

“Working Together for a Better Community”

NEROCHE VILLAGES

Issue No 7

Newsletter

February 2013

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

We wish to thank **Taunton Racecourse** for demonstrating their support for the local community by sponsoring all production and printing costs



for this issue of the Neroche Villages Newsletter. Should you wish to find out more about the racecourse, especially its excellent facilities or how to

become a member, then please go to www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk, call 01823 337172 or see the articles in this newsletter.

*If you would like **your** company to feature on the front page of a future issue, then please contact wallytorrington@hotmail.com 01823 480656*

Welcome to the seventh issue of the Neroche Villages' Newsletter, which hopes to satisfy the need identified in the Parish Plan for a 'hard copy' local news and information medium delivered free to every household in Neroche Parish. The aim of this publication is to improve communication within the Parish by providing news and information on a wide variety of subjects and issues.

Foreword

By David Knight, Editor of the Parish Magazine



We are delighted that David Knight, Editor of the Parish Magazine, agreed to produce the Foreword for this month's Neroche Villages Newsletter. It is an example of the cooperation that exists between the editorial teams of both publications, and the importance we place upon the symbiotic relationship that exists between the two. Please see the separate notice following this article, which advises how you can subscribe to our sister publication, the Parish Magazine.

It was an honour to be invited to write the foreword for this issue of the Neroche Villages Newsletter. Although having lived in the area for some seven years, and having been involved with the Parish Magazine for five of those seven, I still regard myself as something of a new boy in the locality.

Being resident in Stoke St Mary, I do not see the Newsletter on a regular basis, so it was a pleasant surprise when Wally Torrington kindly sent copies of the summer and autumn issues of 2012. I found these a most enjoyable read and a true credit to the volunteers involved in its concept and preparation. Particularly enjoyable are the wide range of topics and articles, something that I had hoped to broaden the Parish Magazine with when I started as editor five years ago. It has been a joy to include them on the occasional basis in which they come in as contributing articles but the realities of producing a monthly publication leaves little time to “cajole” people into writing them. It is a credit to your editor, Alan Perrior, for doing such a good job in this respect.

A colleague suggested recently that perhaps the names of our respective publications should be exchanged. In reality the Parish Magazine is the newsletter in that being published monthly it has more immediacy to carry the “news” of what is happening in our community. By contrast the Neroche Villages Newsletter is the magazine in that being a quarterly

publication there is time to dwell on and reflect at greater length on the on-going, historical and longer term matters of general interest. This is just one of the aspects that make the two publications complementary to each other.

It was interesting to learn, in a recent conversation with Wally, just how the various volunteer sections of the Newsletter have worked together to bring the publication to its present size and presentational format in just 18 months, and how production is accomplished totally among these volunteers without recourse to outside commercial printing – truly a community endeavour. By contrast, of course, this would be much more difficult to achieve for the editorial section



of the monthly Parish Magazine, where anything up to 70 items per month have to be turned into an electronic document in 3 to 4 days, in preparation for commercial printing (of necessity, given the time scale). Despite entirely volunteer effort in editing and distribution, commercial printing does mean that serious costs are incurred and these are met, as regular readers will know, by trade advertising and subscription. Fortunately the trade advertising revenue means that a regular subscription for the Parish Magazine delivered to any home address within the Benefice villages is a very modest £6.00 per annum for the 12 issues (50 pence per magazine issue).

Many subscribers to the Parish Magazine find the advertising section a useful source of suppliers, particularly for trade skills for the home, anything from building work, plumbing, electrical, heating, etc. through to catering and upholstery and many more. My wife and I were new to this area when we moved here in 2005, and well before my association with the Magazine. We found the advertising section of the Parish

Magazine invaluable in sourcing local trade skills, and continue to use it for this purpose.

After five years of editing the Parish Magazine, I do not feel so experienced as to be advising others, but I would say to the organisers of the Newsletter *“do look after the volunteer workers in your team and listen to their views and suggestions. In a community endeavour of this magnitude and with this commitment the more willing contributing helpers available so much the better are the tasks shared and with the avoidance of overloading the few”*.

With all good wishes for the continuing success of the Newsletter and may your volunteers and ours at the Parish Magazine continue to work together with goodwill and in the same complementary manner to bring the best possible service to our joint readership.

PARISH MAGAZINE



So much more than a church magazine!
Distributed in Beercrocombe, Curry Mallet,
Hatch Beauchamp, Orchard Portman,
Staple Fitzpaine including Curland & Bickenhall,
Stoke St Mary with Thurlbear and West Hatch.

Complete Village Organisations' Directory, General Village News,
Individual Village News Sections and What's Going On Around Us.

Promotions and reports on community events, calendar of events
for the month and those forthcoming, colour photographs of
village news and activities, trade advertising section.

Annual subscription £6.00 per year (12 monthly issues)
including delivery to your door.

New subscribers please contact
David Symmonds on 01823 480208
or Kate Reynolds on 01823 444023.



A Few Notes from The Farming Community

(by Mark Pope)

As many of us living in the Parish do not fully comprehend the world of farming, Mark Pope has kindly penned a few words to give us a better understanding of what life has been like during this particularly difficult year for the local farming community.

What a year! With only 85 mm of rain till the end of March, where in a normal year we would expect nearer to 120mm, together with a very mild winter, the crops looked about 4 weeks ahead of where they should have been for that time of year.

The Christmas trees and the winter wheat all suffered badly from aphid damage due to the unseasonably dry warm winter. We were looking at drought orders and hosepipe bans from the Environment Agency, and the possibility of lack of grass for the livestock.



But that was all to change, with the wettest April on record followed by the wettest summer on record. We had 203 mm of rain in April alone, then another 457 mm in June to August.

In farming terms, to create a seed bed for maize or potatoes in the April was a real challenge due to the very wet ground. Added to this was a low soil temperature, which resulted in very poor establishment of crops. Some potato and maize crops simply rotted and had to be replanted. For our wheat and oilseed rape the problem was the huge disease pressure in the crops together with the difficulty of getting onto the fields with heavy machinery and the ability to travel on the ground at the right time to treat the crop.

As we all know, not only did we have too much rain we also had very little sun, which had a huge effect on the growing crops. The lack of sun meant

crops had very poor pollination due lack of bee and insect activity. For us this resulted in the yield of the crops at harvest being down between 20% and 50% from normal tonnage.

Perhaps, we thought, we will get an Indian summer! Unfortunately not, we did get a brief respite in early September and we managed to get our oil seed rape and some



wheat planted. Then down came the rain again. 50 mm rain falling in one-go on wet ground ‘does no one any favours’. This caused some of our planted crops to be washed out of the fields. One field suffered severe soil erosion three times this autumn, as well as losing an area of the crop from that field.



Many of you with gardens will have noticed the unwanted attentions of slugs. Slugs this year have been the worst for many years, perhaps being one of the few things that like the constant wet. Perhaps this should be a new venture for us!

The wet weather has made maize and potato harvesting exceptionally difficult with poor crops, and terrible field conditions leading to some mud on the roads, which in most cases, we as farmers, have done our utmost to clean up.

It seems, talking to my neighbouring farmers that no section of farming has escaped. Sheep have fattened slower than normal due to the very wet grass, dairy cows have had to spend most of the summer inside due to waterlogged fields, and chicken and pig farming have had huge challenges due to the increase in food costs.

Roll on 2013 and the sunshine.



Environment Agency Flood Warning Service

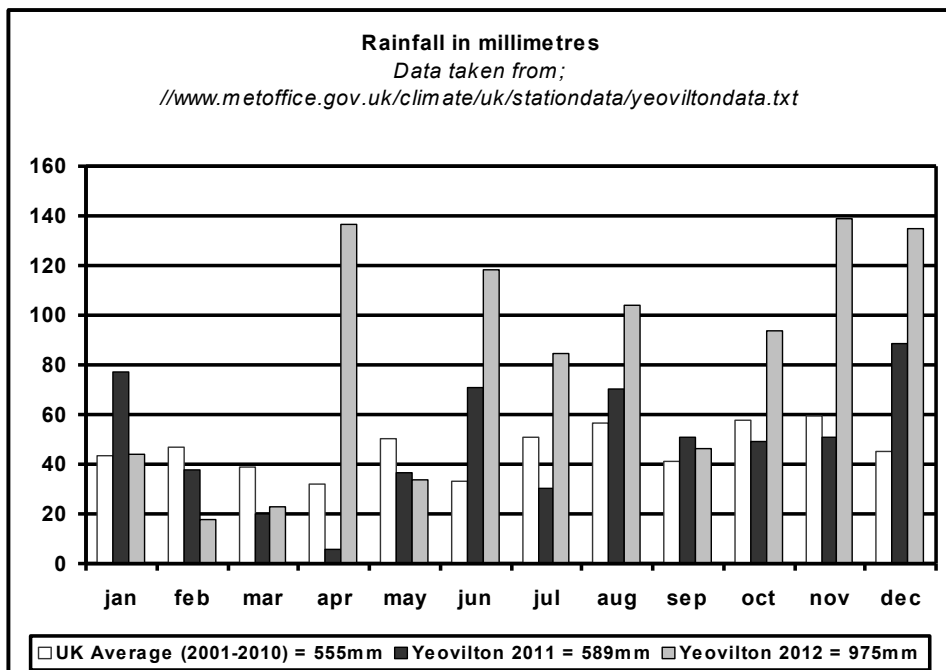
To get direct access to up-to-date information on flood risks:
Call the Floodline on 0845 988 1188

or go to <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods>
click on 'Flood Warnings'
then enter your postcode, town or local river name

Or register to receive flood warnings by telephone, text, email
or fax using the free 'Floodline Warning Direct' service.

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*This rainfall chart has been based on Met Office
stats for Yeovilton as it is the nearest location for
which comprehensive details are available.*



“Lest We Forget”

(by Colin Croad)

On Friday 9th November, in the Village Hall, the Heritage Theatre Company performed their tribute to all service men and women, as well as the civilians, who were involved in two world wars.



The Heritage Theatre Group gave to all those who attended, a superb evening's entertainment. Most of us had little idea of what to expect, although we knew the performance had gone down extremely well in other village halls in Somerset.

We were treated to an enormous variety of songs, speeches, sound effects and other reminders of what our nation so superbly coped with during two World Wars. It is easy to forget that many living at the time experienced both of these horrendous conflicts.

As always, we were moved by Henry V's great St. Crispin Day speech, and in a different way, by a superb rendition of Vera Lynn's 'We'll Meet Again'.

It is not always clear how our young people come to terms with the services and ceremonies that we see on television and in our cities, towns and villages, on Remembrance Sunday. It is a pity that we did not make greater efforts to encourage our local youngsters to come along to the performance. I am certain it would have helped them to understand the very mixed emotions that were brought to bear on the country during these turbulent times.

We have invited the Heritage Group to return to the Hall for a Christmas Show next year, which we trust will receive the response they so richly deserve.





Many thanks to Alison Brown, Sheila Green, Diana Davies and the other ladies for providing great wartime fare, comprising baked potatoes with fillings. There were well over 70 people in the audience and around £400 was raised, which will go towards the provision of a monthly cinema show, which is being planned with Moviola. It is

anticipated that the first film will be screened in early 2013. The rest of the money raised will go to the general running costs of the Hall, which like all households are on the increase.

Neroche Parish Walking Group

Feeling as though you need to get a bit more active in 2013? Then come and join our friendly walking group. We meet for a two and a half hour walk on the first Saturday of each month.

As local people, we have great fun exploring the footpaths and bridleways in the parish. Most of us have discovered wonderful routes that we have never walked before. The extensive views, beautiful woodland and interesting tracks together with friendly company make for a really enjoyable time.

Our routes vary, recently we left our own very beautiful parish to walk in another nearby, and had a very scenic walk based on Otterford. Others have taken us on the myriad of small lanes and byways in the Blackdowns while the annual bluebell walk through the woods is a firm favourite.



We celebrate our third anniversary as a walking group in February, so come and join the fun.

We next meet at Home Mead (the field next door to the Greyhound Pub) in Staple Fitzpaine at 10am on 2nd of Feb. For more information contact Jane Hole on 01460 234410 or Sheila Green

Avon and Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner



Sue Mountstephens is a Bristol-born businesswoman who ran her own chain of bakeries in Bristol, Bath and Somerset. She has worked as a magistrate for 15 years and has also served on the Avon and Somerset Police Authority.

Her election pledges were to keep the politics out of policing and to focus on tackling anti-social behaviour, burglary and violent crime, particularly against women and girls, and to give victims “a louder voice”.

Ms Mountstephens said *“Effective policing is essential to our well-being in Avon and Somerset – I want our residents to be safe and feel safe. We are fortunate to have an outstanding police service in Avon and Somerset – officers, staff and volunteers are hard working, talented and brave. I will listen to all our residents, especially the quiet voices, to understand their needs and help shape police priorities across the whole of Avon and Somerset.”*

Ms Mountstephens began her four-year term on 22 November 2012 and is responsible for controlling the budget and setting police priorities. Ms Mountstephens confirmed 24 officers would join the force in January 2013, with a further 48 set to join later in the year. **She also confirmed that there would be no increase in the police’s share of the council tax bill next year.**

(Source: BBC News website)

The PCC site is www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Official-site.aspx, which contains full details of the PCC’s News & Events, Priorities, Policies on Openness, Taking Part and Feedback, **and how to contact the PCC so that you can have ‘Your Say’.**

Avon & Somerset
Police Authority

your police | your voice

NEROCHE HALL QUIZ



With Colin Croad (*and fish and chips*)

Teams of up to 6 - £2.00 per person
(*fish and chips extra*)

Friday 22nd February 2013

7.00pm for 7.15pm start

(*Bring your own drinks and glasses*)

NEROCHE THURSDAY LUNCHEAS AT NEROCHE HALL

Come Along To Neroche Hall and Enjoy A Great Home-Cooked
2-Course Lunch. Meet People From the Locality
Take Time Out From Your Busy Daily Routine and
Enjoy Conviviality & Friendliness At A Community Lunch

Lunches will take place on Thursdays at 12.30 for 1.00 pm
7th February, 7th March, 4th April, 9th May

Please phone or email to book (need to know for catering purposes)
Transport / special diets can be arranged. Contact Alison Brown
tel: 01823 480441, Email: alison-anthony@battensfarm.fsnet.co.uk

Organised by Friends of St Peters Church

Uncover the Blackdown Hills' Iron Age past

Would you like to learn modern archaeology skills? Could you spare a few hours to take part in an exciting Iron Age project? Or have you found glassy black rock in your garden or fields? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, local archaeologist Marc Cox wants to hear from you!

A new project funded by the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership's Sustainable Development Fund is underway to further understand the area as a centre for ancient iron manufacture. Marc Cox, a post-graduate



researcher at the University of Exeter and local resident, and Dr Brian Gilmour, a senior researcher at Oxford University, have begun work to uncover the age and extent of this important industry that shaped the landscape of the Blackdown Hills.

The project aims to undertake a large-scale geophysical survey of important sites in February

2013. It will bring together knowledge of local residents and landowners to better complete the archaeological picture. Marc and Brian would like to hear from anyone who would like to take part in the fieldwork, or who has information about the presence of slag (a black lava-like rock) or ironstone from anywhere within the AONB. Please get in touch with Marc by emailing mantonycox@gmail.com or via the AONB office on 01823 680681.

The Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was designated in 1991 to protect the landscape for the nation. It covers 370 sq km of land on the Devon and Somerset border and is one of 46 AONBs in the UK. The Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership brings together local authorities, conservation organisations, national agencies, parish councils and community groups to help ensure that the Blackdown Hills remains a healthy, living landscape for future generations. For more information visit <http://www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk/>

***Annual Meetings for the Parishes of
Bickenhall, Curland, Orchard Portman with
Thurlbear, and Staple Fitzpaine***

Thursday 16 May 2013

Neroche Village Hall - Doors Open 7.00pm

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, every English Parish must hold an Annual Parish Meeting between 1st March and 1st June each year, and it must take place after 6.00pm



The Annual Parish Meetings is one of the most important local events of the year. An occasion when: residents can make their voices heard; meet their Parish, Borough and County Councillors; learn more about local, social and sporting activities; and be updated on the progress being made by local Action Groups. It is also an opportunity to find out about all the excellent work going on in the parishes and the wide variety of activities that are taking place, and, more importantly, become involved if you so wish. There will be guest speakers, and stands for all the clubs and social organisations in the parishes to advertise their activities. It is most important that as

many local residents as possible attend. This year's event will be taking place during the evening of Thursday 16 May 2013 in the Neroche Village Hall.

***YOUR ATTENDANCE AND SUPPORT IS
ESSENTIAL; PLEASE BE THERE!!!***

News From Taunton Deane Borough Council

John Williams, Borough Councillor for Neroche Ward and Leader of Taunton Deane Borough Council, has kindly offered to write a regular column for our Newsletter.



Flooding. First and foremost I wish to acknowledge the great hardship caused to many local residents, businesses and those of the farming community by the recent unprecedented weather and resultant flooding. However, I offer my reassurance that, as a Local Authority responsible for planning, we are working tirelessly to understand and design alleviation measures to offer flood protection for the future. We have already created several major flood alleviation schemes that hold back enormous amounts of water from the main water courses, and then, over time, release it back into the rivers and streams once high water levels have passed. During this recent



inundation they offered flood protection to many, and contributed to the fact that the River Tone did not burst its banks in Taunton during the recent heavy rainfall.

From a local perspective, landowners can (and

many do) help enormously by maintaining minor waterways and ditches that cross their land. It is an important part of the water management policy to entrap or slow up water before it causes unexpected flooding or enters the main water courses quickly.

We are attempting to produce a register of incidents across the Deane to assist the Environment Agency in their consideration of any preventative measures likely for the future. Local residents can help by keeping a

record of flooding events on roads and in properties, and passing the information to the Parish Council, or email details direct to me, and I will pass on to the relevant Officer (*email address given below*).

Local Authority Finances. Budget setting is now pending for your Parish Council and for Taunton Deane, and despite best efforts to contain costs it gets no easier to set the balanced budget that, in law, we have to achieve. We have just had our Borough Council provisional grant settlement figures issued by Government, and it is proposed we lose 5.7% (around £0.6m) this year but an eye watering 12.7% (circa £1m) next year, which will really start to make life difficult. Up to now we have been focussing on reducing administration and back office costs but there is a limit to our ability to continue reducing costs without having to reduce services. However, we are committed to maintaining the valued front line services as long as we are able, and make the necessary savings elsewhere. But, with the projected cut in grant funding facing us next year, I suspect we will be left with little choice but to reduce the level of service offered whilst trying to maintain those most valued or the statutory services we must provide.



It's not all bad news though, we continue to invest in our public areas to enhance the quality of life when visiting Taunton town centre. We have been shortlisted for a Lottery fund bid to upgrade and refurbish Station Road swimming pool; we should know, by February 2013, if we have been successful. Work on planning a replacement for St James Street swimming pool continues, with a view to delivering this in 2014.



Social Housing. As the Borough Council, we are the major provider of social rented housing for our community, with over 6,000 dwellings in our stock. As can be envisaged, this requires major investment to maintain and improve these properties. The 2013/14 budget proposes £7.7 million in major works and improvements and, in addition, we are



looking at plans to invest around £4 million in new houses that will be available to rent. The plan is to continue funding this construction programme in future years, as Government have, at last, removed the restriction on Council's developing their own housing for rent. Can I please reassure Neroche residents that this is all paid-for from the "Housing Revenue Account" and does not impact on the "General Fund Revenue Account" being the general taxpayers fund!

Highway Improvements. I have previously mentioned Somerset County



Council's efforts to secure Government backing for an upgrade of the A303/A30/A358 road corridor. This is vital to the South West region as a whole (and particularly for Taunton Deane), the A358 link to J25 and, of course, the upgrading of J25 to take the increased capacity from our development plans.

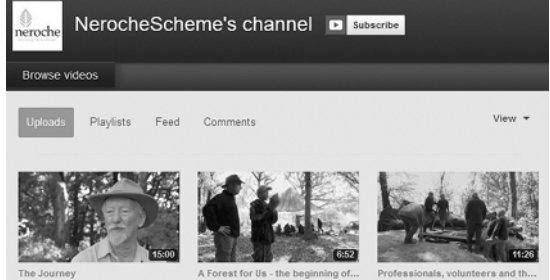
We have been providing economic data, which County are now incorporating in a cost/benefit study to demonstrate to Government how a corridor improvement programme of the routes proposed would drive economic growth across the region. Having seen the draft of the economic report, it is impressive to see the value of investing in infrastructure; I just hope it persuades Ministers, who have difficult choices to make from a limited supply of funds! This, therefore, remains work in progress but I know a high priority for County and us.

If you would like further detail on any of these issues, I can be contacted by email cldr.j.williams@tauntondeane.gov.uk or at my office on 01823 356421, mob 07831 341081.

Neroche Scheme - Now on Youtube!

The Neroche Scheme has set-up a Youtube channel on which it has loaded a series of films by filmmaker Justin Owen. *To view the films, go to www.youtube.com/user/NerocheScheme?Ob=0*

Justin has worked with the Neroche partnership for four years, documenting its progress and most recently he made a record of 'The Woodland Edge Conference' which took place at the end of the scheme's five year Lottery funding. Videos from the conference include presentations from key speakers and some of the discussion sessions in the woods. The film entitled 'Neroche The Journey' provides a 14-minute overview of the Neroche Scheme, its ethos and its achievements.



Neroche Christmas Fayre

(by Alison Brown)



A successful Christmas Fayre was held at Neroche Hall on 2nd December. The Hall had been beautifully decorated by stalwarts from the Thursday Lunches team & there was a festive atmosphere with Christmas music in the background. Members of the hall committee served refreshments, including much-enjoyed mince pies, and Santa Claus (aka Rob Larkman) was in his grotto, welcoming any children.

The Fayre ran from 2pm to 4.30pm & the majority of the visiting public were in by 3pm. Most of the traders were busy, there being a wide selection of gifts available; skin-care products, silk scarves, cards and jewellery being some of the items on sale. Of course, our very own Artisan Baker, Frank Heuff, was present, doing a roaring trade, hopefully to some new customers as well as existing ones.

Numbers of public were unfortunately a bit lower than 2011, possibly due to the present economic climate, but more likely that there are now an increasing number of Xmas fairs in the locality. However, the event was rated a success and is a good showcase for our lovely parish hall.

News From Somerset County Council

David Fothergill, our Somerset County Councillor, has kindly offered to write a regular column for our Newsletter.



For the Country, 2012 was a wonderful year: the Jubilee; the Olympics; the Paralympics; and many other superb sporting achievements! In Somerset, however, the news has been a little more mixed.

On the downside, twice during the year we saw serious flooding, most recently in November and December when the majority of the Levels resembled a huge lake. Locally there was some flash flooding and one of the lessons the County Council must learn from these events is to move its 137,000 gullies to a risk based maintenance schedule.

In addition, during the past 12 months, central Government grants to Somerset have again been slashed; this at a time when there has been a growing demand for essential services from an increasing group of vulnerable children and an ageing population.

However, I thought that I should concentrate on good news...let's at least start out the year in the right way!

- On 12th December the County started to pay back the huge £385m debt legacy, which was costing about £100,000 a day in interest charges. This first repayment of £5m started to reduce that exposure and I'm pleased to advise that a further repayment will be made in February.



•Key projects, including the Third Way in Taunton and West Quay in Bridgwater, have been completed and subsequently received national recognition.

•The Museum of Somerset goes from strength to strength, it is now widely recognised as the number one tourist attraction in the area, and if you haven't yet been then put a date in your diary very soon, its free and you'll love it!

- The project to bring Broadband to the most rural areas (including the Parishes of Neroche) continues at pace, with the preferred bidder (BT) now identified to deliver at least 2 Mbps to all businesses & homes, and 20 Mbps to 85% by 2015.

Perhaps more importantly though is the fact that adoptions in Somerset have doubled over the past 12 months - placing some of the most vulnerable children into loving families and giving them a far better chance in life.

So, as we enter into the New Year, and one which will see the next County elections being held, we have to keep our focus on delivering services with increasing demand and falling funds. The balance will not be easy to strike but there is no real alternative.



The commitment made by myself and my colleagues nearly four years ago to freeze Council tax, fill more potholes and start to payback the inherited debt have, I believe, all been met; the challenge now will be to do more of the same but in an even tougher climate.

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The Neroche Hall committee is negotiating with Moviola to bring regular cinema showings to the parish (pending investigations into the venue’s suitability).



Moviola is one of the largest rural cinema operations in the UK and has more than 80 screenings every month. Moviola operates a “touring” model where venues share the latest BluRay High Definition equipment and the largest screens that will fit into the hall.



Moviola already operates in several local villages, including Curry Rivel, Combe St Nicholas and Hinton St George where such films as Gambit, Quartet and Skyfall are due to be shown in the coming months.

*(Refer to the Neroche Hall website for further details;
<http://www.nerochehall.org.uk>)*

Focus on Local Business

Taunton Racecourse



Most residents are surprised when they discover that the racecourse is situated within the Neroche Civic Parish boundary (albeit only just).

It is the largest business in the Parish with 15 permanent employees, which can expand to 200 on race days with the use of temporary staff.

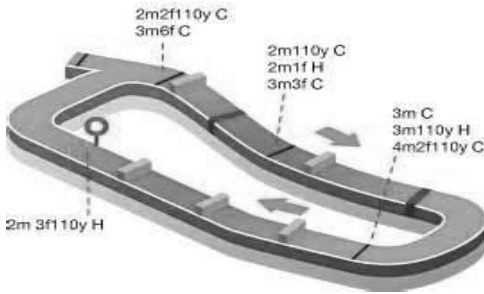
Taunton is England's youngest National Hunt racecourse and one of the most beautifully located courses in the country, with outstanding views across to the wooded slopes of the Blackdown Hills. There has been racing in Taunton since the eighteenth century, and in the present location since 21 September 1927. The facilities for spectators have been spectacularly improved over the years, from a wooden stand surrounded by mud in the early days to the magnificent facilities that exist in 2013.

Racing takes place between November and May each year, with the season comprising, on average, 17 meetings. At each meeting there is action packed entertainment, and hospitality to suit all budgets; from cheering your horse at trackside with a beefburger and mug of tea to watching the racing from a high class restaurant or private box serving a Champagne lunch and afternoon tea.



On non race days the racecourse is put to numerous uses, including: conferences, weddings, property auctions, car boot sales, exhibitions, firework shows, caravan rallies etc etc; in fact there seems to be no end to the ingenuity of the management to best utilise the course facilities, its 135 acres and 1,000 capacity car park.

Jumps



If you are interested in learning more about Taunton Racecourse, or becoming a member and enjoying the exclusive facilities of the members stand and restaurant, then contact the Chief Executive Bob Young on 01823 337172 or at info@tauntonracecourse.co.uk

Remaining Fixtures for 2013

Day	Date	First Race	Last Race
Thursday	7th February	1.45pm	5.00pm
Tuesday	19th February	2.00pm	5.20pm
Thursday	28th February	2.10pm	5.10pm
Monday	11th March	2.20pm	5.20pm
Monday	25th March	2.20pm	5.20pm
Thursday	4th April	2.10pm	5.35pm
Wednesday	24th April	5.05pm	8.05pm
Thursday	2nd May	5.20pm	8.20pm
Thursday	14th November	1.10pm	4.10pm
Thursday	28th November	12.35pm	3.55pm
Thursday	12th December	12.50pm	3.50pm
Monday	30th December	12.40pm	4.00pm

Also, during 2013, wearing their Taunton badges, members will be admitted to 44 other courses for 55 days of free racing.

Other membership benefits include:

Free entry to The Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead for the King George V Gold Cup Day on Sunday 4th August 2013, with full use of all members' facilities.

Two-for-one tickets to attend the Bath & West Show which runs from Wednesday 29th May to Saturday 1st June 2013.

A Brief History of Horse Racing in Taunton

Horse racing has been taking place in the Taunton area since the 18th century, initially at Broomhay, West Monkton. Racing ceased at this location in 1812 due, partially, to the Napoleonic Wars but continued in Bridgwater until Edwardian times.



Racing recommenced in Taunton in 1825 at Mountlands on the Shoreditch Road, the site now occupied by King's College, and was praised highly in the annual publication 'Sporting Magazine'. However, the "Mountlands" site was troubled by heavy rain in 1838, which washed out all the races, and two years later racing moved to Trull Moor, where it continued for a further 15 years. After this, the sport was once again confined to Bridgwater, but ceased even there at the outbreak of World War I.

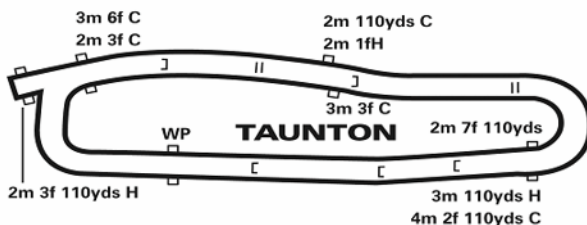
In 1927, at a meeting held in the Paddington Hotel in London, the Taunton Racecourse Company was founded and agreed to create a new course on land granted by Viscount Portman. This was the site of Orchard Portman House, the seat of the Portman family, until it was demolished in 1840. A small church, which was part of the estate and dates back to Saxon times, is still visible from the course.



The first meeting was held on 21 September 1927, and the first race, the "Shoreditch Selling Hurdle" was won by Baalbek. Initially, spectators were accommodated in nothing more than a wooden stand, which was often surrounded by a sea of mud. However, the ground has now been extensively upgraded and spoil from the M5 motorway was used to build up and extend the bends and back straight.

Facilities for the spectators have improved from the early days and now include the Orchard Stand, the Paddock Stand (which is the members enclosure) and the newer AP McCoy stand. The catering facilities are used for meetings and conferences on days when racing is not taking place.

Taunton is a right-handed oval track, with two long straights and two tight bends. The course is 1 mile and 2 furlongs (2.01 km) in length, and has both fences and open ditches for the horses and riders to negotiate.



Taunton was the last National Hunt racecourse to be opened in Britain, and it was the newest racecourse for 81 years, until a new course opened in Great Leighs near Chelmsford in 2008.

New Year's Honours

The New Year's Honours List didn't include any Neroche Parish Residents (as far as we know) but the following "locals" received richly deserved awards:

British Empire Medal

Valerie Joslin (Tatworth), **Betty Susan Snell Koppa** (North Curry), **Monica Murdoch** (Blagdon) and **Professor Deryck Neill Nuttall** (Taunton) received awards for services to their communities.

OBE

Debbie Criddle (Taunton) received the OBE for services to Equestrianism. She competed in London 2012 (her fourth paralympic games) in both team and individual Dressage events and took a Gold and two Silver Medals. (*Debbie is well known in the local "horsey" world and officially opened the Neroche Herepath Trail on Saturday 10 May 2009.*)

MBE

Philip White. Chief Executive of Hestercombe Gardens Trust received the MBE for services to Historic Garden Restoration.

Neroche Parish Council



Welcome to the first in a series of articles on Neroche Parish Council, produced by our Clerk, Howard Midworth. This initial article looks at the history and formation of Parish Councils and specifically Neroche Parish Council; future articles will aim to convey the powers and duties of local councils, and the work of the local Parish Council.

Parish Councils are the first tier of local government in England and Wales and were originally created by the Local Government Act 1894. Prior to this date local government was based around ecclesiastical parishes, and the Church of England administered parish affairs. The Act effectively transferred all non-ecclesiastical functions from the church to elected Parish Councils.

Further legislation followed with the Local Government Act 1933, and the major legislation which reorganised local government in England and Wales was the Local Government Act 1972. This sets out the duties and powers of local councils, and remains the most important legislation governing the sector today.

Neroche Parish is an unusual (but not unique) arrangement, in that it is a grouped parish, whereby a number of civic parishes or villages share a Parish Council rather than each having their own separate council. Prior to 1973 it appears that only an Annual Parish Meeting was held in Bickenhall where little business was discussed. The records of the Bickenhall Annual Parish Meetings from 1894 to 1940 are retained in the Somerset County Archives.

In 1971 correspondence was entered-into between Mr H.A. Groves [*of 'Prospect Villa', Bickenhall – since renamed 'Bickenhall House'*] and the then Taunton Rural District Council, regarding the formation of a Parish Council for the three Parishes of Bickenhall, Curland and Staple Fitzpaine. This established that there would have to be parish meetings in the three

parishes to decide whether they wished to be grouped into a Common Parish Council.

A meeting was held at the Bickenhall Parish Roomⁱ [*please see footnote*] on 6th July 1972, where Mr Harold Groves was proposed as Chairman by Mrs Bigwood [*of Underwood Farm, Staple Fitzpaine*] and seconded by



Mrs Edna Frances Grabham [*of Staple Farm, Staple Fitzpaine, and step mother-in-law of local resident Di Grabham*]. The Chairman then proposed the motion “*that the Parishes of Bickenhall, Curland and Staple Fitzpaine unite to form a Parish Council*”. The voting was 32 in favour and none against and it was resolved that the Council should be known as “Neroche Parish Council”.

(Mrs Edna Frances Grabham)

A request was therefore made to the County Council to establish Neroche Parish Council under s.45 of the Local Government Act 1933, and the Grouping Order was made under seal by the County Council of Somerset on 29th December 1972. It specified, amongst other things, that: the Council should have 9 members, 3 for each Parish; the first election of Parish Councillors should be held on 7th June 1973; the first Parish Council meeting should be held not later than 21 days after the election; and the meeting to be convened by the Chairman of the Parish Meeting of Bickenhall.



Standing Orders were adopted at the Annual Council Meeting of 6th May 1975, and unusually stated that, by mutual arrangement, the Chairman would be changed each year, so that, in turn, each of the three parishes provided the Chairman. The rotation of the Chairman was changed to bi-annually in the early 1980's, and the system seems to have remained in place ever since.

The original orders were signed by Rachel Haldane [*of 'Fairfield', Staple Fitzpaine, and former Mayor of Taunton*] as Chairman and C.A.Croot as Clerk to the Council. In 1978 Orchard Portman Parish Council amalgamated with Neroche, bringing the Parish of Orchard Portman with Thurlbear into the group, although there is little detail available of the reasons for this combination.

Shortly after the formation of Neroche Parish there was a major reorganisation of local government, with the implementation of the Local Government Act 1972, which resulted in the Rural District Councils being replaced by District or Borough Councils (thus Taunton Deane became a Borough Council rather than Rural District Council), and the Urban District Councils being replaced by City and Town Councils.

Today, Neroche Parish Council continues to represent the 4 Parishes, with 12 members on the Council, 3 representatives being elected from each parish. Parish Councillors (or Members) stand for re-election every 4 years, with the next elections falling due in May 2015. The Council meets bi-monthly on the second Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November at 7.30pm in Neroche Parish Hall, Bickenhall.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings, and notices of the meetings are published on the Parish Council pages of the Neroche Villages website and on the noticeboards at Bickenhall, Curland, Staple Fitzpaine and Orchard Portman. The minutes of the Council meetings and Council policies are also published on the website.

**Parish Council Meetings
For 2013**

(7.30pm in Neroche Hall)

Thursday 14th March

Thursday 9th May

Thursday 11th July

Thursday 12th September

Thursday 14th November

ⁱ *A small wooden-framed building, erected in 1908, which used to sit beside St Pauls Church (now, Neroche Village Hall). It served solely as a church room but was later enlarged to meet church and civic social needs of Bickenhall, Curland and Staple Fitzpaine.*

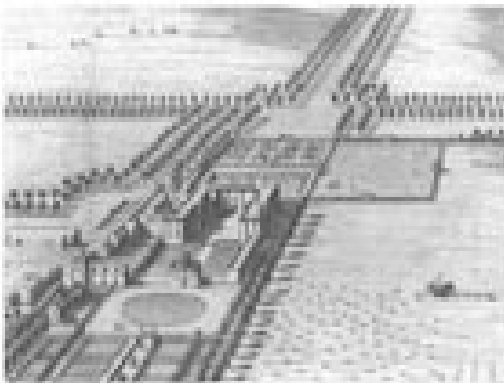
The Ancestral homes of the Portman's

(by Dianne Hood)

Many of the farms and cottages in our villages are now owned by the Crown Estate, but before 1947 this estate had for centuries been under the ownership of the Portman family.

It started in 1450 when a merchant, Walter Portman, married Christine d'Orchard, a widow who owned land in the Taunton area, which gave him a higher status. The family home was behind Orchard Portman church but in the 1550s

Orchard House was extended by Sir William Portman (later to become Lord Chief Justice). The Portmans became major landowners in Somerset but they also bought land in Marylebone which was to become the foundation stone of their later wealth.



In 1595 Sir Hugh Portman purchased the Staple Fitzpaine estate together with the two deer parks. (A large park around Staple Park Farm, and a smaller park at Park Farm, Bickenhall). All the large estates had their own deer parks and this meant that the Portmans could provide hunting and outdoor entertainment for their London visitors. He also improved Orchard House with new buildings and extensive gardens and orchards that extended over the site of the present racecourse.

However, in 1660 Sir William Portman, the 6th baronet, acquired the Rogers' estate at Bryanston, near Blandford Forum in Dorset with a Tudor mansion and 4,500 acres of land. Sir William spent much time there and in London. He died at Orchard House in 1689 and was buried in Orchard Portman parish church. He had no sons but left the estate to his nephew Henry who lived in Sherborne. Henry did not live at Orchard House but when Henry died in 1728 he too was buried in the family vault at Orchard Portman church. With no sons, the estate went to another cousin but he also chose to live at Bryanston rather than Orchard House, so this grand

house in Somerset fell into decline. Further generations inherited and all chose the estate in Dorset as their ancestral home, despite the fact that most of their income came from the Somerset estate. They stayed at their Taunton town house when visiting.



In the mid-1780s the land in London began to be developed. Edward Portman became very wealthy and decided to build a new house on the estate in Dorset. The old Tudor mansion was pulled down and in 1787 a Palladian style mansion, **the White House**, was built on the same site adjoining the

River Stour. It was designed by the architect James Wyatt and was approached via a new mile-long driveway through woodland.

In 1823 Edward died and was succeeded by his son, also Edward, who used the estate's income to rebuild farmhouses and schools in Somerset and Dorset. His wife was Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Victoria and he was later made a Viscount. The family lived at Bryanston and in their London town house. Orchard House, having been partly demolished in the 1780s, was now completely cleared. Staple Fitzpaine Manor was built in 1843 for a younger son, Fitzhardinge Berkeley Portman, who was rector for many years. The old Staple Inn and outbuildings, together with the Poor House and an old cottage were all removed in order to provide access for the manor to be built beside the church. Staple School and new Farmhouses were built – South Hill Farm, Staple Park Farm, Staple Farm in Staple Fitzpaine and Park Farm and Bickenhall Farm in Bickenhall were also built and it is believed that some of the stone from Orchard House may have been reused in these buildings.

Edward bought Hestercombe House 1873 for his eldest grandson Edward (known as Teddy) when he married. Edwin Luchens and Gertrude Jekyll were engaged to redesign the flower garden in front of the house into the beautiful garden that is open to the public today. Edward never inherited the estate as he died before his father but Edward's wife Constance continued to live there until her death in 1951 after which it was bought by Somerset County Council.

Edward Portman died in 1888 and his son, William Berkley, inherited as 2nd Viscount. The 99 year leases on the London town houses lapsed and a large amount of income was generated when they were renewed. In the 1890s many new farm cottages were built to provide better accommodation for their farm workers. These stone built semi-detached cottages with their brick window and door surrounds are commonly seen in our parishes.

At this time the 2nd Viscount and his wife decided to use their wealth to build a bigger house at **Bryanston**. The existing house by the river was damp, so plans were drawn up for a huge and very grand new house to be built on the top of the hill, overlooking the town.



It was designed by the architect Richard Norman Shaw and no expense was spared. The old house was demolished. Building work started in 1892 taking 5 years and eventually costing up to £500,000. The landscaped gardens at Bryanston were also laid out under the direction of Lady Portman.



The **huge opulent hallway**, with the 100m corridors leading off, was the first of its design giving access into individual rooms rather than having to walk through them. The rooms used by the Portman family were beautifully decorated to impress when the 1st Viscount entertained high society.



Sold by Lord Claude Portman in 1927 the house became, and still is, a private boarding school.

Bryanston School is an independent boarding school, for boys and girls aged from 13 to 18.

Lord Edward Claude Berkley Portman moved back to Somerset, to **Staple Fitzpaine Manor** in 1929 and lived there with his wife and two daughters until his death. His wife remained there until the 1970s. Lord Portman was very well known and respected by the villagers, he played in the local Cricket Team. After his death Lady Portman continued to be involved in local activities and was a member of the PCC.



When the 5th Viscount died leaving no sons, the Somerset estate was sold to the Crown Lands Commissioners to pay Death Duties. The title and the remainder of the estate were inherited by the 5th Viscount's uncle. The estate is currently managed by Smithsgore, acting as their agents.

The 10th Viscount, Christopher Portman, is still involved in the running of the London estate. The estate recently bought the Tudor House in Taunton, the medieval town house of the Portmans until 1823.

Some Local Websites



<http://www.blackdownsonline.org.uk>

The Blackdowns Online website provides information of interest to residents and visitors alike. It has been developed over the last few years to bring together the communities of the four local authority districts with residents in (or almost in!) the Blackdowns AONB. One of the key elements to emerge, in the consultation process for the Community Plan, was that there seemed to be a lack of 'joined-up-ness' between neighbouring parishes. One of the early resolutions of the Blackdown Hills Parish Network was to set up a website to enable everyone to learn more about what is going on elsewhere in the Hills.

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk> (then search for 'Museum of Somerset')

The Museum of Somerset tells the county's story from prehistoric times to the present day using films, sounds and images, and the voices and words of Somerset people past and present. (*Entry to the museum on Castle Green is free.*)



<https://slp4.somerset.gov.uk/schools/thurlbearprimary>



Thurlbear CE VA Primary School has seven classes supported by a dedicated team of staff, governors and parents. They ensure that each child's time at the school

is both happy and successful.

The principle aim of the school is to provide an excellent education for the children in an atmosphere of mutual respect, confidence and celebration. The school is also committed to providing children with high quality and meaningful first hand experiences which develop them into enthusiastic and dedicated learners.

Recent updates to the website include the proposed 2014/15 admission arrangements which are available to view in the policies section of the school's website.

There is a link to the school's website at the bottom of every page on the Neroche Villages website (www.nerochevillages.org.uk).

Neroche Local History Group November Meeting

“The Falklands Conflict – After the Ceasefire”

(Article by Tim French & Alan Perrior)



The November meeting was unusual, being given over to six months in the history of a small rural community far from our shores. 2012 saw many events marking the 30th anniversary of the Falklands conflict and much has been written about the success of the Task Force. However, little has ever been mentioned of the period immediately following the ceasefire. Colonel Wally Torrington, a resident and Parish Councillor of Bickenhall, gave a fascinating multimedia presentation entitled “The Falklands Conflict – After the Ceasefire”.

After returning from the Falklands in 1982, he put the presentation together to explain how the task was accomplished; afterwards, it was ‘boxed’ and consigned to the loft where it lay undisturbed for nearly 30 years. Early in 2012 the BBC, looking for material covering the period, contacted Wally and used some of his visuals on ‘The One Show’; whereupon Jane Hole, Chair of the Neroche History Group, asked Wally if he would give the presentation at one of their meetings.



(editor providing technical assistance)

During the presentation, Wally outlined the enormous challenges that the British troops, and those in charge of them, faced once the conflict was over. There was the clean up operation to remove masses of abandoned





ammunition and military equipment, the clearing of mine fields and the establishing of a permanent military base. But arguably the greatest challenge was looking after the 4,000 troops through an Antarctic winter; with inadequate accommodation and equipment, limited rations, and an 8,000-mile supply line back to UK.

Wally was in charge of feeding the troops. He used 150 slides, music and video to take the audience from the initial disorganised state immediately after the ceasefire to the well-run semi-permanent set-up 6 months later. He concentrated on the detail of how the troops were fed, in field conditions, using a mixture of operational and improvised equipment. It was ‘an eye opener’ to a difficult time that most of us never knew had happened.



The heroes of the story were the troops who endured those conditions, getting on with it, and the chefs at all levels who worked in the most difficult and hostile conditions to feed them. And whom did Wally remember most – a private he once found preparing 130 fairy cakes for local school children with kit most of us would find it hard to boil an egg on.



On Our Doorstep

There are numerous activities taking place within the Parish that are well advertised in the Parish Magazine and on the community website, however, there are many more happening 'On Our Doorstep' that you might not know of; here are a few that you may find of interest...

Blackdown Hills AONB Events Programme.

The Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership produces a programme of activities titled 'Blackdown Hills Countryside Events'. The published programme for 2013 is packed with a variety of activities; why not join them on one of their programmed events (for full details of these and many other events, go to www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk) :

9 Feb. 'Valentines Day Spoon Carving'. *Seville's Croft Hemyock. Use simple tools to whittle a spoon from a single piece of wood..*



17 Feb. 'Traditional Hazel Hurdle Making'. *Buckland St Mary. Come away with a 3ft by 3ft hurdle and good knowledge of the fundamentals of hurdle making.*

18 Feb. 'Living Willow Dome Construction'. *Staple Hill. Take part in the construction of a living willow dome along the All Ability Trail at Staple Hill*

20 Feb. 'Managing Woodlands for Wood Fuel and Wildlife'. *Park Farm Wellington. A day of information on all aspects of woodland management. Concentrating on the smaller owner/user. Covering planting, conservation, volumes, pests and diseases, grants, wood fuel and more.*



3 Mar. 'Orienteering'. *Blackborough Forest. Outdoor adventure and navigation at your own pace, catering from beginners up to experts..*

9 Mar. 'Skills of the hills'. *Blackdown Hills. The 16th annual*

celebration of hedgelaying and hedgerow crafts in the Blackdown Hills. One of the largest hedgelaying competitions in the country together with hedgerow craft demonstrations, craft stalls and activities. Hot food and drink..

17 Mar. 'Castle Neroche and Surrounding Area Walk'. Castle Neroche. Walk from Castle Neroche via Curland, Green Lane, Staple Common, Britty Common (visiting Britty Farm), Blackwater and return to the car park via the castle summit. Some steep hills. On a clear day great views across Somerset to Taunton and beyond. Walk approx 9.5km, 4 hours. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.

Taunton Racecourse.



We are most fortunate to have England's youngest National Hunt racecourse, and one of the most beautifully located in the country, situated within Neroche Parish. See the 'Focus on Local Business' article on page 20 for the full 2013 fixture list.

Admission Prices to Racecourse (All inclusive of VAT).

Grandstand Ticket £15.00 (access to all areas other than members & private hospitality boxes). Centre Course/Picnic area £10.00 (Available on the day only). Full time students under the age of 25 admitted free on production of student photo ID. Day ticket for junior members (16 to 24) £9.00. Accompanied children under 16 admitted free. All Car Parking free.

Raceday Packages

The race day package is an ideal gift offering great value; it includes a Grandstand ticket to the meeting of your choice, a food and drink voucher for a snack with a drink (beer/wine/soft drink) of your choosing, a race card for the day and a tote £10 betting voucher - all for £30

Packages must be booked in advance. To purchase, call now on 01823 337172 or book online.

[For full details of fixtures, ticket prices, facilities etc go to www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk](http://www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk)

Ilminster Arts Centre

The Ilminster Arts Centre is situated at the Meeting House in Ilminster. It has a full programme of exhibitions, concerts, workshops, crafts and produce markets, and a thriving craft shop and café. For full details of their forthcoming events and extensive programme, go to



www.themeetinghouse.org.uk

Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton.



Some stunning shows from November onwards, including: **‘Voice of the Heart’ Karen Carpenter; Pete Allen’s Jaz Band; Russian Cossacks; Complete Madness; The Searchers; Marty Wilde and the Wildcats; Talon (the best of the Eagles); Sleeping Beauty; Acker Bilk; Julian Clary; Jethro**

The Square and Compass, Ashill.

The Square and Compass hosts a vibrant and diverse range of musical events, spanning the full range of musical styles. Events from February onwards, include:

Slim Chance; Talon Acoustic; Steve Gibbons Band; Hazel O’Connor; Larry Miller; Hellrazor; Richard Digance; The Great Pretender and Brian Rock (Queen Tribute). For full information on these concerts and many others, go to

www.squareandcompasspub.com



Car Boot Sales.

A car boot sale is held every Sunday at Taunton Racecourse, 52 weeks a year and in all weathers. Gates open at 11.00am (09.00am for sellers). Cars £5, vans £6. For more info call Tracey on 07778 275998.



NEROCHE TAKE ART PRESENTS

Amadou Diagne with Griselda Sanderson

Friday 15th March

Amadou Diagne is a professional percussionist, African drummer, guitar player and singer from Dakar in Senegal. He grew up surrounded by traditional music and folk law and has played with some of the world's greatest musicians. He sings in English, French and Wolof his native language

He performs with Griselda Sanderson a fiddle player originally from Scotland whose album Harpaphonics was listed in the top 10 best world music albums by the Sunday Times

Together this talented pair of musicians weave wonderful harmonies that are sure to create a great evening of music

At Neroche Hall (nr Staple Fitzpaine)

Doors open 7.15 for 7.45 pm start Bar and nibbles

Adults £8

Students £6

**For tickets and travel details contact
Jane Hole 01460 234410 or Anne Perry 01460 234377**

jane.hole@tiscali.co.uk

anne@poolesfarm.eclipse.co.uk

www.amadoudiagne.com

Events For Your Calendar

- Jan** 29 Taunton Racing (go to www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk)
- Feb** 2 Neroche Parish Walking Group (see www.nerochevillages.org.uk)
7 Neroche Thursday Lunch Club (see advert on page 11)
Taunton Racing (go to www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk)
19 Taunton Racing (go to www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk)
22 Neroche Hall Quiz (see advert on page 11)
28 Taunton Racing (go to www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk)
- Mar** 2 Neroche Parish Walking Group (see www.nerochevillages.org.uk)
7 Neroche Thursday Lunch Club (see advert on page 11)
11 Taunton Racing (go to www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk)
14 Parish Council Meeting (see www.nerochevillages.org.uk)
15 Neroche Take Art (see advert on page 37)
25 Taunton Racing (go to www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk)
- Apr** 4 Neroche Thursday Lunch Club (see advert on page 11)
Taunton Racing (go to www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk)
6 Neroche Parish Walking Group (see www.nerochevillages.org.uk)
24 Taunton Racing (go to www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk)
- May** 2 Taunton Racing (go to www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk)
4 Neroche Parish Walking Group (see www.nerochevillages.org.uk)
9 Neroche Thursday Lunch Club (see advert on page 11)
Parish Council Meeting (see www.nerochevillages.org.uk)
11 Taunton Racing (go to www.tauntonracecourse.co.uk)
16 Annual Parish Meeting (see advert on page 13)

If you wish your club or organisation's events and meetings to feature in this calendar then please contact wallytorrington@hotmail.com

For further information on what is happening in the parish go to the community website www.nerochevillages.org.uk

See, also, the many various events listed in the 'On Our Doorstep' article on pages 34, 35 & 36

Household Recycling & Refuse Collections Bank Holiday Day Changes 2013



Recycling Centres and Community Recycling Sites

See website or call Somerset Direct on 0845 345 9188 for recycling site opening times.

Easter, May and August Bank Holidays 2013

Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Good Friday 29 March	Saturday 30 March
Easter Monday 1 April – Friday 5 April	All collections one day later, including Friday pick-ups on Saturday 6 April
May Day 6 May – Friday 10 May	All collections one day later, including Friday pick-ups on Saturday 11 May
Spring Bank Holiday 27 May – Friday 31 May	All collections one day later, including Friday pick-ups on Saturday 1 June
Summer 26 August – 30 August	All collections one day later, including Friday pick-ups on Saturday 31 August

www.somersetwaste.gov.uk – to subscribe to our newsletter

Taunton and Chard Recycling sites - opening times

Mon 8am-7pm	Tue-Wed Closed	Thu-Fri 8am-4pm	Sat 8am-4pm	Sun 8am-1pm
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School Holidays

It is always useful to know when the school holidays are taking place. The dates below include, where appropriate, the weekends either side, as these are equally affected by the school breaks, especially regarding family holidays and road traffic:

9 February to 17 February 2013
29 March to 14 April 2013
6 May
25 May to 2 June



Local Communication and Information

Websites:

Neroche Villages – 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, e.g. on 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 official documents.

Neroche Hall– www.nerochehall.org.uk

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

The Church of England Seven Sowers Benefice – www.sevensowers.org.uk

This website 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 systems for sending information to those wishing to receive it. It forwards information of a general nature about local events and issues - please use the contact form on the Neroche Villages website if you would like your name added.

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 Kate Reynolds on 01823 444023.

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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