monday 2nd July 2018 at 7pm in Newbrough Town Hall.

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On Your Marks, Get Set.....

Rob Tindall

The Parish Produce Show will take place in the Town Hall on Saturday 8th September, so start thinking about what you can bring to the event. It is competitive but above all it's about fun.

The committee has tweaked the schedule a little. There will be new classes for cherry tomatoes, tomatoes on the vine, heaviest undressed onion and cactus dahlias but no more sweet corn.

There are bigger changes in the baking and craft classes where fruit scones, plate fruit tart, humus, strawberry jam, blackcurrant jelly and vegetarian rolls make a 2018 appearance. Intriguingly the set recipe will be for cheese and walnut cake.

The old staple of a dressed wooden spoon is back but in keeping with modern times and fashions there are opportunities for a table decoration in suffragette colours, a recycled item as well as something crocheted.

Don't throw your snaps of winter away as the photography classes include 'The Beast from the East' as well as 'Animals', 'Eyes' and 'Where we live.'

Entries in advance and on the day will now be 25p (although there is a special offer of 4 for £1.00).

Keep your eyes on the Stanegate, Village website and posters for news of when schedules will be available.

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Joe the Quilter

Val Johnston

No one who had ever seen Joe Hedley in his infancy would have suppposed him born to be a legend. At the age of 76 Joe Hedley was brutally murdered in his cottage on 3rd January 1826. He was an expert quilter by trade and his cottage was situated in Homer's Lane, Warden, near Hexham. No one was ever caught for his murder despite the 100 Guinea reward which was supposedly sanctioned by George IV himself for any information leading to the arrest of the perpetrators. Some silver cutlery was missing and two murder weapons were found suggesting that there were two assailants. If they thought there would be rich pickings they would have been disappointed as he was in fact on 'poor relief'.

The 'Remaking Beamish' project has taken on the task of replicating the cottage in the museum. This project will see "The Living Museum of the North" create a 1950s Town as well as expanding the Georgian area. Thanks to the money raised by National Lottery players, the Remaking Beamish project has been awarded £10.9million by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The land where the original cottage stood has been excavated. Foundation stones and remains of an outside wall were found and removed, the situation of the fire place was discovered and from these finds the dimensions of the cottage have been replicated at Beamish. Artefacts found on the site included several buttons, one made from metal and another from bone. There were pieces of pottery, a bone that had been worked to a point and a groat. The reconstruction of the cottage is progressing despite winter hold ups, the stone walls are held using a lime mortar which cannot be used when the temperature dips below 4 degrees. The challenge of the heather thatching will soon be undertaken. It is expected that the Cottage will be open this year hopefully in the summer. There will be an expansion of the 1820s landscape at Beamish including a Coaching Inn (where visitors will be able to stay) and other examples of early industry.

Geraldine Straker, Remaking Beamish Community Participation Officer, came to Newbrough WI earlier this year to talk about the project and she came last Wednesday afternoon with Nanette, a volunteer at Beamish, both dressed as Georgian maids to talk about Joe the Quilter. They brought to life living in Georgian times, we imagined ourselves as Georgian ladies in period dresses and bonnets, made 'corn' dollies out of straws, tried our hand at writing with feathers and had a hilarious time making silhouettes of our neighbour's profile.

We were able to see a beautiful example of a white quilt exquisitely hand made by volunteers at the museum. It took nearly 800 hours to stitch under modern conditions. The quilt is a replica of one of Joe's quilts which is in Beamish's collection. There are several of Joe's quilts still in existence.

If you would like more information about the Joe the Quilter project then please contact Geraldine Straker, tel. 0191 370 4060, geraldinestraker@beamish.org.uk

Plogging

Kevin H. Hilton

I read in the Stanegate
Plogging's the thing,
Gathering others rubbish
To put in a bin.

As you go for a stroll
Tale a bin bag along,
Removing louts litter
Until it's all gone.

But don't get disheartened
If the rubbish comes back,
Some litterers get a thrill
There's something they lack.

There're bottles and cans
Even items of clothing,
All far and wide
Wherever you're roaming.

From hedgerows and fields
To streets and the garden,
Littering's not cool
Not something to pardon.

So show some respect
And give plogging a go,
For the people and the wildlife
It's worth it you know.

Newbrough Town Hall

What's on in June

Friday 1st	Parkinsons' group	10.30-12.30
Saturday 2nd	Hairdresser (Sophie)	9.30-12.30
Monday 4th	Stanegate Readers	7pm
Tuesday 5th	Badminton	7.30-9.30
Monday 11th	Sewing Group	1-3pm
Tuesday 12th	Badminton	7.30-9.30
Thursday 14th	WI Meeting	7pm
Tuesday 19th	Badminton	7.30-9.30
Friday 22nd	Race Night 1st Race	7.30

£5.50 To include Pie & Pea Supper
Tickets to be bought in advance from the Garage

Saturday 23rd	Hairdresser (Sophie)	9.30-12.30
Monday 25th	Sewing Group	1-3pm
Tuesday 26th	Badminton	7.30-9.30

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April Featherwatch

April sees the welcome return of swallows. Two were perched on a line at Kingshaw Green on the 18h of April, but the first record of a swallow within the parishes is of one seen at Allerwash on the 19th by Mary Wilson. Another individual swallow was seen on the 21st at High Stonecroft by Joan Steven. Other late April sightings included one on a wire below the old post office in Fourstones on the 25th and another near Whinny Hill on the same day. The swallows at Morwood beyond Grindon Lough, which usually return around the 14th, did not return until the 23rd. At Park Shield the Gate Cottage swallows returned with exited twitterings on the 4th of May, which was eight days earlier than last year, but still later than their more usual arrival date in late April.

Featherwatch's first chiffchaff was heard on the 19th of April and a willow warbler on the 20th. They look much alike and song is the best way to identify them.

A whitethroat was spotted at Newbrough and a blackcap at Thornton Tower on the 7th May by Kevin Hilton who captured a nice shot of a yellow wagtail between Watersmeet and the A69 road bridge on the 12th of May.

Sadly, they are in decline in the UK so Kevin's note that this bird was one of breeding pair is good to hear. Swifts normally return sometime in the first week of May, but proved elusive this year. The first recorded in the Fourstones logbook is one spotted by "Tim" over St. Aidan's Park on the 11th of May.

Footnote.
Morwood swallows - Neville White.

← Whitethroat

Yellow wagtail →

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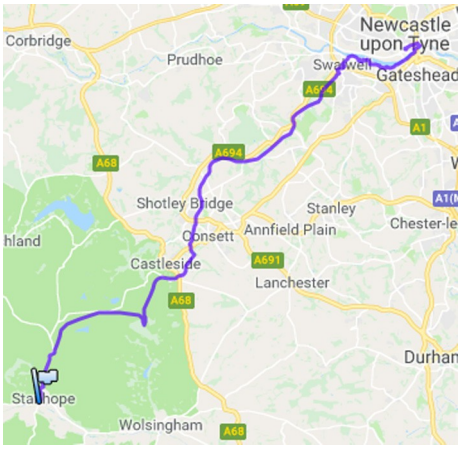
'Off the rails' Completed

Kevin H. Hilton

I would like to thank all of the customers and the staff of Fourstones Filling Station who were among those who sponsored my 'Off the Rails' walk from Stanhope to Newcastle on 15th May 2018. I covered the 30 miles in 11 hours 40 minutes. Together you managed to raise around £600 towards Hexham & District Photographic Society's new projector. The weather was glorious and the birds were singing. I took over 300 photographs along the route, the majority of which you can now watch as a 5 minute walkthrough video on my Youtube channel at: https://youtu.be/SviUxdu_4ik T-Services, an industry sponsor, who donated an additional £200, provided an extra surprise break half way through the walk with some hidden drink and nibbles.

I believe special praise should also go to Kristin Moat, Head of Physiotherapy at Hexham Hospital. The reason I take this opportunity to share this is because I used to suffer from chronic sciatica, with severe pains down both legs. It was so bad that not so long ago I could barely manage to walk 2 miles. A number of back specialists had given me the same story that I would just have to learn to live with it. After visiting Kristin for just one session and being instructed on a series of short daily exercises the back trouble was cured within weeks and as I have now shown I can walk 30+ miles in a day with no sign of sciatica.

Thanks Kristin for giving me back my walking.



Bonus Ball draw for the over 60s' Christmas party

APRIL		
14th	38	Barry Dixon
21st	38	Barry Dixon
28th	20	Christine Robley
MAY		
5th	41	Ida Stanners

Town Hall 200+ Club

MAY DRAW

1st	85	Kevin Batey
2nd	75	Martin Plumb
3rd	66	Laura Black

April Weatherwatch

A dogged winter was reluctant to give way to spring as wintry weather dragged on well into April. With occasional sunshine a cool Easter Sunday, the 1st, saw the pick of the bank holiday weekend weather such as it was, while a wretched Easter Monday brought conditions more akin to mid-winter than early spring. Large wet snowflakes began falling at around a quarter to nine on a gloomy morning and snow fell on past noon, swirling in the wind at times. By one o'clock snow lay on higher ground, including the fields below Carr Edge Plantation, before snow turned to sleet and then rain in mid-afternoon. The close to freezing daily maximum of 2.3C (36.1F) recorded at Park Shield was the lowest April daily maximum in a fourteen year Weatherwatch record and from earlier Park Shield temperature readings possibly the coldest April daily maximum in at least thirty years.

Light but steady rain fell through the morning of a raw and cloudy 4th before it turned to wet snow at around five-thirty in the afternoon. This petered out before eight o'clock, leaving a brief white covering on the fells either side of the Long Bank to Tower Tye. More rain in the evening resulted in a daily total of 11.6 millimetres at Park Shield, making the day the wettest in April. Taken together with the rain that had fallen previous to this the first four days of April produced not far short of half the month's total rainfall.

The 5th brought another touch of winter as the April minimum of -1.1C was recorded in the early hours, leaving grass white with frost. Then, in an upturn in fortune the next four days were milder, culminating in a respectable daily maximum of 15.1C at Park Shield on the sunny 9th. However, wintry weather made a swift return as an incoming cold front caused temperatures to plunge on the 10th, to bring a daily high of only 6.2C. The cold air mass that followed the front made the days from then up to the 13th thoroughly dismal. All were murky, rainy and sunless, with daily maximums of a degree or so either side of six Celsius being on a par with those that might be expected in January or February.

But in another sudden about turn in the weather the daily maximum on the 14th was a very much warmer 14.3C and daily maximums up to the 17th were of a similar order. Warmth increased as sub-tropical air streamed up from the Azores and the winter cold of just a few days before was replaced by summer heat. An unlikely April heatwave began with a daily maximum of 19.7C on the 18th and this was followed by consecutive daily maximums of 21.4C, 16.2C and 19.4C respectively at Park Shield. Besides being this April's maximum the 21.4C (70.5F) of the 19th was the third highest April temperature on Park Shield record and only a whisker below the 21.8C of 2007 and the 21.5C of 2011. The weather broke overnight into the 22nd with a fierce thunderstorm that began with a loud clap of thunder at around one a.m. and rumbled on menacingly for some time. A lightning strike put telephone landlines out of action at High Stonecroft and other properties in the vicinity. Daytime temperatures subsided in the wake of the thunderstorm but remained a degree or so above the average for that time in spring until the end of the month.

The warmth in the second half of April more than compensated for the cold in the first half so that the monthly mean ended over a degree Celsius above average.

WW continued on page 13.....

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Weatherwatch continued.....

The second half of April was drier as well as warmer than the first half. After the rains of early April rain fell intermittently over the cold spell of the 10th to the 13th and more on the 15th brought a rainfall of 47.2 mm for the first half of the month. A scant 8.2 millimetres was recorded at Park Shield after this, resulting in a close to average April total of 55.4 mm (c.2.2").

Because many recent Aprils have been much warmer than average, particularly the record breaking ones of 2007 and 2011, this past April only lies in the middle of the Weatherwatch rankings in terms of warmth. But although the bare figures class it as relatively ordinary April, weather that lurched from winter to summer before finally settling for spring, made it a quite extraordinary month.

April Weatherwatch Factfile.
Temperature. Park Shield mean monthly maximum : c.11.8C. Mean monthly minimum : c.4.5C. Monthly mean : c.8.2 C and c.1.4C above average. Highest overnight minimum : 12.2C at 03.30 on the 22nd. Frosts : One. E&NE England mean monthly maximum : 12.3C. Mean monthly minimum : 4.9C. Monthly mean : 8.6C and 1.2C above the 1981-2010 average. UK maximum : 29.1C (84.4F) at St. James's Park (London) on the 19th.UK minimum : -8.8C (16.2F)at Tulloch Bridge (Inverness-shire) on the 1st.

Rainfall & Sunshine. Park Shield average April rainfall c. 60 mm. One hour maximum : 4.2 mm to 19.00 on the 15th. E&NE England rainfall and sunshine 138% & 88% of the1981-2010 average respectively.

Four Seasons

Barbara Hunt

Well it's that time of year again - rhubarb season! From the first stalks of forced rhubarb in the shops until mid summer, rhubarb is constantly on the menu. I'm pleased to see that along with cauliflower, rhubarb is experiencing something of a renaissance! From radio programmes, recipes and articles in magazines, there is a new focus on these vegetables and many more.

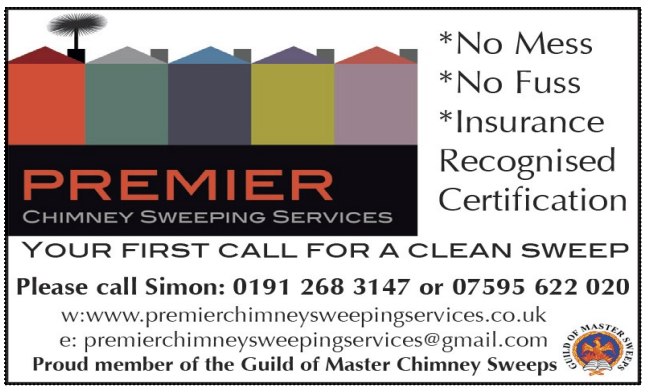
I always test any recipe I include on this page and I particularly enjoyed having an excuse to make some Rhubarb Gin. I have never made this before although I have sampled quite a few. It couldn't be easier to make and I made use of the internet to get the best gin bargain locally.

One of my favourite uses of rhubarb is in jam and it is a particularly good accompaniment to croissants. Because of the high fat content in croissants, the sharpness of rhubarb jam is a perfect partner; it cuts through the richness.

Rhubarb is quite versatile in savoury and sweet dishes and the fruity, tartness can be used effectively to offset or compliment the richness of lamb and other fattier foods including oily fish. Rhubarb can also be used as a replacement for the sweet/sour flavour of tamarind in curries and I have researched a few recipes for lentil curry and the one I have included is very simple but surprisingly tasty!

Checking through previous recipe contributions I was surprised to note that I hadn't included a recipe for roasted asparagus. I discovered this way of cooking asparagus about 20 years ago and I never cook it any other way. The recipe can be served as an easy starter or just as an accompaniment to any meal. I rarely use salt but in this recipe a scattering of coarse sea salt does make a difference.

Recipes continued on page 14.....



Recipes continued…….

Roasting is a great way to cook asparagus. There is no water added so the true flavour comes through and the asparagus remains crisp. Also you don't need to search for a suitably tall enough pan in which to cook it!

Rhubarb Gin

1kg Rhubarb stalks
400g white caster sugar
800ml Gin

Wash the rhubarb, trim the stalks and discard the base and any leaves. Cut the stalks into 3cm lengths. Put in a large jar with the sugar. Shake everything around, put the lid on and leave overnight. The sugar will draw the juice out of the rhubarb.

After 24 hrs, add the gin, seal and shake everything around. Leave for about 4 weeks before drinking. You can strain the liquor off through a muslin-lined sieve and transfer to a bottle, or just leave the rhubarb gin in the jar and ladle it into drinks that way. Over time the rhubarb and the gin go a much paler colour – this doesn't look as dramatic. A good reason to drink it fresh!

Roasted Asparagus -
Oven temp 200 - 220C Gas no 6
700g (1 ½ lb) asparagus spears
90ml (6tbsp) olive oil
45ml (3tbsp) lemon juice
Coarse sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
NB The cooking time applies to stalks of medium thickness, adjust the time accordingly

To serve
Rocket leaves Lemon wedges Parmesan cheese shavings (optional)

1. Trim the woody ends from the asparagus spears, then lay the asparagus on a large baking tray. Spoon over 60ml (4tbsp) of the olive oil and shake lightly to mix.
2. Place in the oven and roast for 10 - 12 mins or until the asparagus is just
tender, shaking gently halfway through cooking. Allow to cool.
3. To serve, spoon the remaining olive oil over the asparagus and sprinkle with the lemon juice. Season with coarse sea salt and freshly ground black pepper and toss lightly.
4. Serve with rocket leaves and lemon wedges. Sprinkle with finely pared shavings of Parmesan, if liked.

Rhubarb and Lentil curry

1 onion	1 garlic clove	2 sticks rhubarb
200g brown basmati rice		2 tsp garam masala
1 tsp turmeric		150g red lentils
1 tbsp demerara sugar		1 lemon
150g plain yogurt		Handful fresh coriander
50g spinach (a good handful)		
400ml + 300ml hot water		1 tbsp olive oil
Freshly ground black pepper		Sea Salt

Prep: 10 mins | Cook: 30 mins

Method continued on page 15…….

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Rhubarb & lentil curry continued.....

1. Tip the rice into a large bowl and cover with cold water. Whisk for 1-2 mins till the water goes cloudy. Drain and rinse under cold water.

2. Tip the rice into a small pan. Add 400ml boiling water and a pinch of salt. Cover. Bring the pan to the boil. Turn the heat right down and gently simmer the rice for 25 mins till it's tender and the water is absorbed. Take off the heat. Set aside, lid on, for 5 mins to finish cooking the rice.

3. Peel and chop the onion. Peel and finely slice the garlic. Trim and chop the rhubarb into 2cm pieces. Heat a deep frying pan or wok and add 1 tbsp olive oil. Add the onion and garlic. Stir and fry for 4 mins till soft and glossy.

4. Add 2 tsp garam masala to the onions and cook for 2 mins. Add 1 tsp turmeric. Tip in the red lentils and stir thoroughly to coat with the spiced onions.

5. Pour in 150ml boiling water and stir for 3 mins till absorbed. Add the rhubarb with another 150ml boiling water. Add 1 tbsp sugar. Stir and cook for 10 mins till the rhubarb is just soft and the lentils are cooked through.

6. Grate or pare the zest from the lemon. Stir into the yogurt. Juice one half and slice the other half into wedges to serve. Pour the juice into the lentils. Stir the spinach through the lentils to just wilt it.

7. Roughly chop the coriander leaves. Stir half of the chopped coriander through the lentils, saving the rest for later. Fluff up the rice with a fork.

8. Serve the lentil and rhubarb curry with the rice. Top with a dollop of yogurt and a scattering of the remaining coriander leaves.
Serve with a lemon wedge on the side for squeezing.

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

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Nature Notes (NN)

After being held back by wintry weather in early April spring began to gather pace in response to mid-month warmth. On the 16th the Crow Wood wood anemones were in flower and a small group of pale-coloured sweet violets was flowering in the verge opposite the Crow Wood lay-by. At the same time the first dandelions dotted fresh green roadside verges yellow. They popped up in increasing numbers until the first week of May brought the main flush. Many formed large eye-catching clumps. In the third week the number of dandelion clocks grew by the day.

Cow parsley fringing the parishes' verges is another familiar spring sight. Flowering was first noted on the 17th of April and full flower was nearing after the 21st.

Also on the 17th, blackthorn blossom was first noted and by the 23rd it had broken out in valley hedges, including those lining the Mossy Bank and the one opposite Kiln Cottages. Last year its blossom was fading by mid-April, but this spring it was the second week of May before it turned grey.

The first Nature Notes small tortoiseshell sighting was on the hot 19th of April and the first *NN* peacock was noted on the second of May. Two less common comma butterflies were noted on the 4th. *NN's* first orange tips were also seen on the 4th when several flitted along a hedgerow beyond West Boat. An earlier sighting was made in the field opposite to the Newbrough Burn footbridge in Crow Wood, where a favoured food plant, lady's smock, grows. Rows of another main food plant garlic mustard front hedgerows, earning it the country name of Jack-by-the-hedge. Its first white flowers were showing on the 22nd of April before general flowering began in the last week.

On the 20th the floodbank upriver from Warden Bridge was spattered bright yellow by countless cowslips grown from seed, while native cowslips near the lime kiln in the field opposite the access to Frankham Fell and those under the fingerpost pointing the way to it were just appearing. A few cowslips cling on in the verge at the top of the Long Bank. Also on the 20th primroses in the raised verge by the bridge past Allerwash Mill were in full flower and like cowslips this was about two weeks later than last spring.

On the 23rd of April dozens of garlic plants at the top of Crow Wood displayed white star-like flowers.

Before mid-May garlic in full flower carpeted much of the north half of the wood and the air was heavy with its distinctive smell. Wild garlic is also found in local verges. Small patches occur at intervals along Homers Lane, which is also home to greater stitchwort.

Straggling masses of its bright white flowers form attractive billows in spring. NN recorded its first few flowers on the 25th of April. At the same time loose mounds of sky blue forget-me-nots were in flower. On the 1st of May the first *NN* red campion was flowering in the broad sweep of the verge west of Allerwash Cottages. More appeared as the days passed forming a random series of variously sized groups. By mid-May tall deep pink stands of red campion, interspersed with the blue mists of forget-me-nots and the odd white billow of greater stitchwort put on a colourful display.

The many flowerings that occurred from mid-April took place against a background of the steady greening of the countryside as the warmth that triggered them also stimulated leaf growth in trees, bushes and hedges. In mid-April, horse chestnuts were the first trees to leaf, over two weeks later than last year. But they leafed up quickly and by mid-May carried an impressive array of white candles. Other trees leafed up towards the end of April. The sudden surge of warmth at the end of the first week of May accelerated leafing and many Trees were approaching full foliage by mid-May, while ash trees were showing their first pale green leaves.

Hawthorn hedges were tinged with green at the end of the third week of April and were almost fully leafed by the end of the first week of May. The first few small specks of white blossom were noted in a hedge beyond West Boat on the 7th. However, the early May surge of heat prompted more blossom to break out in hedges and on bushes elsewhere and by the 19th hawthorn almost in full blossom decked hedges and bushes everywhere. Having played catch up, the countryside looked much the same as it had done at the same time last spring and trees that had been a haze of green a relatively short time before, were now resplendent in range of vibrant green foliage.

All four seasons have their own charms, but when the countryside is fresh and spruce and at its spring best few would argue that this it is not the most beautiful time of the year.

Church Pages

Who's Who

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for all enquiries:
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map: http://g.co/maps/4ncd

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Tel: 01434 220283

Roman Catholic

Parish Priest: Fr Leo Pyle
St John's Presbytery
North Road
Haydon Bridge
NE47 6LP
Tel: 01434 684265

From the Registers in April

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

There were no Christenings in the Parish during April.

Weddings:
Jesus said 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you: remain in my love'.

There were no weddings in the Parish during April.

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

There were no funerals in the Parish during April.

St John of Beverley, Haydon Bridge

Mass Times: No Saturday vigil mass
Sunday Morning 9:30am
No Sunday evening mass

If you have any queries about service times please contact:

haydonbridge.stjohn@rcdhn.org.uk
or call 01434 684265

Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

Preachers for June

3rd	Mr G Wilson
10th	Mr R Bland
17th	Mrs M Burgess
24th	Mrs V Herod

All Services at 10.30am
Everyone welcome

Father Leo writes.....

In the Spirit our faith becomes an affair of the heart. Not just the head. In the Spirit we no longer follow an overly patriarchal religion. A men only religion! We freely admit the feminine enrichment of our thinking, speaking and acting.

With life in the Spirit our asceticism and mortification takes on a positive quality. No self-hatred and mutilation but rather development of physical sensibility. Our disciplines are directed to creativity. Like the musician who practices to produce great music. Like the athlete who trains to win. In the Spirit we even rejoice in our God-given passions, directing them blessedly.

Our Spirit-filled God is Father, Mother and child. All things to all. Our sufferings are but the birth pangs of the universe. Never divine retribution. Death even, in the Spirit, is but the prelude to rebirth. Informed by the Spirit, our holiness is openness and hospitality to life and persons, places and things. Never negative. Never withdrawal, introversion and individualist, save-my-soul-spirituality. Our quest together is for ever greater perfection and innocence. Hence our thirst. Our thirst for the Holy Spirit. That we may grow, expand and be ever young at heart. Ever more nearly all we are meant to be.

Our story begins and ends with the Spirit. Our history opens with God's creative energy and original blessing whom we call the Holy Spirit. Hence our extrovert spirituality which looks in wonder upon the cosmos, God's creation and universe. Our prayer feeds on this vast inspiration. So far from seeking signs we live with the miracle of existence. "It is good (wonder-ful) for us to be here".

Ecologically sensitive, cosmically aware, so far from fearing the sciences we recognise our debt to the scientist who teaches us about our creator. We are not "either/or people". We are "both/and people", welcoming body and soul. So far from despising ourselves, we befriend ourselves. Not tightly controlled selves but yielding to the Spirit of breakthrough, ecstasy and spontaneity.

We are hopeful, not pessimistic. Dancing to the rhythm of creation we are not elitist, but one for all and all for one. Our Spirit-filled Christ, after all, is the cosmic Christ. The Universalist, our Lord Jesus Christ, is through, with and in all. And with his gift of the Holy Spirit, this Pentecost he calls us to our divinity, to fulfil our potential. We can but repeat in joy and trust, "Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful."

Church Services
June 2018
Parish of Warden with Newbrough

3rd 1st Sunday after Trinity
10.00am Parish Eucharist at St. Peter Newbrough

10th 2nd Sunday after Trinity
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) at St. Michael & All Angels Warden

17th 3rd Sunday after Trinity
10.00am Parish Communion (BCP) at St. Michael & All Angels Warden

24th 4th Sunday after Trinity
8.30am Holy Communion at St. Peter Newbrough

If you have any queries about services please see the church notice boards or call Reverend Jeremy Thompson on 01434 600268

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