

Working Together for a Better Community

# NEROCHE VILLAGES Newsletter

For the parishes of Staple Fitzpaine, Bickenhall, Curland  
and Orchard Portman with Thurlbear

Issue 44 - Summer 2022



*'Cetti's Warbler' © John Learoyd*

Welcome to the Neroche Villages' Newsletter, a quarterly publication delivered free to every household in Neroche Parish, helping the community to stay connected and up-to-date on local issues.



## **PLATINUM JUBILEE EVENTS**

**THURSDAY JUNE 2ND, from 8pm –  
Bonfire Beacon**

**At Winterwell**

The bonfire beacon will be lit at 9.45pm, in line with beacons across the country.

Bring your own food, drink and a chair.

BBQs provided to cook on.

Sausages, baps and Jubilee cider punch available.

Music from the Badger Street Band

Access will be through the top gate off Hill Farm Lane, just around the corner from Winterwell on the way down to the race-course. It will be signed from Badger Street, field parking.

**FRIDAY 3rd JUNE 2022**

**St Peter's Church**

10.00 am - "Songs of Praise"

A joyful and jolly service to give thanks to God  
for the long reign of Queen Elizabeth II

10.45 am - A Special Jubilee Pop up Cafe

Scrumptious cakes as always with a jubilee twist  
Crafts for the children including decorate your own Jubilee cup  
cake with Carole

**PLANT SALE**

Music from the years the Queen has been on the throne

## Please Support your Neroche Newsletter

Dear Readers

We hope you are continuing to enjoy receiving the newsletter on a quarterly basis, and we are delighted to be able to report on the steady increase of events being held across our community after the last 2 years of intermittent lockdowns. It is also a pleasure to be able to promote upcoming events, with more certainty they will actually happen!

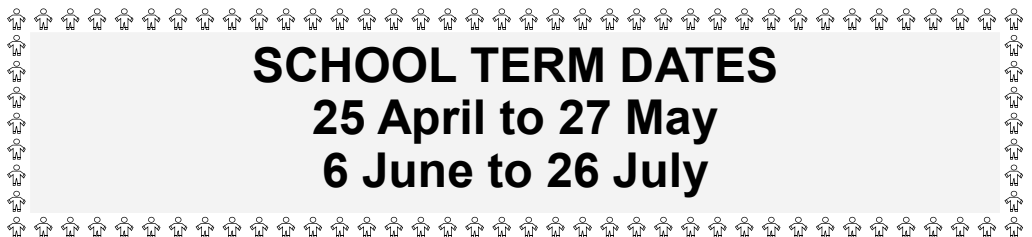
While we have great support with funding from the Parish Council and Neroche Hall, as well as our friends at Taunton Racecourse, we do rely on the generosity of reader donations to help us maintain this as a free publication. Four editions of the newsletter costs around £8.20 to produce (mainly design and printing costs). As with everyone, our printer is experiencing an upsurge in his costs, and we have just been informed that our charges will increase by 15% from this edition.

We sincerely hope that you would be able to support us through a donation, either online (our bank details are below), or via the form accompanying this edition. If you would like us to acknowledge receipt of your gift, please add your email address to the form or email me at [nerochenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:nerochenewsletter@gmail.com).

Bank: Santander  
Sort Code: 09-02-22  
Account: 10858282

Please make cheques payable to: 'Neroche Communication Action Group' and send to: Karen Learoyd, Seaforde Grange, Bickenhall, Taunton TA3 6TY.

Many thanks for your support. From your Newsletter Team



**SCHOOL TERM DATES**  
**25 April to 27 May**  
**6 June to 26 July**

## Fish 'n' Chip Quiz Night

*By Jacq and Mark Wanstall*



On Friday 25th March, the Neroche Village Hall was full of eager competitors awaiting the start of the fabulous bi-annual Fish 'n' Chip Quiz Night. Mike Michaels, our wonderful Quiz Master, was armed with 10 rounds of fiendishly tricky questions, to trip up even the most experienced of quizzers.

The evening kicked off the with General Knowledge round, where there were some real head-scratchers.

In case you weren't there, here is a taster of a couple of the questions:

Q1- What is the literal translation of the Hawaiian and Greek words that make up the name Wikipedia?

Q2- The words "All the news that's fit to print" appear on the masthead of which US daily newspaper?

Q3- Who joked "Honey, I forgot to duck" when he was the subject of an assassination attempt in 1982?

It was a challenging start to the evening, with none of the 14 teams getting full marks for the General Knowledge round, in fact the average score was 4!

Then followed some easier rounds, covering Science and Nature, Entertainment and Food and Drink, where many of the teams chose to play their Joker, to boost their scores.

The Geography round proved as popular as ever, here are a few tasters of the questions:

Q4- Which is the longest US river?

Q5- What weather condition is also known as a London Particular?

Q6- With a total of 221,800 which country in the world has the most islands?



After a fantastic fish and chip break, the quiz rolled on, finishing with the Music round. All eyes were then on the scoring team of Mary Bell and Mark Wanstall as they totted up all the figures to find out who was victorious.

The winning team was Not Poldark, which was made up of Ross Henley, Alan Perrior, Jill Perrior, Paul Hart, Norman and Sara Llewellyn). A special mention should also go to the Bar Boys, who came a very close second.

A huge well done, to all who came along and took part and a massive thank you to those who helped run the event. It was great to see our wonderful village hall so packed and lively again. Roll on to the next Quiz Night in the autumn.



Answers to the questions above are on page 6



**Introducing the Anne Robson Helpline - if you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us.**

At the Anne Robson Trust we aim to be there to listen to anyone who faces dying or the imminent death of someone they care about. We know that facing the end of life can leave you feeling isolated and alone.

Being able to access support is so important. Gaining knowledge of what may happen towards the end of life and being prepared helps both the person dying and their loved ones to feel a sense of control.

Calls are free and confidential. **Call us on 0808 801 0688 - we have time to talk**

Please visit [www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service](http://www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service) to find out more.

## Our New Parish Clerk

Hi everyone! I've been asked to write a short piece to introduce myself; my name is Emily York, and I am the new Clerk to the Neroche Parish Council.

I live outside the parish, just over the border (!), in Hemyock, although I'm a Somerset girl at heart! I can often be found exploring Castle Neroche or Staple Hill woods with my son, Henry, who turns four at the end of May. He is tractor mad, so you'll often find us in the area tractor watching or, now the sun is shining, searching for a forager; especially on a Sunday afternoon on our way home from his swimming lesson.

Although not from a family farm, I have a background in agriculture, having studied Rural Land Management at the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester, and going on to work as an Agent of the NFU Mutual in Honiton, specialising in Farm and High Net Worth Insurance.

I now work part time as a Farm Secretary for a large organic farm in Bradninch. Alongside a dairy herd, we have nearly 40,000 laying hens and produce 40,000 table birds every four weeks. I deal with all the farm compliance along with bookkeeping and record keeping.

When time permits, I am a keen baker and always looking for people to bake for; so, the Parish Councillors might be in luck! I'm completely new to the world of Parish Councils and learning so much already and am really excited to be involved in such a lovely community as you have in Neroche.

Please feel free to contact me on [nerochepc.org.uk@gmail.com](mailto:nerochepc.org.uk@gmail.com)

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### Answers to the quiz on page 4/5:

Q1- Fast Education

Q2- New York Times

Q3- Ronald Regan

Q4- Missouri

Q5- Smog

Q6- Sweden

Here in Somerset, we have lots of old and draughty homes which look beautiful but are really hard to heat. Luckily there are lots of simple solutions available and many which you could do yourself without having to employ someone else. Insulating your roof, wall, floor and windows will take a small investment and will very quickly more than pay for itself in the savings you can make on your heating bills. And now that energy prices have risen, this will be more crucial. Happily, insulating well also reduces the amount of fossil fuels we use, so that's an added bonus. Furthermore, with all the new adverts for heat pumps, it is worth remembering that these may be more costly to run if your house is not well insulated first. Insulate first and they can be a very green way forward. The best time of year to carry out insulation work is when the weather is warmer, before the heating season starts. And if you start now, you'll also have the added benefit of keeping your home cool in the summer, combatting the ever-soaring temperatures we are experiencing each year.

Depending on your DIY skills, most of these home improvements can be done without having to employ a tradesperson. All the materials are widely available from DIY stores and do not require a huge investment. As with any home improvements, please check that all work complies with building regulations. If you live in a tenanted property, your landlord or landlady should at least help with the cost of materials. And for those who are unable to take these actions, for instance if you are elderly or disabled, some of our Somerset Climate Action Network groups are organising volunteers in your area who can come and help.

### **Loft Insulation**

Insulating your loft to a standard depth of 27cm, which is almost the length of a school ruler, is probably the easiest and most effective way to keep heat in your home and stop it escaping into thin air. Insulation **MUST NOT** touch walls and have at least 10mm gap from inner edge of walls and must **NOT** touch rafters or sarking felt or roof underside surface. Fibreglass and mineral wool loft insulation batts or roll are **ONLY** for plasterboard loft ceilings and masonry walled buildings.

Timber loft ceilings have polyester fibre roll or batts **ONLY**.

There must NOT be polythene sheeting added in between plasterboard or timber loft ceiling and insulation. Boards, planks must NOT be left permanently over loft insulation (i.e. only use them to create safe spaces for working).

## **Draught Proofing**

Draughts can come from all sorts of places in the home and it's not always obvious.

Be sure to check the following:

- Windows – install double glazing, foam strips, plastic brush strips or spray foam sealant.
- Doors – fit a brush strip or 'weather bar' to the bottom, foam strips and a letter box flap, purpose made keyhole cover.
- Loft hatches – heat rises and can easily escape through here. Use foam, metallic or plastic strips.
- Plug fittings on walls – check for holes around a socket and fill with sealant or putty.
- Floorboards and skirting boards – Use a product which can tolerate movement such as flexible filler, decorators' caulk or mastic-type products, which all come in a range of colours.
- Any pipe work that leads outside – these can be filled with the same products as floorboards and skirting boards, but if the gap is sizeable you may need to use expanding polyurethane foam.
- Chimneys – a chimney cap, chimney balloon or draught-excluders at the base. Consider whether the chimney is in use before making a decision.

Make sure you don't seal up any intentional ventilation which is important for keeping your home fresh and dry. This includes:

- Extractor fans
- Under-floor grilles and airbricks
- Wall vents
- Trickle vents (often placed above modern windows).

## **Thermostats**



Whereas thermometers tell us the temperature in a room, thermostats set the temperature in a room. Thermostats are a more efficient and easier way to control the temperature of your house in winter; opening windows to cool a house down wastes fuel and will result in higher energy bills. Turning your thermostat down, even just by 1 degree, can save you £80 a year (even more now that energy prices have gone up!) In smart homes, electronic devices communicate with each other to activate gadgets, appliances. A smart thermostat can be controlled remotely via an app on your mobile phone, so they save energy as they optimise your heating. Smart thermostats are a great energy efficiency and money saving initiative. They cost around £200 including installation and are available from all main household or DIY stores.

## **Home Furnishings**

Using thick, thermal curtains or wooden shutters is another excellent way to keep heat in the room. Drawing curtains at dusk or closing window shutters is the best way to prevent heat escaping out the window. You can also put curtains over doorways to prevent draughts or use them in large open plan spaces to create smaller warm zones which are quicker to heat. Heat rises, so using curtains to stop heat from escaping up stairwells can save considerably on heating bills. Similarly, an easy way to improve floor insulation is to fit carpets with an underlay with excellent thermal properties.

## **Double Glazing**

A lot of heat escapes through the glass in windows, which is why double, or better still, triple glazing is a recommended energy conservation measure. Double glazing is filled with an inert gas such as argon or has a vacuum between the glass panes to reduce heat transfer from your home. Replacement windows for an entire house are expensive. If your home is a listed building or in a conservation area there may be restrictions regarding double glazing, so it is worth discussing options with your local council planning officer.

## **A New Boiler**

If you have an old boiler, especially one that is more than 10-15 years old, replacing it with a modern condensing boiler, could make a huge difference to your heating bills. There are still 9 million inefficient boilers in UK homes that are wasting around half of the fuel that is consumed.

A new system will save you lots of money. You could even consider one of the many renewable energy options available. There are plenty of finance options available from energy companies and other providers. Qualified Gas Safe installers are required for boiler and heating system upgrades. Taking the time to shop around for a replacement boiler in the summer could save you a lot of money. A panic purchase, due to a broken boiler in the middle of winter, is likely to end up being more expensive and there may only be a limited choice. Keeping your boiler serviced regularly is always a good idea.

## **Wall Insulation**

Regardless of how old your house is, the structure or materials used, it is possible to insulate walls to prevent heat loss.

### **Cavity Wall Insulation -**

If your home was built between 1930 and 2000 it is likely the construction method used was two brick walls built with a gap in between. This cavity wall structure originally had no insulation. Currently approximately 16 million homes in the UK have uninsulated cavity walls - so it's worth checking if your walls are insulated or not. It's easy to check if your house already has wall insulation, you can look around the brick work for signs of circular holes where someone has drilled into the cavity or ask an installer to visit. Filling a cavity wall is quick and easy and there may be a government grant available. Installers take about two hours to fill the cavity before they seal up the tiny holes they drilled. They use polystyrene beads that don't absorb water so there are no damp problems. The insulation retains heat in your home and stops it from escaping outside. Therefore, with next to no hassle, your home will be warmer and cosier without any change in its appearance.

### **Solid Wall Insulation -**

Nearly half of all heat produced in a home escapes through solid walls. Older homes (pre-1920) are likely to be built using a single solid wall of bricks or stone. If your brickwork is a mixture of long and short bricks then it is likely of solid wall construction. It is still possible to insulate these walls by adding a layer of insulating material either on the inside or the outside of the house. The choice is very much up to your individual preference and budget.

## Floor Insulation

If you are planning on laying new flooring or have a particular problem with draughts from ground level, floor insulation is a good idea. Draughty gaps between floorboards or skirting boards can easily be plugged using filler from DIY stores. For wooden floors, the easiest method is to attach solid insulation boards or rolls of mineral wool between the timber joists from a basement below the room. For many homes this is not possible, as floorboards will need to be lifted. Rigid insulation boards can be fitted over concrete floors as well, but doors may need to be adjusted and a damp proof membrane added. If all this seems too complex to tackle, then thermal underlay is effective and cheap.

## Grant Funding and Free Advice

Help, in the form of free grant funding under the Energy Company Obligation (ECO2t) scheme, is available for many low-income households and those in receipt of certain types of benefits. You may be eligible to have your home insulated for free. Please visit the Centre for Sustainable Energy or the Energy Saving Trust for further free advice on energy efficiency measures.

# COME & SING FOR THE PLATINUM JUBILEE

Taunton Choral Society are missing something...

**SATURDAY 25TH JUNE 10AM - 3PM**

**United Reformed Church, Paul Street, Taunton  
£10 pp + £2 music hire (optional)**

Discover your voice with Taunton Choral Society  
Song for the Commonwealth, Jerusalem and Antiphon  
**More details at [www.tauntonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.tauntonchoralsociety.org.uk)**

# In Celebration of Footpaths and Bridleways

*By Jane Hole*

Walking routes and trackways were established to facilitate hunting, communal gatherings and trade since early hunter-gatherers began to follow animal tracks and paths in their quest for food. By the Stone Age people were travelling long distances as evidenced by a Stone Age axe from the Lake District being found in North Norfolk. The Sweet Track made of twigs, split logs and planks of wood was laid across the Somerset Levels over 5,000 years ago. Iron Age society traded with Italy. It is thought parts of the A303 follows an ancient ridge-way that ran from Dover to Axmouth. Thus we have been moving over the land on foot and horseback for millennia.

Until wheeled carts began to use some of these routes, they would have needed minimum maintenance. Elizabeth I used one of the earliest carriages. The first Highways Act transferring responsibility from the monarch and parliament to the parishes for upkeep of the king's highway was in 1555. Each year parishioners owning ploughland had to supply a cart for use in road repair for 4 days and each able-bodied householder was required to perform 4-6 days 'statute labour'. Some of these small medieval lanes will be those we walk and drive today. In rural areas, smaller paths between villages and farms would have been looked after by the landowners and their tenants.

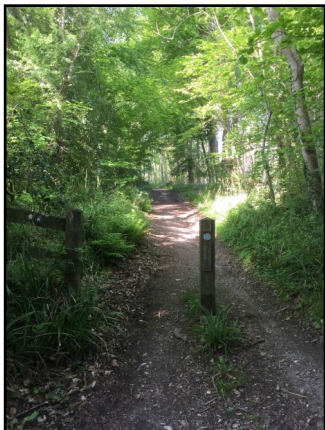
In England and Wales, we have inherited over 140,000 miles of these routes which are legally protected by the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, to allow the public the right to use these specified rights of way. Other routes known as permissive paths are open to the public because the owner has given permission for them to be used.

There are some wonderful local dialect terms from around the county for bridlepaths such as Halter Path, Sheergate, Wapple and Wobble!

Public footpaths are open only for walkers, and bridleways are open for walkers, horse-riders and pedal cyclists. As Mark Palmer wrote in the last newsletter, both walkers, riders and landowners have rights and

responsibilities for these routes. For more information see Somerset County Council ROW interactive map, there are also helpful downloads on the SCC ROW Improvement Plan 2 and a Guide for Dog Owners

and Walkers. For further information see [www.ramblers.org.uk/advice](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/advice)  
Somerset has over 9,000 rights of way totalling 3,808 miles. Most of these would have been the footpaths, bridleways and droves used over many hundreds of years by our countryside ancestors.



- In Norman times Curland was part of the Manor of Curry Mallet. The current Curry Mallet Drove would be a section of the route that has linked the two communities over the millennia.

- Green Lane and Middleroom are ancient routes that

climb to the top of Neroche Castle to join the ridgeways that cross into Devon and Cornwall.

- On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March



1851 we know that Daniel Cozens from Bickenhall, William Crabb from Staple Fitzpaine and William Woodman from West Hatch wended their way along the tracks, bridlepaths and lanes of our villages as they collected the census questionnaires from every household.

We are incredibly lucky to have inherited such extensive networks of paths that are steeped in history and allow us to explore and appreciate the beauty of Neroche Parish, through land owned by Forestry England, local farmers, businesses and local people.

We should remember that compared to the age of many of these historic routes our own time span is but brief, it is the responsibility of all of us to ensure they remain cared for and safe for future generations to use and enjoy.

# St. Peter's Church Summer Fete

## Saturday July 2nd



Winterwell, Thurlbear Road  
TA3 5AY

Entry: from 2pm - £3 per car

To Include:

### Entertainment

- Wellington brass band
- Badger Street Folk Band
- Dog show
- Punch and Judy

### Games

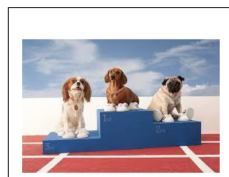
- Skittles
- Crockery smashing
- Coconut shy
- Scalextric
- Treasure patch
- Splat the rat!

### Stalls

- Cakes
- Plants and Produce
- Bric-a-brac
- Pre-loved frocks and hats
- Books
- Pottery

### Food

- Cream Teas
- Burgers
- Bar
- Ice Creams



## **Advertise with Us!**

***By Mike Aspray, Chairman of the NCAG***

The role of the Neroche Communication Action Group (NCAG) is to promote and improve communication by keeping residents informed of activities and services in and around the Parish, and to encourage participation in community life, we do this via our Neroche Villages Website, Newsletter and Email Alerts.

**Neroche Villages Website:** Our website's Community, What's On, Council (incorporating the official Neroche Parish Council pages), Business and Advertisers sections contain a plethora of information covering activities, news, events and useful reference material.

**Neroche Villages Newsletter:** The newsletter is published quarterly and delivered free to every residence and business in the Parish. As you can see from this and previous editions, the magazine is a mix of articles on topical issues and activities, plus a wide variety of items covering what individuals, groups and businesses in the parish are doing; information about forthcoming events (plus reports on recent ones); updates from Neroche Hall and our local elected representatives, plus so much more!

**Neroche Email Alerts:** Email Alerts are sent out approximately every 2/3 weeks (with additional special bulletin emails on an as required basis) to those who have asked to be added to the distribution list. Typically, they provide timely information on local events and matters of interest to the community.

Tim French heads up the Website, with Karen Learoyd being the Editor and lead for the Newsletter and Email Alerts. Both are supported by a dedicated team of volunteers within the parish who between them look after website design, maintenance and content plus ideas and input for the magazine and post print distribution. Website hosting and Newsletter design and printing are commercially outsourced. While this comes at a significant



cost, we, the Committee, believe the high quality and professional output is worth it.

As stated above, the Newsletter is produced and distributed totally free of charge, so where does our revenue come from? The answer is grants, donations and advertising – each of these income streams are vital to our existence.

We receive a small grant each year from the Neroche Parish Council, which links in with our constitutional responsibility to host the official Council pages within our Website. Taunton Racecourse is a long-term benefactor who very generously cover the cost of our winter edition each year. We are also extremely grateful for the reader donations we receive.

Advertising is an income stream where we feel we really could and should be doing better!

We are moving away from the cumbersome and labour-intensive system of flyer inserts, by embedding adverts within the magazine content, and have introduced a new combined Website and Newsletter business package consisting of a colour advert in four editions of the Newsletter plus an enhanced advert in the Advertisers section of the Website for 12 months. The annual cost for the combined package is £75 for a half page and £50 for a quarter page. For those businesses who want to just have a presence on the website we have retained the website only option for £25 pa. Note, local business and services will still be listed free of charge in the Business section on the Website.

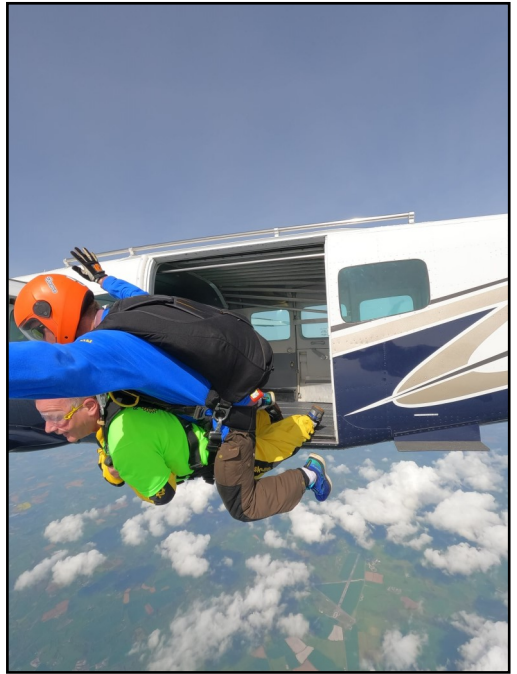
It is hoped the above changes will offer local business and service providers with a simplified and more attractive advertising package whilst adhering to our core principles to provide no cost lines of communication which inform the community and promote local events and activities within the parish.

If you would like to advertise your business with us, please contact either Tim or Karen at [tim.french1@outlook.com](mailto:tim.french1@outlook.com) or [nerochenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:nerochenewsletter@gmail.com)



**Fundraising for St Margaret's  
Hospice  
Part 2 - The Skydive  
By John Learoyd**

With the handyman jobs mostly completed, all that was left to do was the skydive from 15,000 ft (3 miles). This was originally scheduled for the 2nd April, although due to unfavourable weather it was cancelled the day before. That was such a let-down as I was mentally prepared and looking forward to it. The next available opportunity would be 5th May and duly booked, the tension started to mount.



Leading up to the 5<sup>th</sup>, I checked the forecasts regularly, and any dark cloud symbols were seen as harbingers of doom. A text from Skydive Buzz the day before still could not confirm the jump would go ahead. The morning of the big day, we were told to call just before leaving, when I was informed it was 'less likely than

likely to go ahead – would you prefer to reschedule?' Having set aside the day, we decided to take a chance, and set off with fingers crossed.

On arrival things were looking up, the cloud wasn't too thick, and people were jumping, hurrah. The formalities were completed – ticking all the health and safety



boxes and confirming you understand the risks. Then onto learning a few basic positions. Body position for exiting the aeroplane, the signal and position required during freefall and the leg position when landing, and that's it you're ready to gear up. A jumpsuit and a strong harness that connects you to the instructor via 4 hooks and clips (very pleased to see these were very robust looking).

After watching other brave or mad souls enter the aircraft and come floating back to earth it was eventually my turn, the excitement mounting. I wasn't scared or worried, I just wanted to do it and could hardly wait any longer. As I was having the experience filmed and photographed, I had a pre jump interview and a few photos before finally entering the aircraft along with 4 other tandem jumpers, my cameraman and 1 other pleasure jumper. The stripped-out aircraft simply had 2 bench seats which you sat astride with your instructor close behind, and even closer as he made the final adjustments securing us together and tightening straps as we climbed to 15,000 ft – we were ready to go.

Once we got the green light from the pilot, the door was opened (merely a plastic roller blind), and the solo pleasure jumper literally threw herself in a style more akin to the start of a toboggan run. Next out was the cameraman who took up position outside the aircraft clinging onto the door frame ready to film my exit. My turn, and as we shuffled along the bench to take up position, there was no turning back. I was even more excited by now, or maybe it was fear? Taking up my exit position kneeling at the edge of the door, hands crossed over my chest, head back looking up, which was hard to do as I was like a rabbit in the headlights, transfixed by the openness and nothingness between me and the ground.

I cannot describe my feelings at this point, it was ..... Then I was falling towards the ground miles below me, wow! The tap on my back signalling me to move my arms out into the freefall position, the cold air rushing past my face, the noise increasing as it passed my ears and pushing my eye mask even tighter on to my face. What a thrill as we accelerated towards the ground, a feeling of absolute exhilaration with the cameraman falling just in front of me encouraging thumbs up and high fives (very high fives) and at one point turning round so we could grab hold of his shoes and all plummet together. After free falling for nearly 60 seconds and reaching a speed of 120 mph it was time to

deploy the parachute, with a big jerk of deceleration the cameraman quickly fell away from us to open his chute far below. The rush of air stopped, and all went very quiet as we just hung there gently floating back to earth invoking a whole new raft of feelings, exhilaration, relief, wonderment and a joy of moving through the air like a bird (sort of). Looking down onto Dunkeswell Airfield as a light aircraft took off far below, the instructor allowed me to take control of the parachute, I was truly flying. Before I knew it, the instructor had taken back control and prepped me to take the final position for landing, legs raised and straight out ready to land on my backside, waving to Karen and Carole as we approached the landing spot for a very gentle set down.

I had done it, what an experience, what a buzz, an enormous feeling of exhilaration and achievement, wow! So glad my feelings and excitement were then captured by the cameraman in a post jump interview.



Many people have said to me you'll never get me doing that or you must be mad, but I say to you all if you have even the slightest inkling to do it, just do it, it's one of the best experiences ever.

I would like to thank everyone who donated to my fundraising efforts as a handyman or by simply donating, your generosity is very much appreciated by me and most importantly St Margaret's Hospice, as I have raised £2410 to help them with the wonderful work they do. Thank you so much.

If you still wish to donate you can via my JustGiving page:  
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/john-learoyd>

# Invitation to Neroche Annual Parish Meeting

**Neroche Hall Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm**

## **Working Together for a Stronger Community**

- Against All Odds: What Parish Councils Can Achieve  
- A Speed Limit for Corfe.  
Ken Brown
- Updates on A358, Airband, Taylor Wimpey  
Developments in Orchard Portman
- A Successful Community Scheme: Neroche Heritage  
Fingerposts Project
- John Parsons Role of the Parish Council

***Parish Open Forum - over to you -  
if there is a topic you would like discussed  
at the meeting please contact:***

***Emily York, Parish Clerk***

***[nerochepc.org.uk@gmail.com](mailto:nerochepc.org.uk@gmail.com)***

## **BETTER BUS CHARTER FOR SOMERSET**

We need to do something about improving our buses in Somerset. Our county currently has the second lowest level of bus journeys per resident of all the counties in England, and Somerset's bus services have the very lowest level of passenger satisfaction in the country.

Residents of Somerset experience this every day, whether it's with difficulties getting to health services, reduced opportunities for those seeking work and further education or just the limited (if any) evening and Sunday bus services. As a result, we see ever increasing numbers of cars on our roads which causes higher levels of local air pollution and increase our carbon emissions.

Somerset Bus Partnership was formed just a year ago to campaign for better bus services across our county and already we have a Somerset-wide network of 115 town and parish transport representatives who share our passion for better buses.

Somerset residents have every right to expect better, although it will need funding.

We have developed a Somerset Bus Charter and invite not just Councillors but community groups, churches and residents to join with us and endorse it. Get in touch: [somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com](mailto:somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com)

### **THE SOMERSET BUS CHARTER**

#### BETTER BUSES FOR ALL OUR COMMUNITIES

We need a core network of frequent, high-quality services linking our towns and main villages with enhanced weekend and evening services. Also, we want an extension of the demand-responsive 'Slinky' bus services, available to all and with longer operating hours.

#### AN INTEGRATED TRANSPORT NETWORK

We need bus routes to link with local railway stations with timetables that offer improved connections between buses and trains.

We also want to see the introduction of integrated ticketing across the county's different bus operators and with trains too.

### PROMOTION OF EXISTING AND NEW SERVICES

We should be promoting the bus as an important way in which we can all address the climate emergency in Somerset (transport accounts for nearly half of all carbon emissions in Somerset).

To enable more to go by bus, it is essential that current bus timetable information is shown at all main bus stops, and bus times information is available in libraries and at other information points.

### AN AFFORDABLE TRANSPORT SERVICE FOR ALL

We should make bus travel more attractive through cheaper fares especially targeted at young people up to the age of 25. Plus, for everyone, a new, all-operator, countywide value ticket.

### CLEANER BUSES

We want an accelerated transition from diesel buses to zero emission buses.

### MEANINGFUL FUNDING OF BUS SERVICES

We need Somerset's bus budget to be brought progressively up to the average for similar rural authorities in the South West.

## **Do You Play Badminton?**

Would you like to join a Ladies Badminton Group on Friday afternoon at Neroche Hall?

We would love more players to join our friendly and social session at 4pm. £2 per session.

**Please contact Diana Davies on  
01823 480286 or just turn up!**



# Time Starts again at St Peter's

*By Mark Porter*

2022 marks the centenary of the commemorative clock that chimes the quarters and the hours from St. Peter's tower. The clock fell silent in December 2020 and after repair and refurbishment it is ringing out over the village again.

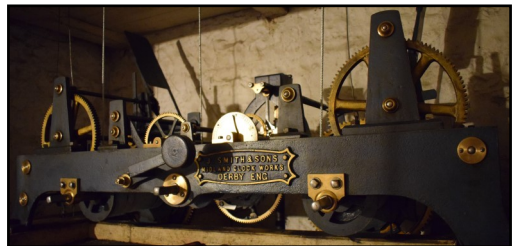
The clock was installed to commemorate those from the parish who fell in the First World War. Without clambering up the tower the only visual evidence of the clock is a commemorative brass plaque in the church. On the War Memorial's website, a visitor logged the plaque dedicating the clock, and left disappointed remarking that 'the clock must have been moved'. Presumably they were not in the church long enough to hear the chimes.

The clock was made by J Smith and Son in Derby and has a 4-day movement. The clock was installed in the tower in 1922. The quarter chimes ring on bells 3 and 5 whilst the hours are sounded on the largest of the bells, No 6. The clock movement has the capacity to drive hands around a clock face, although this does not appear to have been considered. Historically when clock faces were installed in church towers, they tended to be on the side of the tower facing the benefactor who funded it.

The clock fell silent when the wire carrying the winding weight for the clock movement parted. Fortunately, this is the smallest of the three weights. The 300 kg chiming weights falling 40 feet to the tower floor could have caused considerably more damage. A survey of the clock by the Cumbria Clock Company suggested that for the clock to run for another century it would need a significant overhaul.



The clock's last comprehensive service was in 1983. Since that





date Paul Hart, the tower captain, has lovingly lubricated the movement as required. Indeed Paul, for the last 30 years, has twice a week toiled up the tower stairs to perch on a platform suspended 5 feet above the bell room floor and steadily wind the three weights up to power the clock for another half week.

Covid and a severely limited supply of public clock engineers meant that we have had to wait a year for the clock to be repaired and rejuvenated. New wires were run, the movement was stripped, cleaned, fettled, reassembled and greased.

Finally, on Friday 28th January 2022 the clock rang out once more. For those within hearing it has been a welcome return. Paul Hart is once again twice weekly dancing up the tower to wind the clock.

The repair and refurbishment incurred significant expense. Looking forward the church has established an annual service contract for the clock. At some point it is anticipated that the winding of the clock would benefit from automation.



If you feel you would like to help us keep the clock steadfastly beating its steady rhythm through the evolving history of its next century, please consider making a donation using the Clock's 'Give A Little' account accessed using by the QR code or by following this link:-

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/9f11f9e9-6bf1-48ed-b638-19521a77a176>



# St Peter's Church Flower Guild

*By Jacqueline Kolkowski*

The decoration of the church for Easter was another wonderful community event linked to the Community Pop-up Cafe. We invited the children to decorate butterflies, wooden eggs, flowers and crosses and they filled jam jars with flowers that decorated the windowsills.



It was a wonderful morning with laughter, very serious crafting faces on the children and big smiles when they finished their displays or designs. Of course, many a scrumptious cake was eaten.

Many members of the parish donated money to purchase lilies in memory of a loved one or friend. These lilies were incorporated into the main displays. Thank you to all who donated.

Thanks go to Pauline and Karen who helped on the crafts, Peta, Tricia and Frances for running a super café, and to all the Flower Guild for their hard work in producing such stunning displays around the church. A special thanks must go to the children and the grown-ups who came with them and helped to make the church look so special.



*Joseph Macey very pleased with his flower arrangement*



## May Village Agent News



May is National Walking Month in the UK, and a great incentive to Get Outdoors in Somerset. Kick start some healthy summer habits or encourage you to move a bit more than normal! In Somerset, we are blessed to have thirty-five miles of our coastline on the South West Coast Path route. Why not set yourself a spring-summer challenge to walk it! Find more information here: <https://www.southwestcoastpath.org.uk/walk-coast-path/south-west-coast-path-national-trail/area/somerset-and-exmoor/>.

Do you enjoy walking alone or with friends, or would you like to meet new people while you walk? The Get Outside in Somerset campaign has grown massively. It has a website packed with local groups you could join, and a Facebook group where you can share your favourite places to go. Why not inspire others to follow you! Visit - <https://getoutsideinsomerset.co.uk/activities> and select walking from the dropdown list for ideas!

### Help with Food

As you may know, CCS Village Agents were instrumental in the distribution of food to all corners of Somerset during the pandemic. Our role as primary distributor has ended, but the many community groups we supported are still going strong!

If you need help with food, please do still contact your local CCS Agent, who will then connect you to your local group for premade meals or food boxes. Complete our online form here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p88y4z6> or call 01823 331222.

If you are part of a Community Group, the Smart Community Food Resilience Grant Fund is open for applications until 31st May. Community groups, charities, organisations, and agencies supporting or directly working to develop food resilience in Somerset communities can apply. Visit: <https://smartcommunities.online/new-food-resilience-grant-fund/>

HIS Church provides pallets of food for groups to purchase and use. For more details, costs, and delivery contact: Christine Wylde on 07771 707477 or email: [hisfood@hischurch.org.uk](mailto:hisfood@hischurch.org.uk)

FareShare redistribute surplus food from some of the UK's top food companies to more than 10,500 charities and community groups. To join the scheme for regular delivery please contact: <https://fareshare.org.uk/>

## **Talking Cafes in May**

CCS Village Agents are back in a Talking Café near you, at over sixteen locations across Somerset. It is a great place to drop in if you have a problem and do not know where to turn or are feeling lonely or isolated and would like a cuppa and a chat. Most run weekly sessions, so call us to find your local venue on 01823 331 222, or visit <https://somersetagents.org/talking-cafes/>

Our Facebook Live Talking Cafes are also still taking place every Wednesday at 1pm. Next month's discussion topics include Deafness, and guests from the Home Library Service. Tune in live or watch on catch up via Facebook or You Tube. [www.somersetagents.org/talkingcafelive](http://www.somersetagents.org/talkingcafelive)

## **Neroche Thursday Lunch Club**

**Neroche Hall  
12.30pm for 1pm**

**June 9th, 7th July and 4th August**

Come along to Neroche Hall and enjoy a superb home-cooked lunch in wonderful company for just £7pp (transport and special diets can be arranged). Meet old friends and make new acquaintances - ideal for both long term residents and those who have recently arrived in the community. A wonderful way to spend a weekday lunchtime.

**Advance booking is essential by the Monday prior to the lunch to book for catering purposes. Contact Alison Brown  
01823 480441 or [aabrown.battens@gmail.com](mailto:aabrown.battens@gmail.com)**



## News from Neroche Hall

*By Kingsley Beck, Chairman*

Coming from a background in retail, it would have been inconceivable to me years ago that many of the giants of our high streets, Debenhams, House of Fraser, BHS and so many more, would succumb to that single revolutionary invention that is the internet. The way we buy has changed beyond belief in a few short years, with the result that many of our town centres, and sadly Taunton is no exception, now resemble the Klondike after the goldrush, just with no banks and more charity shops! It's equally possible that our village halls could share the same fate, one day they might well be saying, "village halls, like what was that all about". (Yes, sadly they'll still be putting LIKE after every other word for years to come.)



Hopefully not in any of our lifetimes, although the fact is, **OUR VILLAGE HALL NOW NEEDS YOUR HELP.**

During lockdown, several of our committee members retired and with not many decisions to make, that wasn't a problem, and as we've got more used to meeting up again, and many of us have now had Covid without being too debilitated, our hall has filled with visitors once more, and it was brilliant to see so many familiar faces at last month's quiz night, and at the two bingo evenings that we've held in collaboration with the WI. The problem now is that without extra help and input on our committee, we just can't do any more. To add to this, Mary Bell, who has been acting as both our treasurer and our booking secretary is having to leave us.

We made great strides during lockdown with upgrades to the heating and lighting, and the outside rendering getting a fresh lick of paint, with the result that our hall is looking as welcoming as ever, and we can offer facilities to rival most others and with lots of added character and no neighbours to annoy if we make too much noise. Over the last few years, I have seen many of the properties in our parish change hands and by now, I have met most of my new neighbours and many of you will have visited our hall this year. It's very much your hall and without doubt, its future will be in your hands.

Our immediate priority is to find a new treasurer. If you think you would like to be involved and are familiar with some relatively straightforward bookkeeping, (we are not too busy after lockdown) we would love to hear from you. If you would like to come and see what's involved in organising events and keeping our very special building in good shape, please do get in touch, the only requirements are a few hours each month and a lot of enthusiasm.

Have a great summer.

Kingsley [Kingsleybeck1@gmail.com](mailto:Kingsleybeck1@gmail.com)

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## Thurlbear School

*By Jo Moore*

We were excited to celebrate 'World Book Day' in school again this year and share lots of brilliant books and stories across the school. This year we captured those stories in a jar! Pupils were asked to choose a scene, moment or character(s) from their favourite story and find a way to capture it in a jar being as creative as they liked.



## Recipe for Book in a Jar

- find an empty jar (a jam jar would be perfect)
- design your jar to represent a book that you have enjoyed
- decorate the outside or the inside of the jar
- make or draw things to go inside
- find items from around your house that represent your book to put inside
- proudly display your Jar





This year the school celebrates 150 years.

We are hoping to mark this wonderful occasion with celebrations during the summer term.

Being a rural school, we are aware that many generations of the same families have attended Thurlbear over the years, many of these still living locally. Indeed, some of our current and former colleagues have either attended or whose children have attended.

To give our children a true taste of 'Thurlbear Through the Years' we are sending out a plea. If you, or anybody you know has any photos, facts, stories, memories or any information about the school over the years, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact the school office, during term time on 01823 442277 or email [thurlbear@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:thurlbear@educ.somerset.gov.uk) We are hoping to gather as much information as possible to help us celebrate the wealth of history our school has gathered over the last 150 years.



## Pop-Up Café

**St Peter's Church, Staple Fitzpaine  
Every Friday, 10am to 12pm**

Come along for a cuppa with biscuits and delicious home-made cakes.



Meet old friends and make new ones  
For more information contact

**Tricia Dryden**  
**[tricia@witchlodge.co.uk](mailto:tricia@witchlodge.co.uk)**

## News from Bickenhall and District WI

*By Jacqueline Kolkowski*



Sadly, in February, our oldest member Molly Kelly, passed away. Molly had lived in the Alms houses in Staple Fitzpaine for a long time and had been a member of the WI for many years, first in Chester, and then here in Somerset. She loved the WI, she was a good baker, knitter, storyteller (especially about her role as a signal woman during the war), Molly loved to joke and was a generous friend to us all. Molly was delighted to represent our WI at the Queens Garden Party at Buckingham Palace to celebrate 'A 100 years of the WI'. She hosted knitting afternoons in her flat, she asked me if I would like to come along, I replied sorry Molly I do not knit. That's all right she said you can make the tea and serve the cake! As I said she was a good baker so would have been delighted that after her funeral service the WI served cake.



In March Rosemary Grabham gave a fantastic and entertaining talk on her experiences supporting her daughter Helen, who undertook the Mongol Rally 2007 in a Nissan Micra. From speaking to members Rosemary, you will have to do it again for those who missed it!

Sadly, we had to cancel our open meeting on Jackie Moggridge, Spitfire Pilot due to illness. Margaret Harper from Ashhill kindly came along at short notice to give a talk on her love of working with glass. You may have seen her at the Neroche craft fairs. She told us how she got into glass fusion and explained her methods for making jewellery and design pieces. Through her glass sales she has raised thousands of pounds for S.U.R.E supporting the Musgrove Park Beacon Centre. Margaret also runs workshops which a few of us have attended. They are excellent, she is very enthusiastic about her craft which shows in the pieces she produces.

Earlier this year I mentioned a talk by Fiona Mahoney of Reminiscence Learning, a charity based in Wellington, who specialise in dementia care, activity and reminiscence training and community projects. We purchased a piece of a giant 100-piece jigsaw, and I went along to one of the 3-day Chrysalis butterfly events to help build the jigsaw. The event showcased 9,413 handcrafted butterflies that represent everyone living with dementia in Somerset. I learned about butterfly moments - 30 seconds of engagement, and how to spread the dementia awareness message to help us reduce the fear and stigma often associated with this disease. The building of the jigsaw aided by Angela Rippon, their patron, helped towards raising funds over the 3-day event. I met some wonderful people including those with dementia and their families. My Mother had dementia and sometimes support was hard to find. Fiona and her team are passionate about what they do and how their services and activities can support someone with memory impairment, as well as supporting their carers. For further information and help go to [www.reminiscencelearning.co.uk](http://www.reminiscencelearning.co.uk)

A trip to Blackbrook Toning Suite was organised by Pauline Phelps, and 12 of us braved the power assisted machines. Rather daunting at first sight. These machines use power assisted technology to exercise muscles

from a seated or lying position. Also, the whole area is designed to be suitable for those whose movement is restricted. It was a most enjoyable afternoon, the cycle machine being very popular. Being a group of people with varying degrees of fitness and joint issues, the instructors showed it was suitable for all.



*Bickenhall and District WI usually meet the second Wednesday of each month, at the Neroche Hall  
if you would like to join our meetings, please contact Tricia Dryden  
[tricia@witchlodge.co.uk](mailto:tricia@witchlodge.co.uk)*

*Also contact Tricia if you would like a programme of our events for the year.*

*We hope to see you at one of our meetings*



## News from RSPCA West Hatch

**Wildlife Centre** – currently closed to admissions

**Animal Centre** – adoptions by appointment only

At the time of writing our wildlife centre is closed to admissions due to staff shortages. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause although at the moment we only have the capacity to care for the animals currently in the centre and cannot admit any new patients. In the animal centre we continue to be busy caring for the animals brought to us by our Inspectorate colleagues. This update is just a brief one with a few stories of what has been going on recently to give you a flavour of our year so far.

### Animal Centre news

We welcome people sharing information on the animals in the centre that are in need of new homes. At the moment we have a wide range of animals looking for a new start – you can read more about them on our main website here: [www.rspca.org.uk/findapet](http://www.rspca.org.uk/findapet). Shared below are a couple of individuals we want to highlight just now that would love to move on from centre life.

Firstly here is Tiggy.

She came from a farm in Wales, where she was kept in a barn along with 34 other dogs for her whole life. Tiggy has been in foster care now for a month with our wonderful fosterer Tracey, and her amazing German Shepherd Hank. Hank has helped so many under socialised dogs learn to adapt



to a home, and he is now doing it again! Tiggy is now settling better at night, is mostly housetrained, and is enjoying short trips in the car to go for quiet walks along the river. Tiggy is still looking for her forever home, so if you think she could be the one for you please look on our website for lots more information about her.



Next up is Douglas.

Douglas is a Silkie cockerel who was picked up as a stray from the side of the road by a kind member of the public. We have not been able to locate an owner so he is now looking for a new home to share with some hens. Douglas is a gentle, sweet natured boy who was a bit shy on arrival and has

come out of his shell.

**\*\*Due to local bird flu restrictions, we are currently unable to rehome birds and poultry. However we welcome any applications and can reserve animals until restrictions are lifted, whereupon collection can be arranged\*\***

Please get in touch if you think you can offer a home to any of these animals.

### **Wildlife Centre news**

Back in January we admitted a common seal that had appeared at the Old Lock and Weir pub in Keynsham on 2nd January. This photo shows Nacho just after arrival at the centre.

Nacho had a tag on his flipper and this revealed that he had been taken into the care of the Scottish Society for the

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in summer 2021 as a very young pup. He was then released into the wild on 9 November. On release he had been 33kg but by the time he had travelled over 300 miles to English waters and came to West Hatch, he was just 14kg and in need of lots of care. Fortunately he did well at the centre and was released again just this week.





The RSPCA advises that if members of the public spot a seal on a beach that they observe them from a distance and do not approach them. Seals are wild animals and have a nasty bite. It is also advised they keep dogs on leads on

beaches that have seal colonies too.

If you see a pup whose mother hasn't returned within 24 hours, is on a busy public beach, or if you think the seal may be sick or injured, please call the RSPCA's advice and cruelty line on 0300 1234 999. There is more information on the RSPCA website about what to do if you see a seal or pup on the beach alone.

We had another happy release this week – although of a much smaller mammal. This hazel dormouse was returned to its habitat after a stay in care at the centre.



As you can see a lot goes on at the centre. Why not follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with all our news. You can find us by searching for RSPCA West Hatch Animal Centre and also for RSPCA West Hatch Wildlife. You might also consider joining our Friends group and helping us to offer the best possible care to the animals in the centre. Thanks.



# WILL YOU BE OUR FRIEND?

Friends of West Hatch yearly membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Post code \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque/cash for **£10** (made payable to the Friends of West Hatch)

I enclose an optional donation of: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Make your gift go 25% further with Gift Aid

If you are a UK taxpayer please allow the Friends of West Hatch to boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate. In order to Gift Aid your donations you must tick the box below (✓):

*giftaid it*

- YES, I am a UK taxpayer and I would like to treat this donation and any donations I make in the future and have made in the past 4 years as Gift Aid donations, until I notify you otherwise. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

This form will be held securely and not shared with any third party as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018.

### Please post the completed form with your payment to:

The Friends of West Hatch, c/o RSPCA West Hatch Animal Centre, Taunton,  
Somerset, TA3 5RT.

### OFFICE USE ONLY

Membership number: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt number: \_\_\_\_\_

The Friends of West Hatch, Registered Charity Number 1062697



# STAPLE FITZPAINE, BICKENHALL, CURLAND, THURLBEAR SCARECROW FESTIVAL 2022

23rd July—31<sup>st</sup> July



## Theme "A Royal Presence"

Maps (£1) & Voting forms in St Peter's  
Church, Staple Fitzpaine during the festival

Voting closes 11am on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July

1<sup>st</sup> prize £50, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £25, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize £10  
& children's prizes

**Vote for your favourite!**

Teas at Battens Green Fm Bickenhall Wed 27<sup>th</sup>  
July from 3pm - please bring your own chair!

BBQ and to hear the results will take place  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July

12.30pm to 2.30pm £6 pp Booking essential on  
list in church porch or phone as below

Alison Brown 01823 480441 or  
[aabrown.battens@gmail.com](mailto:aabrown.battens@gmail.com)

All Proceeds to St Peter's Church



## Poetry Corner

### *The Crown by Carol Ann Duffy*

Written for the 60th anniversary of the Coronation.

The crown translates a woman to a Queen –  
 endless gold, circling itself, an O  
 like a well,  
 fathomless, for the years to drown  
 in – history's bride,  
 anointed, blessed, for a crowning.

One head alone  
 can know its weight, on throne, in  
 pageantry,  
 and feel it still, in private space,  
 when it's lifted:  
 not a hollow thing, but a  
 measuring; no halo,  
 treasure, but a valuing; decades  
 and duty. Time-gifted,  
 the crown is old light, journeying  
 from skulls of kings  
 to living Queen.

Its jewels glow, virtues; loyalty's  
 ruby, blood-deep; sapphire's ice  
 resilience; emerald evergreen;  
 the shy pearl, humility. My whole  
 life, whether it be long  
 or short, devoted to your  
 service. Not lightly worn.

## Household Recycling & Refuse Collections



Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Spring Bank Holiday Thursday 2 June	Saturday 4 June
Platinum Jubilee of Elizabeth II Friday 3 June-Friday 10 June	All collections one working day later (inc Friday 3 June pick-ups on Monday 6 June, and Monday on Tuesday through to Friday 10 June pick-ups on Saturday 11 June
Summer Bank Holiday Monday 29 August-Friday 2 September	All collections one day later (inc Friday pick-ups on Saturday 3 September



## **Ella Foot Health Mobile Clinic**

**Foot Health Practitioner (RFHP)  
Offering foot care and advice:**

**Nail trimming and filing  
Difficult toe nails  
Callus and corns  
Fungal infections**

***Call Ella on 07729 733452  
to book a home visit***

## **The Greyhound Inn**

**Country pub with rooms**

Open daily

01823 480227

<https://www.thegreyhoundinнтаunton.co.uk>



# **Somerset Electricians**

**Your Local Electrician**

**07860518025**

**[www.somersetelectricians.co.uk](http://www.somersetelectricians.co.uk)**

**[somersetelectricians@gmail.com](mailto:somersetelectricians@gmail.com)**

# Local Communication and Information

## **Websites:**

### **Neroche Villages** [www.nerochevillages.org.uk](http://www.nerochevillages.org.uk)

Community website run by the Neroche Communication Action Group. It has an up-to-date calendar of events; a news section; information about residents' action groups, including broadband, traffic; a business section and advertisements.

The website features a comprehensive list of clubs and organisations, including details of those in neighbouring parishes. It is also the website of Neroche Parish Council and lists its activities, agenda, minutes and reports.

### **Neroche Hall** [www.nerochehall.org.uk](http://www.nerochehall.org.uk)

The website lists the coming events, facilities and availability for hire of our village hall, and has an online booking form.

### **Church of England Seven Sowers Benefice** [www.sevensowers.org.uk](http://www.sevensowers.org.uk)

Has a calendar of events and church service times for Staple Fitzpaine and Orchard Portman churches, as well as other churches in the benefice.

## **Email Information:**

The Neroche Communication Action Group runs an Email Alert System for sending information to those wishing to receive it. **Please note the email address for the EMail Alert:** [nerocheemail@gmail.com](mailto:nerocheemail@gmail.com)

## **The Parish Magazine:**

Full information on benefice matters, a great source of news, coming events and general information, and details of many local businesses and services. For new subscriptions phone Alison Brown on 01823 480441.

### ***Many thanks for taking the time to read this Newsletter.***

*The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the Editor or the Neroche Communication Action Group. Publication of an advertisement in, or with, the newsletter does not imply the Action Group's approval of the goods or services.*

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