

Issue No 1

# **NEWSLETTER**

March 2011

### Introduction

Welcome to the first issue of the Neroche Parish Newsletter which has followed-on from the Neroche Parish Plan Newsletter. The aim of this publication is to improve communications within the Parish by providing information on a wide variety of subjects and issues, including: Parish Council business; local events; external matters that might have an effect on life within the community; local services; local businesses; news from local clubs and organisations; and lots more. This publication hopes to take over from where the Parish Plan Newsletter left off, by satisfying the need, identified in the Parish Plan, for a 'hard copy' local news medium delivered free to every household in Neroche Parish.

This first issue, as well as providing information and news on local matters, focuses mainly on the progress being made on implementing the Parish Plan recommendations and work that is already being carried out by Action Groups that have been formed as a direct result of the Plan. It also gives emphasis to the importance of the Annual Parish Meeting, which will be taking place in Neroche Hall during the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup> April, when residents will be given a full briefing on what the Parish Council has been doing on behalf of the residents during the past 12 months, and what progress is being made with the implementation of the Parish Plan. Future editions will no doubt focus more on matters of general interest. This issue has been produced by the Annual Parish Meeting Action Group (more of that below) with responsibility for the Newsletter passing to the Communications Action Group in April.

# Update on the Parish Plan

Things have really 'got going' since the New Year. Most of the Action Groups have met and begun their activities. The progress being made in many areas is

nothing short of breathtaking. If you are not already involved then now is the time to join in.

The first Walking Action Group outing was a great success and the Litter Pick-Up Action Group has started organising a Parish wide clean up. The Equine Action Group was so well attended that it had to reallocate to a larger meeting room in the Greyhound Inn! Other Action Groups looking at green issues, traffic, design & planning, countryside, social & community life, and developing the community website are well underway. A meeting of a Business Action Group will occur in March and one for mobile phone and broadband reception is being planned. Please use the Parish Plan website. <a href="www.nerochevillages.org.uk">www.nerochevillages.org.uk</a>, ring 01460 234410 or contact the Action Group chairmen listed in the report below for further information on how to join in.

The most important date for your diary is the *Annual Parish Meeting at Neroche Hall on the evening of Thursday 7th April.* Come along to meet your Parish Councillors and hear more about: local, social & sporting activities; the Action Groups listed below; and discuss issues of concern and interest with the Parish Council. Use the contact details listed in the paragraph above if you would like to get involved with the planning of the event, or to represent your group, club or organisation at the meeting.

# Update on the Parish Plan Action Groups

# Transport Traffic and Roads

The Traffic and Roads Action Group has been busy developing their strategy. They have spoken to representatives from Corfe Parish Council, which has been successful in reducing speed limits in its area following a successful 10-year



campaign. The Group has been studying: areas of responsibility; funding; how spending is targeted; and principles applied to traffic control. The Police and Highways have been invited to attend a public meeting to be held in Neroche Hall at 7.30pm on 14 April 2011. The Group is keen to increase its

numbers so if you wish to be involved and ensure that your views are considered then please contact Andre Wallace (details below).

For more info contact: Andre Wallace 01460 234774 andre.wallace1@btinternet.com

#### Green Issues

The Green Action Group has met a number of times and discussed such matters as: group purchasing of heating oil to reduce cost; land sharing for vegetables or livestock; anaerobic digestion of slurry to generate heat and power; use of biomass/woodchip/wood to generate heat and/or power; solar panels for electricity; establishing a renewable



energy co-operative; and energy efficiency visits. Residents will be delighted to know that action is already being taken on a number of these issues; 'watch this space!'

For more info contact: **David Widden** 01823 480723 <u>davidwidden@aol.com</u>

# **Countryside Matters**

At their meetings the Countryside Action Group have been busy addressing such



issues as: fly tipping; Tree Preservation Orders; sale of Forestry Commission land; and tree planting (Rob Larkman has also met with Jonathan Burgess of the Woodland Trust to discuss how this can be best pursued in Neroche Parish and what funding might be available – NB National Tree Planting Week for 2011 will be held 26 November to 4 December).

For more info contact: **Rob Larkman** 01460 234237 robjoy72@googlemail.com

# Litter Pick-Up

The Litter Pick-Up Action Group got off to a great start with 18 residents attending the inaugural meeting. They agreed a 'three-pronged' strategy: individuals adopting a path/lane where they live or regularly walk; community litter pick-up days concluding in a community social get-together; and the immediate reporting of fly tipping. Individual volunteers have begun collecting along their allotted routes and a great many black bags have already been filled with litter.

For more info contact: Jane Hole 01460 234410 jane.hole@tiscali.co.uk

#### Walking Groups and Footpath Maintenance



The Walking Groups and Footpath Maintenance Action Group is a wonderful example of how quickly a new initiative can be put into place. Soon after the publication of the Parish Plan they had held their first meeting, and immediately introduced a programme of pleasure walks and footpath maintenance. Please see the separate article on page 12

For more info contact: **Sheila Green** 01823 480758 <u>sfgreen@btinternet.com</u> or **Jane Hole** on 01460 234410 <u>jane.hole@tiscali.co.uk</u>

# **Equine**

The popularity of equine activities within the Parish was confirmed, beyond doubt, when 30 locals turned up for the first Equine Action Group meeting. Following the findings identified in the Parish Plan it was agreed that the Group should focus on five main areas: road safety; bridleways; a safe canter track; a website; fundraising; and equine oriented courses. It was decided to form an Action Group Committee comprising eight members to take the work forward.

For more info contact: Clare Stewart 01823 481187 jamieclarestewart@yahoo.co.uk

# Social and Community Life

The Social and Community Life Action Group is up-and-running and alive with



numerous ideas and initiatives to improve life in the Parish. However, the group does not wish to 'tread on the toes' of organisations that currently exist and who are already providing an excellent service, but rather to help extend the services currently provided and develop a more cohesive and symbiotic working relationship. Numerous ideas and initiatives have been

discussed, including: a farmers/craft market; information centre; a computer skills group; and a community barter system. However, first 'out of the blocks' is a newly established Thursday Lunch Club, which held its first event on 3 March in the Neroche Hall.

For further info contact: Tami Boden-Ellis 01460 234444

### Design & Planning

The primary aim of the Design and Planning Action Group is "to produce a Design

Statement for the Parish of Neroche". They have been busy discussing: greater community involvement in planning decisions; improved circulation of information; greater local involvement in planning matters; a survey to establish the need for affordable homes; road signs; and the impact of design statements on the planning process. The Group is committed to developing a design statement, which will be: local and specific; accessible; include guidance for projects whether or not they require planning permission; and be equally aimed at householders, architects, developers, and planners. Work has already begun on producing a Character Survey of the Parish.



For more contact: **Ann Jones** 01460 234774 ann@artprojectsandsolutions.com

#### Community Website and Newsletter

A Communications Action Group has been established and will have met on 4



occasions by the time this newsletter goes to print. They have developed and published a formal constitution and opened their own bank account. They are currently concentrating their efforts on producing a comprehensive community website that will include: details of the Parish Council and its business; a local business directory; a list of local clubs and organisations; a 'what's on' notice board; a list of useful contact telephone numbers, email addresses and websites; a 'getting involved' page; links to other

websites including the Village Hall; local advertising; and much, much more. The Newsletter will also become part of the Group's responsibility from April 2011.

For more info contact: Tim French 01460 234410 <u>tim-french@tiscali.co.uk</u>

#### Mobile Phone and Broadband

The first meeting of the Mobile Phone and Broadband Action Group is due to be held later in March (please see separate article on page 14)

For more info contact: Tim French 01460 234410 <u>tim-french@tiscali.co.uk</u>

#### **Business**

The first meeting of the Business Action Group will have taken place by the time that this Newsletter is delivered.

For more info contact: Wally Torrington 01823 480656 wallytorrington@hotmail.com

# Neroche Clubs and Organisations

There is no reason why a resident of Neroche Parish should ever be bored or lonely. There are a multitude of clubs and organisation in the Parish which cover a wide variety of activities, sports and pastimes to satisfy almost every need; from folk dancing to gardening, and a lunch club to local politics, there is something for everyone. And if you don't particularly wish to participate then you are welcome to come along to just watch and/or support. A selection is given below, together with a little detail. For more information speak with the contact-persons listed, go to the 'Regular User' list on the Neroche Hall website or refer to the Community Website when it goes live at the end of April. *Have Fun!!!* 

**Badminton Club.** A mature mixed group that meets in the Neroche Hall on Monday afternoons from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Contact **Molly Reynolds** 01823 332938 or **Daphne Brightwell** 01823 480548.

# **Neroche Short Mat Bowling Club**

The club is open to all ages (currently ranging from 13 to 70). It competes in the Taunton & District SMB League and meets for home fixtures in the Neroche Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday evenings between September and April. Contact: **Rob Larkman** robjoy72@googlemail.com

#### Neroche Folkdance Club

The Club meets at Neroche Hall on Monday nights from 8.00pm to 10.00pm. Dances range from Playford, Manor House, American Contra, and Barn. All are welcome (singles or couples). Contact **Rupert Jones** 01823 444374, Liz 01823 278739 or **Joy Larkman** 01460 234237.

#### Neroche Garden Club

The Club recently joined forces with the newly reformed Hatch Beauchamp Garden Club. For details of membership and their programme of activities contact **Michael Beaven** on 01823 480359.

# **Neroche Local History Group**

The Group concentrates mainly on the history of the local area but does have regular speakers on a wide variety of history-based subjects, including family history, plus external visits. Contact **Jane Hole** 01460 234410 janehole@tiscali.co.uk

#### Women's' Institute

The Bickenhall and District WI have a programme of wide-ranging and interesting events. They meet at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month (except August) in the Neroche Hall. Contact **Di Grabham** 01823 480811 or **Pauline Phelps** on pmphelps@enterprise.net

# **Staple Fitzpaine Bellringers**

The Bellringers meet at St Peter's Church on Wednesdays between 8.00pm and 9.00pm. Contact: **Paul Hart** on 012823 480769 or go to www.stapleringers.co.uk

#### Café Fitz

Open for tea, coffee and cakes etc every Friday and Saturday from 10.00am until 12.00 noon in St Peter's Church, Staple Fitzpaine. (Due to start up again soon after taking a break during the winter)

# The Thursday Lunch Club

A new club organised by St Peter's Church PCC & Friends that provides a two-course lunch for a minimum donation of £5. The first was held on 3 March 2011, for dates of future events 'watch this space' or contact **Alison Brown** 01823 480441 alison-anthony@battensfarm.fsnet.co.uk

#### St Peter's Singers

The group meets at St Peter's Church, Staple Fitzpaine on Thursday's between 7.00pm and 8.30pm. Contact: **Julie Pope** 01823 480282 or Georgina Leech 01823 442223

#### The Crewe

A youth group for 11 to 16 year olds. Contact **Dave Knight** 01823 480611 or **Joy Garland** 01823 331853

A more comprehensive list, including details of organisations in neighbouring parishes, will feature in the new Community Website that is due to be launched by the end of April at <a href="www.nerochevillages.org.uk">www.nerochevillages.org.uk</a>

# Interested in becoming a Parish Councillor?

Have you ever considered applying to become a Parish Councillor? Do you ever get frustrated with local politics and feel that you could do better? Well here is your opportunity; the next local elections are due to take place in about six weeks time. With the publication of the Parish Plan and the many recommendations being worked upon by the various Action Groups, now could possibly be the time for some new, dynamic, proactive individuals to get involved. The following is a notice from the Parish Clerk:

"Parishes are the smallest unit of local government and Neroche Parish Council is responsible for the four parishes of Bickenhall, Curland, Staple Fitzpaine and Orchard Portman with Thurlbear. It comprises 12 members [the list of Councillors currently serving is published on pages 10 and 11] with 3 elected to represent each of the four parishes. Members are elected for a term of 4 years. The next elections are to be held on 5 May 2011, the same date as the elections for borough councillors at Taunton Deane and the referendum on the 'alternative vote' method of voting for members of Parliament. The Parish Council meets on the second Thursday of alternative months at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, and meetings are open to members of the public.

Information on becoming a Parish Councillor, together with nomination papers, are available from the Clerk to the Council (Peter Crossley) on 480218 or at The Old Post Office, Curland."

# Neroche Annual Parish Meeting

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

# The Neroche Annual Parish Meeting for 2011 will take place at 7.30pm on Thursday 7 April in the Neroche Village Hall

You will to bear the Chairman of the Parish Council deliver her report for 2010/11, explain what it has achieved during the past 12 months and their plans for 2011/12. You will be encouraged to ask questions, put your views forward and discuss your concerns with individual Councillors.

You will hear an update on the implementation of the Parish Plan and the work being done by the various Action Groups.

There will be a large number of stalls at the event manned by Neroche Parish Plan Action Groups and Neroche Parish Volunteer Groups, Organisations and Clubs (the majority of which are listed on pages 6,7 and 8 of this Newsletter).

This is one of the most important Parish events of the year, an occasion where residents can make their voices heard whilst at the same time take the opportunity to find out about the excellent work going on in the Parish and the wide variety of social activities that are taking place, and, more importantly, become involved if you wish.

# IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU ATTEND; YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF TO BE THERE!!!

# Neroche Parish Council

The following is a list of your Parish Councillors and other local government representatives. Be sure to attend **the Annual Parish Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April at Neroche Hall** to hear their report on what the Council has done on your behalf over the past 12 months and what their plans are for the future. It is your opportunity to interface with your Councillors and discuss with them what is important to you.

Please go to Neroche Parish Council page on this website for a list of councillors since May 2011election.

# Bickenhall Parish

Chris I R Salisbury, Bickenhall Farm, Bickenhall TA3 6TX Tel: 01823 480256 <a href="mailto:chris@bickenhallfarm.co.uk">chris@bickenhallfarm.co.uk</a>

**Chris Baxter**, Abbey Hill Farm, Bickenhall TA3 6UD Tel: 07968 137038 <a href="mailto:neroche.pc@neroche.net">neroche.pc@neroche.net</a>

**Adrian Aplin**, Bickenhall House, Bickenhall TA3 5RU neroche.pc@neroche.net

# **Curland Parish**

**Marianne Bray** (Chairman), Cromwell's, Abbey Hill, Bickenhall TA3 6UD Tel: 01823 480888 <a href="mailto:neroche.pc@neroche.net">neroche.pc@neroche.net</a>

**Robin Street,** Chapel Cottage, Curland TA3 5SA Tel: 01823 480285 r.street125@btinternet.com

**Wally Torrington**, Myrtle Farm, Bickenhall TA3 6TS Tel: 01823 480656 wallytorrington@hotmail.com

# Orchard Portman with Thurlbear

**Jason Jackson**, Tithe House, Thurlbear TA3 5BW Tel: 01823 443742 <a href="mailto:neroche.pc@neroche.net">neroche.pc@neroche.net</a>

**Ian Parker**, The Old Rectory, Orchard Portman TA3 7BQ <u>i.parker@ashclifford.co.uk</u>

George Slabbert, Winterwell, Thurlbear TA3 5AY georgeslabbert@bigfoot.com

# Please go to Neroche Parish Council page on this website for a list of councillors since May 2011election.

# Staple Fitzpaine Parish

**Dr John Bell**, The Old School, Staple Fitzpaine TA3 5SW neroche.pc@neroche.net

Dianne Hood, Goddard's Orchard, Staple Fitzpaine TA3 5SP

Tel: 01823 480927 neroche.pc@neroche.net

Mark Pope, Staple Farm, Staple Fitzpaine TA3 6BJ Tel: 01823 480282 <a href="mailto:neroche.pc@neroche.net">neroche.pc@neroche.net</a>

### Clerk to the Parish Council

**Peter Crossley**, The Old Post Office, Curland, TA3 5BD Tel: 01823 480218 <a href="mailto:neroche.pc@neroche.net">neroche.pc@neroche.net</a>

# **Somerset County Councillor**

**David Fothergill**, Lantern House, Stoke St Mary,TA3 5BX Tel: 01823 443740 <u>DJAFothergill@somerset.gov.uk</u>

# **Taunton Deane District Councillor**

**John Williams**, Ivy Cottage, West Hatch, TA3 5RS Tel: 01823 480058 <a href="mailto:cllr.j.williams@tauntondeane.gov.uk">cllr.j.williams@tauntondeane.gov.uk</a>

# **Member of Parliament**

Jeremy Browne, Taunton

Tel: 01823 337874 office@tauntondeanelibdems.org.uk

# Member of European Parliament

**Graham Watson**, Langport

Tel: 01458 252265 euro.office@cix.co.uk

# Neroche Parish Walking Group

As stated earlier, the Neroche Parish Walking Group is now 'up and running walking' and one of the early successes of the Parish Plan. The tradition of 'Beating The Bounds' is an ancient custom dating back many centuries:

When maps were rare, a formal 'perambulation' of the parish boundaries would be made during Rogation Week

Herepath Trail

13 1/2 Miles

- Church and parish officers, together with a crowd of boys who were armed with green boughs of birch or willow would beat the parish boundary markers
- Sometimes the boys would be whipped or bumped on the boundary stones to make them remember where they were
- The practical purpose of the ceremony was to check and maintain the boundaries and protect against encroachment
- It also served to maintain a folk memory of the true extent of the parish by making sure the knowledge came down the generations through oral accounts

Following in the historical footsteps of our forebears, a group of local people have formed to enjoy the wonderful walking available to us within our parish. We aim to walk all the footpaths and bridleways within our parish each year and at the same time to audit their condition.

There will be two walks each month of 2 to  $2 \frac{1}{2}$  hours on a Saturday, and a longer one of 4 hours or more on a Sunday. Both start at 10am and we park in the field next to the Greyhound pub.

For more detail contact **Sheila Green** on 01823 480758 <u>sfgreen@btinternet.com</u> or **Jane Hole** on 01460 234410 jane.hole@tiscali.co.uk

# Litter Pick-Up Days

As we go to print the first 'Litter Pick-Up Day' is being organised for **Saturday 19 March** meeting in the Greyhound Inn car park at 10.00am. It is probable that this will have already taken place by the time you receive this Newsletter. Either way, if you wish to know more about this and future events (especially if you are willing to get involved) contact **Jayne Hunt** on 07738 187824 / 01823 480113 or **Anthony Brown** on 01823 480441.

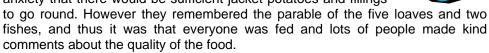
# Neroche Parish Hall Grand Jumble Sale

This year's annual jumble sale, held on  $22^{nd}$  January, proved to be the most successful yet with 217 people coming through the doors resulting in the raising of much needed funds for the upkeep of the Neroche Parish Hall. The usual mountain of jumble was forthcoming providing bargains for the buyers in attendance, many of them regulars over past years. Rob Larkman, the organiser, was keen to thank all those who donated jumble and to express his gratitude to all the members of the community that gave their time and effort to supporting the event. Also, special thanks to Heat Radiation of Taunton for providing a truck to remove all the left over jumble to the re-cycling centre.

# St Peter's Church Quiz

On a dark Saturday night in mid January people started to arrive at the newly refurbished Neroche Hall to employ their 'little grey cells' for the St Peter's Church

Quiz. Thanks to a variety of advertising and email flyers everyone was surprised and delighted when a total of eighty-six people settled down in their teams to pit their wits against question master David Symmonds. The caterers were also delighted although their excitement was tinged with a little anxiety that there would be sufficient jacket potatoes and fillings

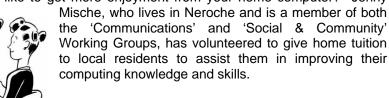


David had promised a 'different' sort of quiz, and as question-followed-question there was a quiet hum of murmured answers and much scratching of heads and exclamations of 'oh I should know that'! Throughout the evening several teams changed place as leaders, and eventually the team named 'We Aren't Really Trying' was declared the winner.

The organisation of the event was a great team effort and special mention must be made of the advertisers, the caterers, the score keeper Janet Symmonds, the question master and quiz designer David Symmonds, and especially all the quiz goers who turned up, entered into the spirit of the quiz and made it a huge success. Thank you all.

# Home Computer Training

How would you like to get more enjoyment from your home computer? Jenny



If you would like to learn how to use 'Skype' which allows free internet telephone calls with live video

(great if you have friends and relatives living abroad), use a digi camera, build your own website, or simply improve your word processing skills, then contact Jenny at <a href="mailto:jenny.trego@hotmail.co.uk">jenny.trego@hotmail.co.uk</a>. If you are interested in tracing your family history then she can help you get started with that also. So, what are you waiting for?

# Problems With Broadband and Mobile phone Reception???

The Parish plan identified that over 50% of respondents considered their mobile phone reception to be poor, and that 61% felt that slow broadband speed affected either their personal or business use, or both. Because the questionnaire gave the option of anonymity, it was not possible to identify specific geographic areas receiving poor service. Tim French has volunteered to head an Action Group looking at improving both mobile phone and Broadband reception. If you are experiencing problems and wish to be included in this survey please email Tim

at <u>tim-french@tiscali.co.uk</u> giving your name, address, mobile phone network and/or Broadband provider, plus a short explanation of the problems that you are experiencing. From this Tim will be able to produce a 'poor reception map' of Neroche, with which he will be able to 'go in to battle' with the providers. Without your help and cooperation Tim's job will be difficult, if not impossible!

Bank Holiday Household Refuse Collection Day Changes

<u>Usual Collection Day</u>		Revised Collection Day	
Good Friday	22 April	Saturday	23 April
Easter Monday	25 April	Tuesday	26 April
Tuesday	26 April	Wednesday	27 April
Wednesday	27 April	Thursday	28 April
Thursday	28 April	Saturday	30 April
Friday	29 April	Sunday	1 May
Monday	2 May	Tuesday	3 May
Tuesday	3 May	Wednesday	4 May
Wednesday	4 May	Thursday	5 May
Thursday	5 May	Friday	6 May
Friday	6 May	Saturday	7 May
Monday	30 May	Tuesday	31 May
Tuesday	31 May	Wednesday	1 June
Wednesday	1 June	Thursday	2 June
Thursday	2 June	Friday	3 June
Friday	3 June	Saturday	4 June
Monday	29 August	Tuesday	30 August
Tuesday	30 August	Wednesday	31 August
Wednesday	31 August	Thursday	1 September
Thursday	1 September	Friday	2 September
Friday	2 September	Saturday	3 September
•	For more information www.somersetv	nation go to	•

# Local Communication and Information

**Parish Council.** If you would like to receive regular Parish Council information e.g. on changes to services (such as refuse collection), police local crime reports,

emergencies or dates of meetings etc then send your name and address followed by "YES PLEASE" to Peter Crossley, the Parish Clerk at <a href="mailto:neroche.pc@virgin.net">neroche.pc@virgin.net</a>. To keep 'up-to-speed' with the activities of your Parish Council, go to www.neroche.net (and from the end of April on the new Community Website at www.nerochevillages.org.uk). There you will find a wealth of information, including: a list of Council members; agendas and minutes of meetings; news, views and general details; plus a facility to 'have your say'. Council meetings are open to the public; so if they are discussing a subject, in which you are interested, please feel free to attend.

General Information. For general information on the implementation of the Parish Plan recommendations and the resident's Action Groups go to www.nerochevillages.org.uk. By the end of April this link will take you to the new Neroche Community Website, which is currently being developed by the Communications Action Group. For information on the Parish Hall please go to its website at www.nerochehall.org.uk.

Many thanks for taking to time to read this Newsletter

Wally Torrington **Newsletter Editor** 

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