

The Stanegate

Newbrough, Fourstones, Warden
and surrounding hamlets

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The Red Lion

Congratulations must go to Andy and Sue and The Red Lion which has been named the 'Best Licensed Premises in Northumberland' at the recent Northumberland in England Business Awards Show.

Friends of Newbrough Primary School

Donation Drive

DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR OUR SUMMER FAIR STALLS:

- Tombola prizes (small items)
- Bottles for the bottle stall (anything unopened that fits in a bottle bag)
- Clothes in good condition
- Nearly new books
- Teddies looking for a new home
- Bottle bags
- Good quality hangers
- Cakes/traybakes for the Cake Stall
- Thank you for all your support

Drop off
at school
by 26th
JUNE

Newbrough Primary School Summer Fair -
Saturday 27th June, 12-2pm
FREE ENTRY, all welcome
Stalls, games, dog show, food & drink

Calendar of Events

JUNE

- 7th Open Gardens
1pm - 4.30pm, see p8
- 8th Crochet Café, 1pm - 3pm
Town Hall lounge. See p8
- 11th Newbrough WI
Town Hall, 7pm
- 25th Town Hall Quiz, 8pm
Doors open at 7.15pm
- 27th School PTA Summer Fair
12noon - 2pm

JULY

- 4th Shibashi Workshop
10am - 11.30pm
Open to all. See p8



Save the dates

Sunday, 30th August
Fun Dog Show and BBQ
See p3

Saturday 5th September
Parish Produce Show

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The Stanegate

Do you have a story, an image, an idea or feedback you'd like to share in the Stanegate, then please send to the editorial team :

*Janice Baylis, Dave Spearman,
Sophie Straker & Chris Tolan-Smith*
at thestanegate@hotmail.com

**the deadline for the July edition is
Friday 12th June 2026**

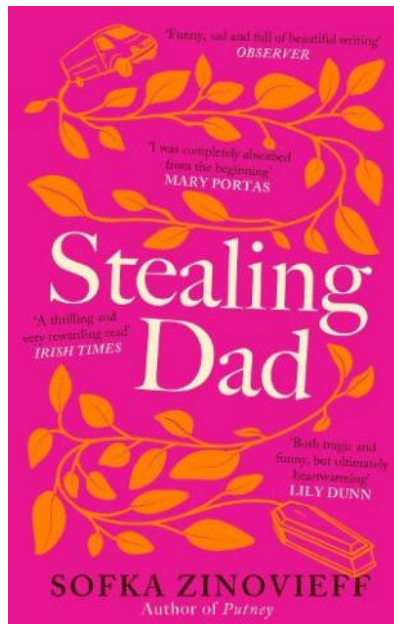
‘Stealing Dad’ by Sofka Zinovieff

Although the group discussed this book in April, it was decided that a review would not be written until we had been to hear the author at the Book Festival.

This is a story about a Greek sculptor, called Alekos, who has a heart attack whilst walking beside a London canal, falls in and drowns. He was not only an alcoholic, but a womanizer, having had six wives and at least two relationships, resulting in seven children. The children are of different nationalities living in various countries, so consequently have very little to do with each other.

This changes after the death of their father, as the last wife Heather announces that Alekos wished for only her to be at the funeral and after his cremation his ashes to be scattered over one of his sculptures, in their garden. The children are upset by this decision and try to persuade Heather to change her mind, but to no avail.

Between them the children come up with the idea of stealing their father from the undertaker and whisking him up to an ‘imaginary’ island off Scotland.



There follows a rather incredulous journey and cremation on the beach.

We meet various other people connected to the family including two of his ex-wives, as well as some of his friends. Despite Alekos being an absent and unreliable father, some of the children have fond feelings for him and others even change their view of him, as they begin to discuss their different experiences. The characterisation of the seven children is excellent.

In general, the group enjoyed the book.

Despite there being a family tree at the back of the book, some of us had to make one for ourselves, so as to know who was who!

In the book, the author states that this is a book of fiction, but we did learn from her that her own father had been married four times and had six children. Also that he was an alcoholic and that he only wanted his widow to be at the funeral. It turns out that she and her siblings were finally given some of the ashes and did go to Scotland and had a ceremony, but a year later.



Save the Date

PAWS and GRILLS

Fun Dog Show and Barbecue

Sunday 30th August at The Red Lion, Newbrough. 12 - 5pm

Dog show, have-a-go agility, sausage on a plate race

Barbecue, tea, coffee, cakes and Bar





Support for rural off-grid fuel costs

The Crisis and Resilience Fund is now in place and will operate across Northumberland until 31 March 2029. To be clear this fund can be used to support those in need and is not restricted to those on benefits.

The fund is available to support vulnerable households who are in financial crisis, as well as provide preventative support to help people avoid falling into, or falling further into, crisis. The grant is funded by the Department for Work and Pensions and managed locally by Northumberland County Council.

The Crisis Payments element of the fund aims to support:

- > Individuals who have experienced financial shock – a sudden, unexpected expense or change in income
- > Individuals who without support, would end up in crisis
- > Those in immediate need of short-term financial support
- > Households with low income

* * * * *

What the fund supports

Applications for financial support will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, with local discretion as appropriate. Funding may help with:

- > food
- > energy and water to support with domestic heating, cooking or lighting, including portable gas cylinders. It can also be used to support water bills
- > additional support is now available with heating oil as a result of the increase in costs due to conflict in the Middle East
- > essentials linked to energy and water including:
 - sanitary products
 - warm clothing
 - soap
 - blankets
 - purchase of new and used equipment including white goods, etc.
- > wider essentials these may include support with, but not limited to:
 - other bills including broadband or phone bills
 - clothing
 - essential transport-related costs such as repairing a car or paying for fuel
- > housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet need, the fund can be used to support some elements of housing costs

The fund can provide preventative support with the aim of preventing poverty locally and building local resilience.

All details including an application form can be found on the Northumberland County Council website or can be made over the phone on [01670 620 015](tel:01670620015)

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Newbrough Womens Institute

Annual Meeting : Thursday 14th May 2026

The President welcomed the members and we sang Jerusalem.

WI Advisor Moira Bengston, our adjudicator for the Annual Meeting, was introduced and the monthly business commenced.

The correspondence contained many invites from Cresswell House and neighbouring WIs, names of interested parties were taken. A request to contribute to the Methodists' Chapel 150th celebration in July was discussed and volunteers were sought to help with refreshments for the Village Open Garden event on the 7th of June.

The Secretary outlined a new proposal for our planned summer outing in June. It was too late to book transport, so we are changing the June meeting to an evening meeting with a speaker. A trip to a Christmas Market in November was suggested instead.

There followed an update of our South Tyne Group meeting on the 16th of April held in Newbrough Town Hall. Northumberland Federation Chairman Marjorie Read was present along with members from Newbrough, Bardon Mill, Greenhead and the newly formed Haydon Hearts WIs. The speaker was Alistair Myers from North Pennine First Aid Training, who gave us a demonstration of CPR and Defibrillator and a very entertaining talk explaining how anyone can be useful in an emergency.

The evening continued with a shared buffet. The bar was open and it was lovely to catch up with fellow members. Bardon Mill WI won the competition for best Spring Wreath. A very enjoyable evening indeed.

That concluded our monthly business and the WI advisor was then invited to take over the proceedings to conduct the Annual Meeting.

Members voted on the current resolutions : 'Access to Public Toilets' and 'Action on Womens Homelessness' and all present agreed that both resolutions were worthy topics to be taken forward to the National Annual Meeting in October.

There followed a discussion about the implications of the recent Supreme Court ruling re the Equality Act 2010 on our constitution as a Womens' Only charitable organisation.

A ballot was then conducted to elect our committee members. President Judith Kirby was re-elected as were most of the committee, but Dorothy Sowerby and Catherine Grant have decided to stand down from their roles in the committee this year and they were thanked by the President and presented with gifts for their contributions.

After the Annual meeting was closed, the advisor judged the competition and the winner for the best recipe was Jennifer Clark, with Teresa Bessant runner up. The raffle won by Vanessa Ashton and the table flowers won by Ann Wodzinski.

Moira was thanked and presented with flowers for adjudicating our Annual Meeting

Finally, to confirm, our June meeting on the 11th has been changed from our annual day trip to an evening meeting at the Town Hall.

A busy meeting indeed

Bonus Ball draw 2026

March			April		
7th	Carol Gradwell	19	4th	John Taylor	52
14th	Neville White	59	11th	Jackie Liddle	31
21st	Alf Weaver	46	18th	Keith Annan	48
8th	Cath Clark	18	25th	David Teasdale	23



News from Newbrough C of E Primary School

At Newbrough C of E Primary School, we continue to be incredibly proud of the kindness, compassion and community spirit shown by our children and families. Recently, several of our families took part in the Children's Cancer Run at Newcastle Racecourse, raising money and awareness for an incredibly worthwhile cause. Their commitment, enthusiasm and determination were inspiring and perfectly reflect the values we work so hard to promote in school each day.

Acts of kindness, generosity and support for others are central to our school ethos and form an important part of our ongoing work towards achieving the Super Kind Award. We are passionate about helping our children understand the importance of empathy, community and making a positive difference in the world around them. A huge well done to everyone involved for their hard work, effort and support.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Dan and the team at Ezoic for their incredibly kind donation of new furniture and technology equipment for school. Their generosity will have a real impact on the children's learning environment and opportunities, and we are extremely grateful for their support.

We are also delighted to share some exciting news for families in our local community. From September, we will be able to extend our provision to offer five places for children aged 2 years and 0 months. This is a wonderful opportunity to further strengthen our early years provision and welcome even younger children into our nurturing school environment.

As part of this exciting development, our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Steph Graham, will be moving to Nursery and Reception alongside Miss Katie Briddock and Mrs Gemma Briddock. Together, they will continue to provide the warm, caring and high-quality early education that our families value so highly. We already have exciting plans in place to adapt and develop the setting to accommodate our younger children and create an engaging environment where they can thrive. Interest in the new places has already been extremely positive and spaces are almost full. If you would like to add your child to the waiting list, please scan the QR code provided.



Finally, a reminder that our annual Summer Fair will take place on Saturday 27th June from 12pm to 2pm. We would love to see as many familiar and new faces there as possible for what promises to be another fantastic community event.

Many thanks,
Mike Boucetla
Executive Headteacher,
Newbrough and Wark C of E Primary Schools

Mobile Library in June

Tuesday 9th June 2026

Newbrough - Home Farm Estate	14.10 - 14.30
Newbrough - Sidgate	14.35 - 14.55
Fourstones - Green Church	15.00 - 15.20





Newbrough Town Hall and Bunkhouse

Sheron Robson, Co-Chair

It's been a busy month at the Town Hall, and walkers and cyclists are returning to the Bunkhouse in good numbers. We were delighted to welcome back the annual Hexham Art Exhibition, which proved to be a great success. There are already discussions about hosting a pre-Christmas event in November. Thank you to everyone who came along to support and enjoy the exhibition.

Our final Highlights North event of the spring season took place, and we've now selected our programme for the autumn. We always aim to choose events that will appeal to the community, but we're always happy to hear your suggestions – please do let us know if there's something you'd love to see at the Hall.

With Open Gardens as our main event this month, we've been able to use Friends of the Hall contributions to make improvements to the courtyard, including repairs to the pergola and the installation of a hanging basket watering system. The courtyard will host the plant sale and will also be used throughout the summer as a versatile outdoor space for both adult and children's parties held at the Hall.

We are continuing to lock the public toilet after 4pm following recent incidents of vandalism. We will keep this under review, as we aim to strike a balance between providing a valued community service and managing the demands on our volunteers' time in maintaining the facility.

Open Gardens '26 – A Blooming Good Day Out

We're delighted to announce the return of Open Gardens, after more than a decade away! Join us for a wonderful afternoon exploring a selection of ten stunning private gardens across Newbrough and Fourstones; the perfect opportunity to soak up the sights, scents, and serenity right on your doorstep. Don't miss this rare chance to experience our community's best-kept secrets and support the heart of our village!

Date: Sunday, 7th June **Time:** 13:00 – 16:30

- Visit 10 charming local gardens, each with its own character and planting style.
- Transport provided between gardens – simply let us know if you'd like a lift.

- Browse the plant sale at the Town Hall courtyard and in selected gardens for a spot of green-fingered inspiration.
- Enjoy homemade refreshments at the Town Hall and some garden stops along the way.

Entry: £5 per person – all funds raised go directly towards vital Town Hall renovations.

For tickets, visit www.ticketsource.com and search for 'Newbrough'. Tickets can also be purchased on the day at the Town Hall, or at the garden gates. Ideally, reserve in advance on 07775 991237.

Wednesday **Tai Chi for Health** classes now continue weekly after a great turnout at the free taster class in May. Remember if you couldn't make that date your first class is always free! These classes are designed for everyone, all ages and body types, regardless of fitness level. The exercise style is smooth, gentle, and focused, while still challenging balance and coordination.

Monthly crochet café with Anne and Gill is Monday 8th June 1-3pm. Cost £10, refreshments provided.

The café aims to encourage beginners and those who want to develop their skills.

Contact Anne on riffic15@yahoo.co.uk to book or drop in.

Quiz is June 25th. Testing questions including a practical task, great value bar, tasty snacks, and a round of drinks for the winners (at the next quiz). Doors at 7.15, quiz starts at 8pm £2 entry, teams of up to six.

If you want to come along but don't have a team, there's always a team of 'Hall helpers' that you could join in with.

Upcoming Dates for your diary:

Free **Shibashi workshop on 4th of July** 10-11.30

followed by refreshments. Open to all, not just those attending the Wednesday class. Shibashi is a sequence of 18 movements following tai chi principles using controlled breathing. It can reduce stress, improve circulation and enhance energy balance.

We hope to run the free **defibrillator training** in July – pending instructor availability – watch this space for details. *continued.....*

Monday **Pilates** 12.15 Val blends traditional and contemporary Pilates with functional exercise and fun variations to keep things fresh and challenging. See www.valravelle.com for details
Yoga 6.30pm Friendly group, Jane adapts for those less/more bendy.
 See www.jiyoga83.com for more information and how to book or drop in on the day.

Wednesday **Tai Chi for Health** 11.30 – 12.45 Enhance your wellbeing through gentle movement.
 Contact Kathryn on wellbeingfromwithin@outlook.com or 07721494315 for more details
Bowls - 7pm. Fancy a go? Or come to watch, friendly non-competitive group who enjoy a gentle addictive game, alongside a cuppa, biscuits and a natter. Contact 01434 674406

Friday **Zumba** 6pm, more than just a workout, it's a party with a purpose! Find **dance.zumba.with.val** on Facebook or just drop in.
Line Dancing 7pm great exercise, social and welcoming, easy to learn and hard to quit!
linedancewithval on Facebook or just turn up

For dates and updates check: **Facebook:** Newbrough Town Hall **Instagram:** newbrough_town_hall

Senior Citizens' Trip

Rob Tindall



It's set up at last. The Senior Citizens' trip on **Thursday 27 August** will be going to Saltburn and Staithes. My involvement with the trip goes back some time but I don't think we have been to these towns before. One or two people to whom I have spoken have expressed concern about steep hills and cobbled streets but Newbrough folk are tough and it's worth it for a blast of sea air.

Once again, our coach company is Amble Coaches. The trip is supported by Newbrough and Warden Parish Councils and the Red Lion. (The latter donated the money raised from a Sausage and Bingo night.)

The trip costs nothing to participants and is open to residents of Newbrough and Warden parishes who have reached pensionable age, and their carers if appropriate.

The excursion will leave from the Red Lion at 9am and pick up - if wanted - at Butt Bank, Frankham Road End, The Green Church, Broadway, Hardhaugh and the Boatside. We would aim to be back between 5 and 6pm, depending on traffic conditions.

It is still a long way off and I will not be taking bookings until July but I thought it wise to give you early notice.



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Seats at the Park Shield / Whinney Hill cross roads.

Thanks go to Dorothy and Brian who tend the grassed areas in Warden Parish and who recently repainted the two green seats which had been covered in white painted graffiti.

Brian mentioned that the simple bench seat had been made from timbers recovered from the SouthTyne - an early example of up-cycling

Dave Spearman



Newbrough Parish Council : Annual Report

Meeting held on Wednesday 6th May 2026

Ahead of reading the Chairman's Annual Report for Newbrough Parish Council, we would like to inform members of the local parishes that the Chairman: Cllr Michael Gibson has stepped aside. As many of you know, he has been Chairman for a significant number of years and has led the Parish Council through many varied events and challenges. His knowledge and experience of the local area is invaluable. Cllr Hugh Walton has taken over the role as Chairman and is looking forward to continuing the work of the Parish Council.

Chairman's Annual Report :

Meetings were held as usual, in the Parish Room of Newbrough Town Hall, in May, September, November, January and March. The Council is grateful to the Town Hall Management Committee for being able to use such a splendid building, now celebrating its sesquicentennial.

There are many people to thank for their involvement with the Council and the parish, and it was good to see members of the public present at all meetings throughout the year. The Council welcomes positive and constructive contributions.

Thanks to Newbrough councillors - Jen Annan, Justin R Orde, Malcolm D Newson (who in spite of being ill he still has made sure the Council's interests have been served) Hugh A Walton (who also deputised as chairman), Karen E Bell and Andy R Smith. I must thank County Councillor Antonia Azocar-Nevin whose attendance and advice has provided strong links between Parish and County. [Congratulations](#) on full attendance as well as two site meetings.

I also have to thank Steve Davies for his grass cutting; it is always done to a good standard. Thanks to P McDonald & Sons, Mrs Sandra Gibson and Keith Harrison for plants and planting, Andy Smith planting at Whitebeam, the Town Hall for War Memorial planters and the Council auditor GD Scorer.

Cllr Bell, as a school governor, has kept the Council informed on the activities of Newbrough CofE Primary School where strong links with Wark school will enhance both school's positions.

It's good to see an active Newbrough and Warden Sportsfield Association. We are grateful to Wesley Foot for his energy and enthusiasm with Newbrough Cricket

Club. He has been appointed a Trustee of Sportsfield Association, and thanks to Cllr Walton for his continuing support for the club and for his regular up-dates to the Council (renewing the lease, solar panels, hedges and grass cutting).

On Remembrance Sunday, 9th November, Cllr J R Orde laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish. The Service was conducted by Reverend Michael Holland, Tynedale Methodist Circuit.

During the year, sadly, Jen lost her father Gordon, and our thoughts are with her. Also former councillor John Wood passed away. He joined the Council in 2003 and also served on the Mid Tyne Community Trust and was Chairman 2008-2009. A celebration of John's life was held in the Town Hall on 4th October.

We are pleased that the "Public First Focus" item of the agenda has given an opportunity for residents in the community, not only from Newbrough Parish but also adjoining parishes, to interact with the Council. This has resulted in providing some valuable information and feedback to the Council.

Planning Consultations -

A Tree Preservation Order that requested lopping off two branches of a Laburnum and others slightly reduced to remove weight from the trunk and make safe at 2 Home Farm The Council supports the application and the County Council had "No objection".

Full Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent for a single storey extension to South East gable of Bridge House, including demolition of section of wall beneath existing window to create access into main dwelling, and replacement of existing southern canopy with porch. The Council offered no objection to the application but are concerned with parking and other highway issues. The County Council granted permission.

Northumberland National Park Association and Northumberland County Council Consultation. Solar Panel Park Land South Of Carr Hill Plantation. Further public consultation with Mespil Energy, Cllr Smith and Walton, and Clerk met Development Manager. Application was made in August 2025 and Further Assessments and Consultation, awaiting reports.

continued.....

Listed Building Consent for Installation of a through roof balanced flue and the replacement of 5 existing roof windows at Ashley Cottage; Permission was granted.

As part of the Local Transport Plan Capital Programme 2025-2026, the Council identified the extension of the footpath on the south side of the Stanegate C227 road, from the "T" Junction with B6319 Butt Bank, to Newbrough CofE Primary School. The County Council has submitted three proposals.

Cllr Newson has kept council informed and up-dated with "Climate Change and Green Issues" and CANF meetings, Carbon Literacy for local authorities, and acted as the Council's representative with West Northumberland Primary Care Network. He has reported back from their virtual meetings.

The Council has supported, with grant aid, Community Action Northumberland (CAN), Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS), Tynedale Hospice at Home, Remembrance Wreath & Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Sport Tynedale, Newbrough & Warden Sportsfield Association, Warden and Newbrough PCC and CORE Music. The Council was also able to help Newbrough Town Hall with the cost of running the Public Convenience and with purchasing the Cinema Licence.

Newbrough & Warden Sportsfield Association were approached by the school with a request to renovate

the MUGA which was becoming a health and safety liability due to the wire fencing deteriorating and the tarmac breaking up. The Association had raised funds to carry-out the project. However there was a short-fall, and the Council agreed to grant £1,177 to complete the project.

Thanks to the efforts of Rob Tindall this year Senior Citizens' annual outing will be going to Saltburn and Staithes on Thursday 27 August. It's good news that Andy at the Red Lion helped with the costs with funds raised through a Bingo & Sausages night and the Council will also contribute.

Following a site meeting with Highways, NWL and the Parish Council it was ascertained that the East Sidgate flooding could be caused because of too much pressure on the drainage system when it rains a lot. The surface run off from the land to the north of Sidgate will need to be examined, but the investigations into the piping below Sidgate will be looked at first to see if this issue can be rectified. Also the backing-up of drains has been reported in the area around the bottom of North Road and Red Lion Inn. A contributing factor seems to be the plastic lining inserted into the clay drains, where the joining lips restricts the drainage.

Michael W Gibson

6th May 26



Allen Valley Quoits League June Dates for your diary

Sunday 7th - Wilkinson Sword – Kings Arms Wolviston (Beamish Names Due)

Saturday 13th – Roman Wall Show @ Once Brewed – Clay and Grass

Wednesday 17th – Macas & Alan Walton Shield 2nd Round Games

Friday 19th – AVL Doubles Competition

Friday 26th – AVL Singles Competiton

Saturday 27th - Simonburn - North Tyne Hunt Show Grass Quoit

The Boatside Inn

Chef Steve's Cheese Scones

Serves 4 – 6

250g self raising flour
60g butter
125g cheddar cheese
1/2 teaspoon mustard powder
1 egg
160ml milk



Method

1. pre heat oven to 200C. Line a baking tray
2. In a bowl, mix flour and mustard powder
3. Rub in the cold butter with your fingers until mixture looks like breadcrumbs
4. Add cheese and mix
5. In a separate bowl crack the egg and add milk till you get 160ml, and whisk
6. Add to the dry mix and stir just until a soft dough forms
7. Turn onto a floured surface and gently pat to about 1 inch thick
8. Cut into rounds and place on a baking tray.
Optional – brush tops with a little milk or egg
9. Bake for 12 – 15 minutes until risen and golden

Newbrough Town Hall 200 Club draw

March			April			May		
1st	Helen Murphy	187	1st	Sarah Anderson	145	1st	Mary Wilson	65
2nd	Owen McCardle	60	2nd	Margaret Bogie	4	2nd	Karen Bell	150
3rd	Sandra Lorencio	38	3rd	Doreen Dodd	149	3rd	Ralph Telfer	171

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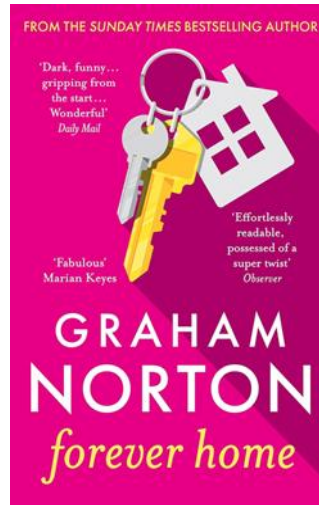
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'Forever Home' by Graham Norton

We only have three rules in our book club.
1. Only shop bought biscuits accompany our cuppa. 2. No hardback books
3. You must have read the book before you recommend it.

All three rules work well, but I confess I broke rule number 3 on this occasion. This is the book which was filmed in Hexham recently, due for screening in the Autumn. I thought it would be fun to read it before it comes on TV. The members of the book club forgave me for breaking one rule.



Carol's rather overbearing mother decides the only course of action is revenge and buys the house for Carol, - that is when things start to fall apart and become complicated after they find something in the house. Carol is forced to face Declan's past and a sinister set of events which have great significance to the plot. Carol and her mother start to find out what has really happened in the house, and how they are going to deal with the fallout. There are subplots which all add to the story's richness.

Almost everyone knows Graham Norton, comic actor, TV host and now writer. Forever Home is the 4th of 5 novels by Norton all of which have been critically well received and have been commercially successful. Set in a small seaside Irish town, it tells the story of Carol who gets a second chance of love with a work colleague, Declan, whose wife abandoned him and his children some time ago in mysterious circumstances. When Carol moves into what was once his family house all seems well despite a strained relationship with his now grown up children. Declan appears to love his house and often comments to Carol that he could never sell it. Sadly, Declan starts to show signs of dementia and is taken into a care home. Almost immediately his children kick Carol out and put the house up for sale, much to the distress of Carol.

We all felt the story was well constructed and the characters relatable. It is a kind of dark comedy which made us chuckle at times. The plot, although a little far fetched, keeps the reader engaged right until the end. Norton does cover quite serious themes in the book, the complexities of step families, dealing with someone with dementia and domineering mothers. We all felt that it would be a perfect summer read and we would try another of Norton's books. It will be interesting to see how the story is interpreted for TV. I have it on good authority there will be changes to the story, not least that it will be set in Northumberland!

Fourstones and Newbrough Monthly Weather Information for April 2026

Lowest temperature was -1.1C at 6.34 AM on the 14th
Highest temperature was 23.5C at 3.25PM on the 24th
Strongest wind gust was 51mph at 1.53AM on the 5th
Highest daily rainfall was 4.6mm on the 15th
Monthly rainfall total was 14.6mm

April saw the highest wind speed of the year to date as a result of Storm Dave passing through. For those who live at a higher elevation in the villages, stronger gusts were very much likely to have occurred.

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Grave News - Death on the Tyne

Stanegate local and family history section

Chris Tolan-Smith

The burial registers of St Peter's, Newbrough have been transcribed by members of the Northumberland and Durham Family History Society. Most entries simply record the name of the interred, their age and the date of their burial, but occasionally extra details are found. An entry for April 30th 1782 records the burial of Thomas Maughan with the additional detail:

'drowned in attempting to cross North Tyne at How Ford in a cart with three horses - All lost'

How Ford is recorded in early maps as crossing the North Tyne just above the confluence with the South Tyne at Waters Meet. This was the principal means of travelling to Hexham, a bridge at Warden not being built until 1826. Apart from at Corbridge, all the bridges on both rivers had been swept away by the great flood of 1771. An attempt to build a bridge at Hexham was started in 1781 but this too was swept away in 1782 by a flood after a heavy fall of snow on March 10.

There are several interesting gravestones just a few feet from the entrance to St Peter's church. In most cases the inscriptions are too worn to be read, but that of Thomas Maughan (number 5 on the churchyard plan) is relatively clear:

Here Lieth the Body
of *Thos Maughan* of
Brokenheugh high
House who Ob 28 of
March 1782 AE 38 years

The Latin abbreviations Ob (*Obiit*) died, and Ae (*Aetatis*) aged, were commonly used on gravestones before the mid-19th century and several others can be seen at St Peter's.

The difference in date between the parish burial record and Thomas' gravestone is likely to be an error on the part of the parish clerk or the transcriber, and his gravestone recording his death as the 28 of March should be taken as correct. The flood that led to the collapse of the bridge at Hexham in 1782 was attributed to an unusually heavy fall of snow on March 10th. Thomas may have fallen foul to the same surge of melt water that swept away the bridge.

We do not know why Thomas was attempting to cross the river or in which direction. The use of a cart and several horses imply that his journey probably involved the transport of heavy materials. How Ford quarry a short distance beyond the Acomb end of the ford, suggests a context for the tragedy.



Stanegate local and family history section

If anyone has pieces of interest they would like to share for inclusion in this section of The Stanegate, please email the Editorial Team at thestanegate@hotmail.com

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NHS Trained

Newbrough Cricket Club

Bertie Spence



As we approach the beginning of our 5th season, I couldn't be happier with the preparation we have had over the winter.

We had 4 weeks of indoor nets in March followed by some time on the grass over the last few weeks. All sessions were very well attended and as always the standard has increased yet again!

We have recruited really well with Ollie, Gavin, Tom J and Dan joining us for the first time, as well as Tommy Waugh rejoining the club after 20 years playing up the leagues. We are so excited to see them all represent the club over the coming season!

As well as great recruitment, we are also improving year on year as a unit. I am incredibly positive about the season ahead and I'm hoping that all of the hard work that has gone in over the winter, paired with our increased squad depth, will pay off over the season!

I am especially excited to see the growth of Will L, James F and Poppy F over the seasons as leaders. The three of them have been given captaincy/vice captaincy roles alongside myself this season and it truly is a credit to them and their attitude over the last 4/5 years.

I really look forward to seeing lots of faces down at the club this year (even if it's just to inspect the new fence or see our new roll on covers that are arriving soon), and I really hope that we can bring some joy and silverware to the village this year!

Keep an eye on our social media pages for lots of game info and training content over the next few months!"

Green Notes

My Thoughts on the new Sustainable Farming Initiative

By Cllr Antonia Azócar-Nevin

The Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) re-opens for applications this month, but only for small farms and those without existing agreements - larger farms with existing agreements will have to wait until September to apply.

As well as providing farmers with a vital source of income, the SFI plays an important role in preventing climate change, restoring nature and achieving food security.

Applications have been capped at £100,000 per farm to ensure that large farms don't take more than their fair share, but I'm concerned that this will limit the ability of large estates to undertake nature recovery actions. I'm also disappointed that farms of less than three hectares in area have been excluded from the scheme, and that funding has been reduced for winter bird food and removed altogether for species-rich grassland. I am, however, happy about the increased support for farmers to switch to organic growing.

In summary, the new SFI is fairer than the last one but doesn't do enough for nature recovery or small-scale growers. This affects all of us, and I'll keep pushing for something better. I've already shared my concerns with our MP, and I'd love readers to do the same.

June, From the Garden

Iain O'Brien

It's time to plant out those dahlias and cannas now that June is upon us and it's not too late to direct sow later flowering annuals such as Godetia and Calendula.

Start collecting the seeds of early flowering lupins, aquilegias and **sweet rocket** → (*Hesperis matronalis*).



Hellebores seeds can be collected too. They need to be ripe and should push out of the pod themselves when squeezed. The flowers of the plants grown from those seeds tend not to look like the parent plant. So, it is unlikely to resemble the flowers you are maybe trying to keep or hoping for.

If you are wanting to grow next year's spring flowers such as wallflowers, pansies, forget-me-nots and daisies, *Bellis perennis* these need to be sown by the end of July.

Cutting back hardy geraniums and Alchemilla is advisable once they start becoming messy after flowering. It will encourage new growth and reflowering. Also, you can cut back clumps of spring flowering perennials such as *Pulmonaria* and *Brunnera*. This will encourage new fresh foliage growth.

Ornamental poppies can be deadheaded and cut right back down to ground after flowering. This can cause fresh new growth. They can also just be left after de-heading if so desired.

If you're cutting back the spent flower stalks of **Euphorbias** remember to use gloves and protect your eyes from the sap. It is latex based and can be quite an irritant to our skin and will be toxic if ingested.



← *Weigela*, *Deutzia*, *Kolkwitzia* and *Philadelphus* should all be pruned back after flowering.

Leaving them later than now to prune will mean there isn't enough growth for next year's flowers. Now is also the right time to prune your *Viburnum tinus* and you can also lightly cut back your rhododendrons after flowering as the heavy cutting back is to be done in early spring.

Keep an eye out for any branches on variegated plants that have "reverted" back to fully green and remove them to keep the plant variegated. Variegation in a plant is actually a bred virus that the plant has, and we have actively chosen to keep it in the plant. The plant is trying to fight against the virus all the time and sometimes it wins so to keep those lovely patterns in the leaves we must remove any new fully green leaves.

Keep those borders hoed as best you can, as long as the weeds are sitting on top of the soil the sun will dry out their roots and they won't regrow. Good news if you have a bad back and don't want to bend down to pick them up all the time.

Climate Literacy #5 –

Why we shouldn't use the “China Excuse” for inaction

China does currently top the global list of carbon dioxide emitters and emits thirty-nine times as much as the UK, but it would be very wrong to use this as an excuse for our own failure to act on climate change. For a start, CO₂ lasts for so long in the atmosphere that a country's annual emissions are less important than its historical emissions. The UK was the world's worst annual CO₂ emitter between 1750 and 1889, and China's historical emissions didn't exceed the UK's until 1998. Its historical emissions are still less than four times the UK's and barely half of the USA's.

It's also important to recognise that China is thirty-nine times the size of the UK, and that our CO₂ emissions per square kilometre are therefore almost identical. A fairer comparison, however, might be each country's per capita emissions. China's population is twenty times the size of the UK's, and its per capita emissions are currently just under twice that of the UK.

It's also important to acknowledge that the UK is a net importer of goods from China, and that the emissions associated with these goods are included in China's “territorial emissions”. In other words, by consuming their goods, we're exporting our emissions to the Chinese. The way to correct for this is to look at “consumption-based emissions” instead, and when we also correct for population size we discover that the average Chinese person is responsible for only 1% more emissions than the average UK resident.


China is also trying very hard to decarbonise. In 2024 it increased its renewable energy generating capacity

by 373GW, which is five times the UK's electricity generating capacity. It's signed up to the Paris Agreement and has pledged to be net zero by 2060. That might be ten years behind the UK, but China often under-promises and over-delivers. Its emissions appear to have peaked and started to fall, and it could very easily reach net zero before the UK does.

While I hope all this helps to bring some perspective to the issue, I'd argue that it's actually largely irrelevant. Even if China was a tiny, sparsely-populated country which exported very little and yet was responsible for more historical emissions than any other country but was doing nothing about it, I believe that the UK would still have a moral duty to act on climate change. We shouldn't just aspire to doing what's best while the planet burns though – we should show such inspiring leadership that the rest of the world decides to copy us. Climate change is a global problem that we'll only solve if we all work together.

As well as being a serious problem, climate change also brings great opportunity. Solving it will require the creation of good jobs, the improvement of our living standards and the restoration of nature. Those who use the “China excuse” for inaction are seeing the glass as half-empty when they could be seeing it as half-full. Instead of blaming China without knowing the facts (or mustering the courage to do what's right) and letting the opportunity to create a better world slip through our fingers, we should read up, buckle up and aim high.

Nick Morphet



Save the date !

Parish Produce Show

Saturday 5th September

Details to follow in the July Stanegate

Church Pages

Who's Who

Church of England

Parishes by the Wall (East)

The Reverend Ollie Dempsey

The Vicarage

Station Yard

Haydon Bridge

NE47 6LL

Tel: 01434 671649

Methodist

Reverend Michael Holland

Tynedale Methodist Circuit

Fern House

Catton

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Tel: 01434 683732

Roman Catholic

Parish Priest : Fr Jeffrey Dodds

Assisted by Fr Paul Kilduff

St Mary's Catholic Church

Hencotes

Hexham

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Fourstones with Warden Methodist Church

Preachers for June

7th Mr Robin Charlton

14th Mrs Sandra Martin at Fourstones
with Haydon Bridge

21st Reverend Michael Holland
Holy Communion

28th Local arrangement

All services are at 10.30am

Everyone welcome

* * * * *

Preachers for July

5th Mrs Sheila Holland - 11 am

12th Reverend Michael Holland - 3pm

Everyone welcome

St John of Beverley, Haydon Bridge

**If you have any queries about service times
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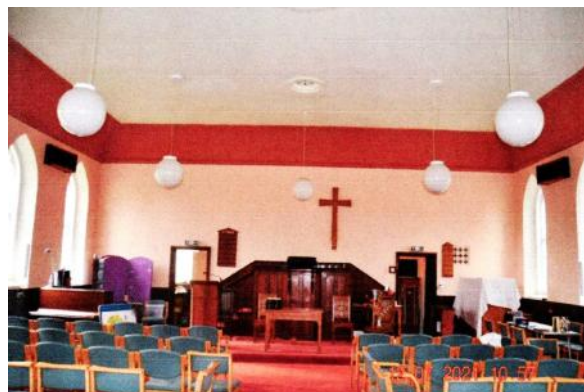
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The Methodist Chapel Fourstones



REMINDERS

Material has been collected for a 'Memories' exhibition in the Chapel. If you have any recollections of occasions and events in the building's history, we would love to hear from you and please get in touch with Margaret Bogie at magrach@aol.com

Final Services

Saturday 11th July, 3pm

An informal time of remembering and celebrating 150 years of Fourstones Methodist Chapel - an opportunity to view our Memories exhibition and share stories and memories of the life and ministry for the church here in Fourstones with tea and cake.

All are welcome

Sunday 12th July 3pm

Our final service of celebration of 150 years of faithful worship, witness and service..

All are welcome

Methodist Chapel upright piano

Is no longer needed

Marshall and Rose

'Bruce Moore, W Hartlepool' written on it

Please contact Margaret, Fourstones Chapel
674207

Letter from Fr Paul.....

I write this letter as I begin a retreat with clergy from across the diocese. But why the need to go on retreat, when surely, we should be looking at engaging with life and the world. However, over time our lives become grey.

The colour that makes us who we are drains away and so we need time away to renew, to restore and to return to what gives us meaning and purpose. We need to rediscover, revive and remind ourselves of those things and people that give us life. We use the time to relive our past and to remember and recall what is important to us and what we have learned, so that we can relearn, return and refresh.

This leads us to look at our world, our faith and our lives in new colourful ways so that we can recapture, be receptive and rejoice. Then we can rejoin in full colour realising that the retreat is a retreat, now learn and repeat.

Fr Paul

Pattern of Worship across the Parishes by the Wall (East)

St John Lee, Warden with Newbrough and Haydon Bridge

	08.00	09.30	11.00
1st Sunday	St John Lee	Warden (BCP)	Haydon Bridge, St Cuthbert
2nd Sunday	no service	St John Lee	Haydon Bridge, St Cuthbert
3rd Sunday	no service	Newbrough*	Haydon Bridge, St Cuthbert
4th Sunday	Warden	St John Lee	Haydon Bridge, St Cuthbert

Stations of the Cross

Every Wednesday afternoon during Lent, at 16.30 at S Aidan, Fourstones

NB Sunday 14th June - Worship together

Hexham Mart at 6.30pm. An opportunity to unite with fellow Christians across the Tyne Valley to worship together. The guest speaker is Revd Canon David Glover from Hexham Abbey who will lead us in prayer. All welcome! (If you would like to play or sing in the band, please contact Susan.Paterson78@gmail.com - rehearsal 10.30am at Hexham Community Church).

Weekday Services

Morning Prayer	0800	Monday – Thursday at <i>Haydon Bridge</i>
Evening Prayer	1630	Monday – Wednesday (Monday & Tuesday at Haydon Bridge. Wednesday at Fourstones)
The Eucharist	1000	Wednesday at <i>St John Lee</i>
The Eucharist		On festival days as advertised

The Reverend Ollie Dempsey

Tel: 01434 671 649

email: fr.oliver.dempsey@outlook.com